

BRIEFS



HEPNER JOINS DOAK

Golf course architect Bruce Hepner has left the firm of Forse Design to join Tom Doak and Renaissance Golf Design, Inc. of Traverse City, Mich. Hepner will collaborate with Doak on 18-hole projects as well as work on his



Bruce Hepner

own restoration projects. Hepner, who is working out of a West Leisenring, Pa., office until moving to Traverse City at the turn of the year, is restoring two Donald Ross

tracks in Michigan — Rackham GC in Royal Oak and Franklin Hills CC in Franklin. Hepner designed automobiles in Detroit for eight years before returning to college and earning a civil engineering degree in 1990 from Michigan Technical University. He joined Ron Forse in Uniontown, Pa., that year.

BUSINESS, LEISURE SHOW SET

LAS VEGAS — Jim Colbert, Hale Irwin and others in the golf development industry will take part in the North American Golf Business & Leisure



Industry Show, Oct. 19-21 at the Desert Inn and Bally's Resorts here. Impact from emerging market segments such as the baby boomers

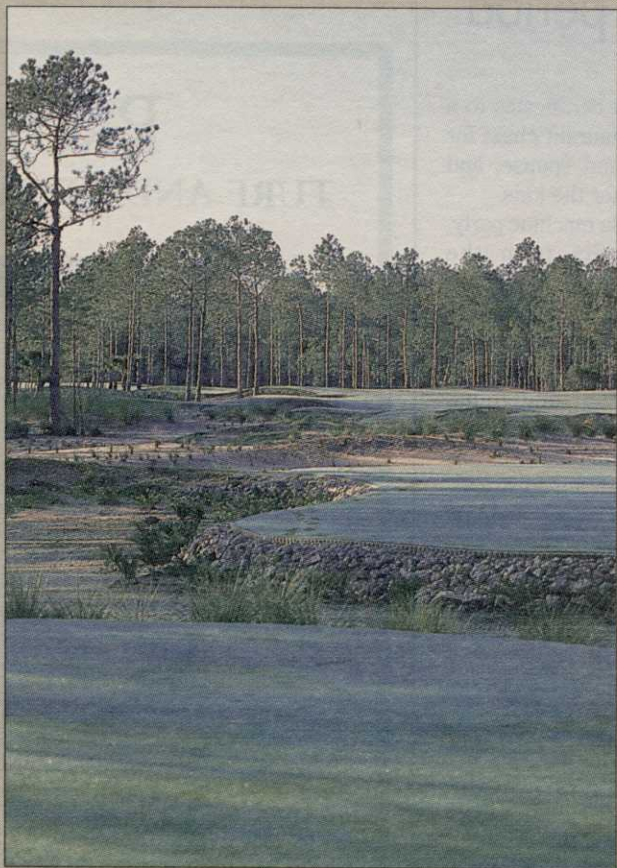
and busters, families, singles, dual-income professionals and women will be explored by industry leaders. Keynote speaker Colbert will share insights into both the game and business of golf, and Irwin will make a special appearance.

GAINFIELD FARMS UNDER WAY

SHELTON, Conn. — Construction has begun on a new nine-hole course here. The daily-fee course will be known as Gainfield Farms. Opening is scheduled for the summer of 1994. The layout was designed by Al Zikorus and course contractor is Eastern Land Management, Inc., of Shelton.

ASGCA RELEASES PAMPHLET

The American Society of Golf Course Architects has published its 1993-94 membership list featuring all the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the 117 members. The pamphlet also includes a state by state listing of members. To receive a free copy of the 1993-94 ASGCA Membership List, send a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to: The American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago 60601.



Long-awaited Naples National opens, hosts major tourney

No sooner will Naples (Fla.) National Golf Club open Saturday, Oct. 9, than it will host the LPGA's World Championship of Women's Golf, Oct. 10-17. This Mike Hurdzan-designed track, with no residential development surrounding it, contains elements of Pinehurst #2 and Pine Valley, "but with a Florida flair." Fuzzy Zoeller is featured at the grand opening Oct. 9 during the inaugural round and a golf exhibition at the practice facility.

Effects of '93 flood to be felt in 1994

By HAL PHILLIPS

TOLEDO, Ohio — The effects of this year's Midwestern flooding will not be seen until next year, according to golf course builders working in the nation's heartland. But projects due to open next year will almost certainly be delayed by the damaging wet season in the Midwest and the severe drought in the Southeast.

Members of the Golf Course Builders Association of America indicated their workload had not suffered, despite the heavy rains of May, June and July.

"Usually it's so dry this time of year, you have to worry about clumps of dirt — but not this year," said Bill Kubly, president of Nebraska-based Landscapes Unlimited. "I think in terms of course openings, you're still seeing the results of last year's efforts."

"There's definitely been a [construction] slowdown because of all the rain this year. But you won't see the effects of that until next year."

Illinois-based Wadsworth Construction has been forced to go slow on projects in Minneapolis and Wisconsin, while another in St. Louis was abandoned altogether.

"We haven't had any projects in the direct area of flooding," said Brent Wadsworth of Illinois-based Wadsworth Construction. "But there's been so much rain all spring and summer, we haven't been able to get a whole lot done. I mean, a huge area of the country has been affected: From Illinois and Tennessee west to Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming."

A Landscapes Unlimited project in Sioux Falls, S.D. — a Dick Nugent design called Prairie Green — has been delayed by Mother Nature. Another in Des Moines — a Tom Fazio project called Glen Oaks — is situated on high ground, but the flood conditions caused much more discomfort.

"My crew in Des Moines were without running water for two weeks," Kubly said. "People were telling them when to bathe and when not to. I went up to check on them and morale was still pretty high, but those aren't exactly ideal conditions."

Americanization of Asian course design continues

YAMANASHI PREFECTURE, Japan — Despite the golf course development lull in Japan, von Hagge Design Associates are moving forward on two projects.

Von Hagge's Mike Smelek reports that, after three years of "political gymnastics," his firm has received approval to begin work on Minobu Golf Club here, in the shadow of Mt. Fuji. Local and national authorities requested a slew of modified routing plans before approving the project.

However, Minobu GC will be worth the wait, says Smelek. The rugged piece of property lies in the foothills just south of the Fuji River valley. To help negotiate the

severe topography, von Hagge will employ an extensive network of retaining walls between two and 15 meters in height. Smelek estimates that two million cubic meters of earth will be moved during construction.

Two more von Hagge Japanese projects are scheduled for completion this year: Maoi Resort in Hokkaido and Arima Royal near Kobe.

Meanwhile, the von Hagge Design team expects to break ground on Ajsu Country Club in early 1994. This 54-hole complex is owned by Ube Industries.

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CHUNG SAN, China — Not unlike many of his fellow designers, Jack Nicklaus has been busy on the Chinese Mainland. His first 18 holes — The Chung Shan Hot Springs Resort — will open here this fall.

Meanwhile, in Shenzhen, another 18 should open for play next year at the Mission Hills resort. Another 18 holes are planned for this southern Chinese project.

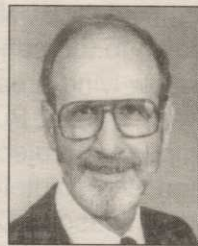
Construction has begun on another Nicklaus project in Shanghai, where a 1995 opening is expected.

Other Nicklaus projects scheduled to open this year include Chang An Golf &

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Q & A

Bill Amick: Champion of modified golf



Bill Amick

Bill Amick may be from Scipio, Ind., and maintain a house in Florida, but he could call Europe his home nowadays. The 61-year-old Amick, who has spent most of the last 40 years designing golf courses, has spent much of the last several years flying from Florida to Europe and back. He is popular in Belgium, Italy and Portugal. President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1977, Amick was also the founding president of the American Modified Golf Association.

Golf Course News: Are you personally building more regulation- or Cayman-length courses?

Bill Amick: Far more full-length courses.

GCN: How has the Cayman idea been received?

BA: In general, it's positive. But it needs something that will promote it in the United States — like they have in Japan, where they've built several courses exclusively for the Cayman ball.

GCN: Why do you so strongly support

this idea?

BA: There is a market for it, for a place for people learning the game at much less cost, quicker and easier because the Cayman ball is easier to get airborne and easier to learn with. Since it gets airborne easier, you don't have to hit it as hard to get satisfactory results. Then golfers can move on to a heavier, harder golf ball.

GCN: So you play it the way you would regulation golf except with shorter holes? About two-thirds the length?

BA: Exactly. About 60 percent.

GCN: Have they perfected the design of the BALL to the point where wind won't cause so much of a problem?

BA: The ball has been improved a great deal since [Jack] Nicklaus and Britannia started it back in 1985. But all of us involved believe it could be improved even more. MacGregor sold its patent rights and all

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