

BRIEFS



PINEHURST, FAZIO AND 100

PINEHURST, N.C. — Pinehurst Resort & Country Club will celebrate its centennial in 1995 and complete its Centennial Course, Pinehurst No. 8. Construction has begun on the Tom Fazio-designed Centennial Course, and Pinehurst President Patrick Corso said it should be complete in the fall of 1995. Fazio designed Pinehurst No. 6 with his uncle George in 1976. The course will give Pinehurst, owned by Club Resorts Inc., 144 holes of golf — more than any resort in the world.



DEER TRACK ON TRACK

SURFSIDE BEACH, S.C. — Deer Track Golf Resort is midway through a year-long renovation of its North Course. The 7,200-yard layout designed by Bob Toski and Porter Gibson will include faster greens, changes in bunkering, the addition of pine-straw areas and new mowing patterns. The entire project is set for completion by late summer.

NYC WATERFRONT FACE LIFT BEGINS

NEW YORK CITY — Construction has begun on the Chelsea Piers Sports and Entertainment Complex on Piers 59-62 of the Hudson River in Manhattan. The project, reclaiming rundown piers between 17th and 23rd streets, includes a 52-stall outdoor golf driving range. A running track, skating rinks, maritime recreation center and marina, and other facilities are part of the project, being developed by Chelsea Piers Management, Inc.

A WEISKOPF-MORRISH COLLABORATION

BLAINE, Wash. — The city of Blaine and Whatcom County have given Semiahmoo Co. permission to develop another 360 acres, including an 18-hole golf course designed by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish. Weiskopf and Morrish are still completing courses begun together, though taking on no new projects. The new track will join the highly ranked Arnold Palmer-designed Semiahmoo track.

DALY DESIGN JUST PLAIN 'WICKED'

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — You've heard of Crooked Stick, Make Way for Wicked Stick. The winning entry in a contest to name John Daly's first golf course design is Wicked Stick Golf Links. The prize for the winner, Chris Merillat, chosen from 800 entries, is a round of golf with Daly on the links-style track scheduled to open in the fall of 1995. Southpark Golf Group Ltd. is developer of the course.



John Daly

Big Gulp: Developers spade treefuls at wooded site

By LARRY TROJACK

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — In the complex field of planning and developing residential golf communities, it is hard to imagine progress without problems. However, for the developers of Bearpath Golf and Country Club here, finding a solution to one huge problem meant getting innovative. The result of that effort was a dramatic saving in time, manpower and better than 2,500 trees — as well as a correspondingly impressive dollar savings.

Bearpath is taking shape on 426 acres of rolling terrain in this rapidly growing community located 25 minutes southwest of Minneapolis. Course construction will begin in October.

Getting to that point, said Bearpath Secretary Brian Gensmer, has taken a number of interesting turns — not the least of which has been the movement and/or removal of scores of trees located in a nursery on site and at various locations throughout the 426-acre parcel.

"Obviously, a project such as this entails a great deal of planning, both from a logistical standpoint and for actual site layout," said Gensmer. "Even the most meticulous planning, however, could not totally avoid the situation. Many trees had to be moved or removed. Certainly it would have been easy to simply cut them. However, we chose to examine other options

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Crews move one of hundreds of trees at Bearpath G&CC.



Lee Chang, left, has been keeping close watch on his new design, Southern Wood Golf Club, above, in China, where workers seed the course by hand.

From Georgia to China, Chang making a name

Lee Chang, 48, was born in Fujian Province in the People's Republic of China (PRC) but grew up in Taipei, Taiwan. Armed with a bachelor's degree in architecture, he moved to the United States 25 years ago and eventually earned a master's degree in city planning and architecture from Georgia State University. In 1972, he went to work at Atlanta course architect Willard Byrd's firm, where he had a hand in designing such widely known layouts as Long Boat Key Golf Club in Sarasota, Fla., Planter's Row in Hilton Head, S.C., Wild Wing Plantation in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Lion's Paw in Sunset Beach, N.C. Chang opened his own firm in Atlanta in 1993. He has two projects underway in the PRC and a third in Missouri. Lee and wife Fiona recently celebrated their 21st anniversary. They have two children, Yvonne, 18, and Erwin, 15.

Golf Course News: Why did you start your own business after so many years with Byrd?

Lee Chang: People always want to try getting out on their own, no matter what they do. I stayed with Willard so long partly because of my family. We wanted the children to have a sense of roots in a

particular area, so we stayed in Atlanta. It was a good decision. I definitely enjoyed my time with Willard. He's very intelligent and a nice person. It was just a good time to get out on my own.

GCN: What's the main thing you learned from Byrd?

LC: As a landscape and golf architect, he taught me how to deal with both the golf course and other real estate usually involved in a golf project.

GCN: How would you describe your architectural style?

LC: I'm a classical naturalist. I let the site dictate what the course should be like. I want an environmentally sensitive layout that is challenging for golfers of all abilities. I like to incorporate a local flavor and use local materials. In Taiwan, for instance, there is a lot of black sand. They use it in the bunkers and it works just fine. You don't see that as much here [United States]. Bunker sand has to be white. It's too bad.

GCN: Who are your favorite old-time and contemporary architects?

LC: Alister Mackenzie is my favorite old-time architect. His book, *Golf Architecture*, is still used extensively by contemporary de-

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Putting Blue Monster back together again

By MARK LESLIE

MIAMI — An "old and tired" Blue Monster, cornerstone of the five-course Doral Golf Resort and Spa, will be rejuvenated where it counts, beginning next year.

"The main priority is to change grasses," said Pat McHugh, a certified golf course superintendent who has just joined Doral from Hunters Run in Boynton Beach. "It's like putting Humpty Dumpty back together."

Other major aspects of the project will be a state-of-the-art irrigation system and renovation of the bunkers.

"We will leave the integrity of the [Dick] Wilson design," McHugh said course which hosts the Doral-Ryder Open in March. "It is quite a favorite of the players. They enjoy coming back to the old style."

Designed by Wilson and Robert Von Hagge, the Blue Course was built in 1962 and is entirely covered with the old Ormond Bermudagrasses. "We're looking to regrass the fairways," he said, adding that the greens are 328 Bermuda.

An architect will be brought on board for the work, McHugh said. After the Blue Course renovation is complete, the Red, White and Gold courses will be improved — one at a time, so as not to disrupt golf at the resort.

KSL Recreation Corp., which bought Doral earlier this year, has announced more than \$15 million in renovations in a four-phase process, beginning with clubhouse improvements. McHugh could not pinpoint exactly when work on the course will begin.

In a press release, General Manager Hans Turnovszky said: "When completed, Doral will not only have a complete facelift but extensive additions and improvements to its infrastructure, energy management capabilities and other back-to-the-house facilities necessary to provide our guests with the very best leisure experience."

Q & A



The par-3, 200-yard 15th hole at Olde York Country Club.

From golf course to horse farm and back again, Olde York site returns to its roots

From STAFF REPORTS

COLUMBUS, N.J. — Olde York Country Club, a once-popular golf course that was transformed into a horse farm for 14 years, re-opened in July — redesigned by Gary Player and owned by Ed and Corinne Eget.

"We have no homes, just nature," said Eget, "and a most breath-taking piece of property."

The property has been sitting

idle for 15 years. Closed in 1979, the course had been used as a horse pasture until the new owners hired Gary Player Design Co. to revive the course in June 1993.

Player and project architect Mark Stallone refashioned the south-central New Jersey course using a traditional Scottish theme. The new layout plays par-72 over 6,967 yards and was designed to look part Pine Valley, part

Pinehurst #2 and part 1990s golf course. Five holes are completely enclosed in woods.

It sports bentgrass tees, greens and fairways, with Kentucky bluegrass surrounding the 146 sand, grass and stacked sod bunkers. The large, undulating greens are between 7,000 and 11,000 square feet.

Stallone has stayed on as superintendent, joining head pro Gary VanInderstine.

Q&A: Chang

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signers. Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Pete and Alice Dye are my favorite contemporary architects.

GCN: How do you view the domestic golf market? Will development continue at 350-plus courses a year?

LC: Things are stabilizing. The U.S. economic situation and environmental considerations will probably slow things down to 250 to 300 courses annually over the next few years. The market is ripe for renovating existing courses. There are a lot of 40-, 50- and 60-year-old layouts that are out-of-date because of advances in equipment. They need to be updated.

GCN: How about the Asia-Pacific market?

LC: That's still growing. The Japanese fueled much of the development in the 1980s. The collapse of their economy slowed things. But other countries—like Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand and India—are picking up the slack.

GCN: Are environmental issues as important in Asia as the U.S.?

LC: It's important in some countries and less so in others. In Japan and Taiwan, you can run into a stone wall if environmentalists get involved. In China, Vietnam and Malaysia, they are concerned about the environment. But it is less likely to stop a project. In those countries, it's often up to the architect to take responsibility for balancing development and environmental concerns.

GCN: Does your Asian heritage and language ability help you get jobs there?

LC: It helps. But the main thing is to have a local architect involved who knows how to deal with local details. My partner in Asia is Lin Fu Ming. He's based in Taiwan and has helped take care of many local matters.

GCN: Do Asian developers want different things in a course design than American developers?

LC: Most Asian developers want a 7,200-yard course, not because they are better golfers, but because that's what they think will sell. Asian developers don't like unplayable rough. American architects will put it in and then the developer eliminates it. Fairways are generally wider, which also compensates some for the extra distance.



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