

## Duke Univ. GC set to close for 10-month remodeling program

DURHAM, N.C. — The Duke University Golf Club will close down on June 1 for 10 months to undergo a \$1.5 million face-lift which university officials hope will keep the course profitable.

All 18 greens and several tees will be rebuilt. Hybrid Bermuda grass will be planted in the fairways to replace the original common Bermuda. In addition, several holes on the

front nine will be recontoured.

Golf course architect Rees Jones will oversee the renovation. Jones' father, Robert Trent Jones, designed the course when it was built in 1957 at a cost of \$500,000. The younger Jones, whose daughter attends Duke, is reportedly doing the work *gratis*.

The pro shop and driving range will remain open during the renovation.

## Study shows golf picked up 2.4 million new players in '92

RICHMOND, Va. — Fifty-two percent of the nation's golfers, about 11.6 million, played the game nine days or less per year, according to statistics compiled by Forecast Golf Marketing & Financial Systems, Inc.

According to Forecast, of the 22,194,000 adult players in the United States, 30 percent (6.7 million) played between 10 and 39 days, while another 11.1 percent (2.5 million) played 40 to 79 days annually. Heavy golf consumers (1.5 million), those who participated in golf 80 days or more

per year, accounted for 6.6 percent of play, according to Forecast.

Citing research performed by the Roper Organization, which showed U.S. consumers don't stop engaging in activities during a recession but merely cut down, Forecast President Scott Marlowe indicated that golf picked up 2.4 million new players in 1992.

"The numbers of golfers fell off sharply in 1990," he said. "The immediate impact was a loss of 3 million players and a shift in frequency of play patterns. But my

judgment is that the 3 million, by and large, actually came from the lowest frequency group.

"And I'm not so sure golf actually lost 3 million players. The current definition of a golfer — which everyone in the industry uses — is a person who plays at least one round of golf annually. So, if golfers elect to patronize a golf range but don't play a conventional round, they simply aren't tracked."

According to Forecast, the number of golf ranges increased by 768 in 1991 and 412 in 1992.

## Council sides with developer on public play

BRENTWOOD, Calif. — The City Council approved an appeal by Stockton-based A.G. Spanos Construction Co. to ban public play on its proposed golf course.

There were nearly 200 requirements the Planning Commission imposed on the 570-acre project: Public play; tying construction of the course to construction of the homes; and demanding a detailed maintenance plan for the golf course.

The council unanimously sided with Spanos on the issue of public play, but upheld the other two requirements.

Also as part of the deal, Spanos must finish construction of the course before it can obtain building permits for 1,000 houses.

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# The good news

Last year's good news just got better. Introduced first as a sprayer, the John Deere 1800 Utility Vehicle can now be used as a spreader as well.

The new Befco spreader combines with the hydrostatic

advantages of the 1800 to deliver performance traditional systems don't.

At high-idle, slow ground speed, and high rate-of-flow the 1800 can put down a uniform 5/8-inch-deep layer of material for

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When you consider the 2-person bench seat, easy-on