



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 There are a lot of 40-, 50- and 60-year-old layouts that are out-of-date because of advances in equipment.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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