

Riverwood site challenges Bates and super Hamm

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. — Riverfront. Lakes. Marsh. Mature pine trees. Gene Bates incorporated them all into his new Riverwood Golf Club here.

The front nine holes of the semi-private track are open, and the back nine is projected to open in November.

Bates' officials said the course has exceeded expectations. While it was first thought it was designed for senior players, it has attracted the younger players because of its challenge to all skill levels. Greens and bunkers were placed to make the layout impressive, but not intimidating, from the five sets of tees that play from 4,810 to 6,890 yards.

The back nine runs along the Myakka River. Its holes are cut out of a lot of wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas. Its learning center provides many options, with an 18-hole putting course, practice bunker areas, an area for approach, chips and sand-wedge shots, and a multi-level driving range.

The Mariner Group of Ft. Myers, under chairman and CEO Robert Taylor, developed the facility and Deans Construction built the course.

Superintendent Scott Hamm, who came to Riverwood during construction from Cape Coral Country Club, is facing the challenge of overcoming high salt content in the course's irrigation water. He is using an injection system to neutralize the salt's pH and leach the salts through the soil, and is applying gypsum and potassium every 45 days.



The 5th hole at Riverwood Golf Club is a par-3 that plays to a large, oblong green with a hump in the middle. It plays from 97 to 153 yards over five tees.

Photo by J.L. Talley Photography

Kavanaugh blends waterfalls, wetlands at Orchard Valley GC

AURORA, Ill. — A blend of natural challenges including meandering wetlands, lakes and waterfalls mix with roughs and waste bunkers in Orchard Valley Golf Course, the new Fox Valley Park District track.

The par-72 championship layout — designed by Ken Kavanaugh of Aurora and built by Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. of Plainfield — stretches from 5,162 to 6,745 yards over four sets of tees.

"My primary motivation in the design ... was to transform the landscape into a variety of memorable golf holes for all abilities to enjoy," Kavanaugh said, adding that Orchard Valley "has exceeded my original expectations as the premier daily-fee course in the Midwest."

He said Fox Valley Park District had committed to "provide the Chicagoland golfer with a fair and challenging golf experience of the highest quality."

New nine being added at Sand Creek CC

CHESTERTON, Ind. — Sand Creek Country Club has begun work on nine new golf holes on the southeast quadrant of the more than 500-acre property.

Designed by consultant Jerry Mobley and Austin, Texas golf course architect Charles Howard, the new holes incorporate the varied landscape while remaining

consistent with Sand Creek's original 18, designed by Ken Killian and Dick Nugent.

Howard said, "You have more terrain to work with. This land has 35 feet of elevation difference.

"It's a very interesting part of the design. It will be the main difference in the perspective of the golf holes."

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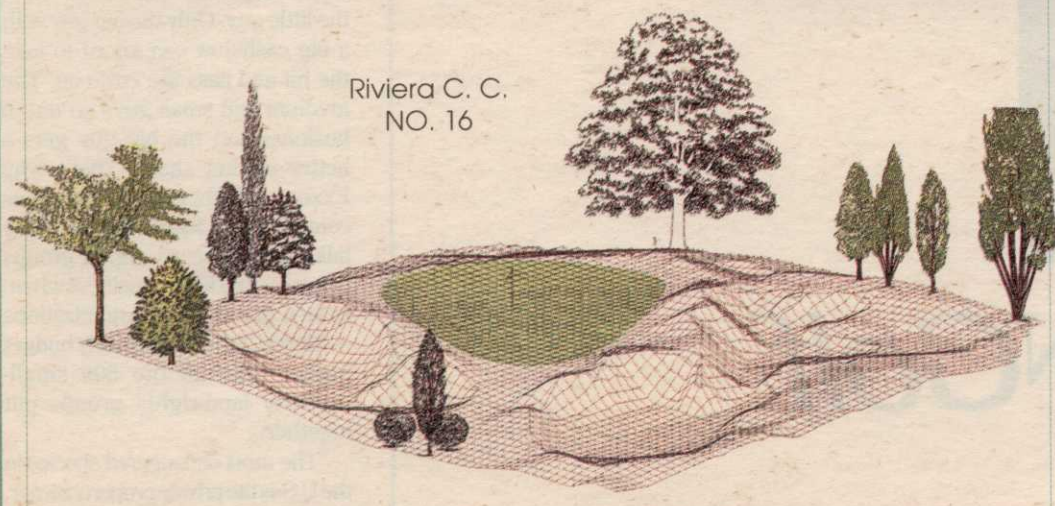


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