

Mexico calls Graham/Panks

HERMOSILLO, Sonora, Mexico — Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Graham & Panks International is designing Los Lagos Country Club. When completed, it will be the city's first 18-hole golf course.

The firm is also designing Chaparral Pines, a 1,175-acre master-planned community and private club in Payson, Ariz.

The Mexican project is being developed by the Mazon Group, a Hermosillo-based developer. Hermosillo, the capital of the Mexican state of Sonora, is located just

250 miles south of Phoenix, Ariz., and only an hour north of the Mexican resort town of Guaymas.

"The area is naturally well-suited for a traditional golf course design," said Panks. "The course will be gently contoured and will feature extensive water amenities and landscaping."

Construction began in December, with an opening date set for the fall.

Ground breaking for the Arizona project, which also includes a nine-hole par-3 layout, is due in May.



Oregon Club's menu full

Creeks, natural grasses and majestic views of Mt. Hood greet visitors playing The Oregon Golf Club, which has opened in West Linn, Ore. Designed by Ken Kavanaugh of Tucson, Ariz., the 7,034-yard, par-72 private course plays through varied terrain. PGA Tour player Peter Jacobsen co-designed the course and serves as the club's director of golf.

Roquemore uses mammoth views to best effect

BIG CANOE, Ga. — Golf course designer Rocky Roquemore carefully incorporated spectacular 50-mile views of the Blue Ridge Mountains into the layout of the recently opened third nine holes of Sconti Golf Club here.

The private resort community's new par-36 Cherokee nine measures 3,170 yards from the championship tees. The original 18 holes, now named the Choctaw and Creek nines, were designed in 1974 by Roquemore and Joe Lee.

"The new 2nd and 9th holes have absolutely stunning views," Roquemore said. "In some ways it's easy to build a great golf course when you're working with nature's beauty. The design is very harmonious with the mountain setting of Big Canoe."

The 2nd hole, a 498-yard par-5, features a drive with a 100-plus foot drop from the tee box to the landing area. The level fairway takes a dogleg left around a small lake to green.

The 9th hole is a long par-4 with two large drop-offs, the first from the tee to the fairway, the second from the fairway to the green.

"Big Canoe is extremely ecology conscious," said Sam Adams, head professional at Sconti Golf Club. "Rocky faced a number of challenges in not disturbing the natural elements."

Meanwhile, an October completion date is scheduled for the new Roquemore-designed 18-hole championship golf course at Chapel Hills Country Club located in Douglasville, approximately 20 miles west of downtown Atlanta.

Chapel Hills will be owned and managed by the Canongate Group, which operates four other clubs in the Atlanta area.

With homes overlooking the fairways from ridges above, the 6,800-yard Chapel Hills layout winds through valleys and includes two lakes and winding Anneewakee Creek. Unique is a large double green for the ninth and 18th holes.

"One does not expect to find mountain-like settings so near Atlanta," Roquemore said. "There are several postcard holes. It's a course that members will enjoy coming back to again and again."

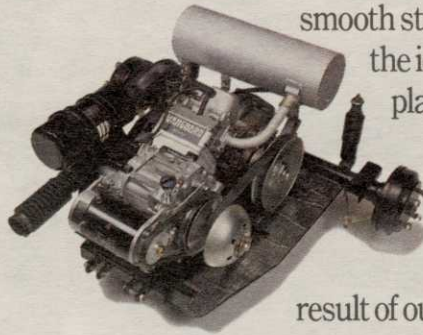
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