

## Dye says Indianapolis Speedway course might be his final stadium design

By MARK LESLIE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — His renovation of the Indianapolis Speedway Golf Course is perhaps Pete Dye's final adventure into designing courses with stadium-type mounding.

Resting in the Dominican Republic after putting the finishing touches to the Indy layout, Dye said: "I don't want any more stadium courses... I want to do the dead opposite."

The Speedway course is seeded and expected to open in June.

"It is the biggest stadium course every built — the biggest people-mover in the world," Dye said.

"We built spectator mounds around the golf course 40 to 60 feet high and they go forever."

The 27-hole facility was turned into an 18-hole course and a mammoth driving range. Four holes are inside the oval track and 14 outside.

In the past, cars have been parked on the golf course inside the track, but Dye said lakes have been dug around those holes, making them inaccessible to vehicles.

Despite the course being the largest stadium facility on the planet, Dye said: "We could have 60,000 spectators at a tournament and the parking lot attendant could go to sleep. They're used to 700,000 people for the Indy 500."

## Homestead dispute

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City Supervisor Ben Whitfield thinks the chances are good and that the course will eventually get local permits, especially since city voters approved a rezoning to accommodate the course by a 285-209 count in a 1987 referendum.

But that was long before the state Department of Natural Resources approved the course, the district Environmental Protection Agency was reportedly ready to reject it, the national EPA office approved it and a district court overturned the EPA's approval.

The June 1992 court ruling said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, rather than the EPA, had jurisdiction over the wetlands issue. That blocked Kuras' plans to finally start construction. The EPA is awaiting a decision on its appeal to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court in Cincinnati. The next judicial step would be the U.S. Supreme Court. Both sides have vowed to take their cases that far, if necessary.

Also possibly affecting the eventual fate of the Homestead course is the appointment of Carol Browner as President Clinton's new EPA director. Browner, Florida's former state environmental chief, is seen as more pro-environment and less a property rights advocate than her predecessor, William Reilly. She could choose to drop the EPA's appeal and let the district court's decision stand.

Kuras first proposed the course more than six years ago and estimates his costs at \$3.7 million.

Michigan is the only state with authority to regulate wetlands issues. The Homestead case is seen as a test of whether the federal government is serious about turning over wetlands regulations to the states as former President Bush proposed.

*'I don't want any more stadium courses... I want to do the dead opposite.'*

— Pete Dye,  
architect



The newly renovated Speedway course will feature 18 holes — down from 27 — with four inside the oval.

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