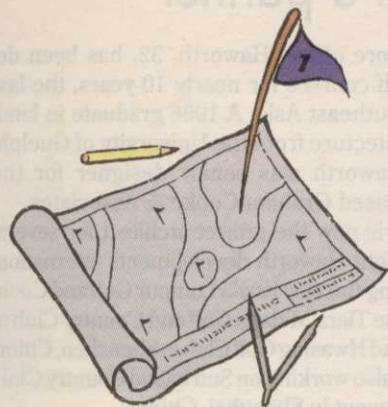


BRIEFS



LAFOY EXCITED ABOUT N.C. SITE

CLAYTON, N.C. — Carolinas Golf Group has opened The Neuse Golf Club along the Neuse River outside Raleigh. "The tract of land is absolutely gorgeous," said course architect John LaFoy. "I did not think a piece of land like this existed east of Raleigh. Its features—rolling hills, hardwood trees, rock outcroppings and the Neuse River." The semi-private/daily fee facility opened to members Dec. 1, 1993 and opened for non-member play Dec. 6.

PLAYER DESIGN OPENS IN TEXAS

BAY CITY, Texas — Rio Colorado Golf Course, a new Gary Player-designed project here, has opened for play. The 18-hole, 6,824-yard, public golf course is operated by Houston-based Golf Services



Gary Player

Group. Rio Colorado Golf Course challenges golfers with two types of golf scenery. The front nine holes of the course plays through the native coastal prairies common to the Texas Gulf Coast. The second nine features Rio Colorado's signature holes which are situated on the wooded bluffs of the Colorado River.

GILMORE GRAVES ADDS FEICK

Dan Feick, landscape architect and irrigation specialist, has left the firm S.D.A., Inc. of Fargo, N. Dak., to join Gilmore Graves Golf, Inc. (GGGI) of Spring Green, Wis. GGGI operates offices in Spring Green, Phoenix, Ariz., and Pierre, S.D. Feick has been designing and supervising irrigation projects throughout the Midwest and will be involved in expanding the golf services of GGGI nationwide.

WATER, WATER AT BARDMOOR NORTH

LARGO, Fla. — Bardmoor North Golf Club has added 3 1/2 acres of water on four holes of the front nine. A portion of the lake begins between the 6th fairway and 4th tee, wraps around the 3rd green and then extends along the other side of the 3rd and even dips into the fairway, creating a feeling of an island green for the 3rd hole.

SULLIVAN, CORNISH WORK TOGETHER

VALHALLA, N.Y. — Sullivan Architects of Valhalla has been retained by Westchester County as the project architect and Cornish and Silva Inc. as course architects for the expansion and rehabilitation of Mohansic Golf Course. They are hoping to have golfers playing the expanded facility by the spring of 1997.

GOLF COURSE NEWS



Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s track Best New Mountain Course

By MARK LESLIE

Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s "environmentally correct" Squaw Creek Golf Course in Olympic Valley, Calif., was named the Best Public Mountain Course to open in the last five years, according to the nation's golf course architects.

Tom Fazio's Champion Hills in Hendersonville, N.C., was voted the Best Private Mountain Course, in the poll, conducted by Golf Course News.

In other results, the poll illustrated the scarcity of large-scale public golf developers despite the high percentage of public facilities among openings the last few years. No single developer received more than a handful of votes —



After being used as a parking lot for the 1960 Winter Olympics, Olympic Valley was noticeably improved by Squaw Creek Golf Course.

and, so, no winner was chosen. Even Sunbelt Corp., which over the past three years has opened the 18-course Robert Trent Jones Trail in Alabama, did not receive heavy support. Arvida, which last year was named Best Developer of Communities, and First Golf received similar support.

Perhaps the most memorable vote for Best Developer came from Maury Miller

of Golf Resources, Inc., who caustically cast his ballot for the Resolution Trust Corp., which took over the Landmark Land Co. properties and began auctioning them off.

Meanwhile, Jones's design team won accolades in the *Golf Course News* balloting. Between Don Knott and Bruce Charlton, the Jones International crew

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Wetlands creators point men for future

By PETER BLAIS

BEAUFORT, S.C. — Steve Beaman's chest no doubt swelled a bit when Spring Island and Old Tabby Golf Links received the South Carolina Wildlife Federation Developer of the Year Award in late January.

Beaman's firm, Ecoshores of Port Orange, Fla., planted large stands of cordgrass, pickerelweed, duck potato, golden canna, arum and other native plants to develop and stabilize wetland areas

around the Arnold Palmer/Ed Seay-designed layout.

That work helped Spring Island secure the coveted award, given by the local chapter of the National Wildlife Federation, according to Spring Island staff naturalist Bruce Lampright.

"We're very pleased with the work Ecoshores has done here," Lampright said. "The plants and grasses are doing very well."

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Q & A Crenshaw, Coore team hot property

With the GCSAA tournament being played on Barton Creek, the PGA Tour having just played the Lincoln-Mercury Kapalua International on Princeville's Kapalua, and the widely anticipated opening of Sand Hills, golf course architects Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore are in the news. Managing editor Mark Leslie tracked them down in La Costa, Calif., where Crenshaw was competing in the Mercedes Championships.

Golf Course News: It seems the word is out. Do you get the sense you're a hot architect team and people are after your services more than before?

Crenshaw: No. We really don't think of ourselves that way. If anything, we try to stick to our original philosophy. We have a small organization and we want to remain that way. We enjoy spending time on our projects. I think we're always going to be an organization known for doing a few projects and doing them well and going at



Ben Crenshaw, left, and Bill Coore stand in a natural "blowout" — to them, a bunker — at Sand Hill Golf Course. See story page 41.

a pace at which we're comfortable.

Coore: Do we think we're a hot item? Certainly name recognition is of inordinate value from a business perspective. There is a philosophy that says, 'Do a great deal

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Weiskopf, Morrish ending partnership

By MARK LESLIE

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Having generated a legacy of renowned golf courses from Arizona to Scotland, Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish are "winding down" their golf course design partnership.

"We're not splitting. We really are just phasing out," said Morrish, parrying any talk of a feud with Weiskopf, with whom he has designed 20 courses. Among their gems are Forest Highlands, Troon and Troon North in Arizona, Double Eagle in Ohio, and Loch Lomond Golf Club in Scotland.

In a statement, Weiskopf said: "Competition and design complement each other and after working on the design of 20 golf courses, I find that golf course design is just as stimulating for me as competition. I will continue to utilize my design expertise and competitive experiences to build and design outstanding golf courses, in addition to playing on the Senior Tour."

Weiskopf and Morrish are working on a handful of unfinished courses, along with some long-range projects. And Morrish added, "We will honor any agreements we've made with people with whom we have spoken, if they desire to press forward. In fact, we have not ruled out working together, say, five years from now. If a past client were to call and say, 'I

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Q&A: Crenshaw and Coore

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of work while in the spotlight.' There is nothing wrong with that. But we are a very small company. We realize what we do is business, but our philosophy is to treat it as a hobby. We try to have fun and do only one or two courses at a time that accommodate the style we're comfortable with. We don't shy away from projects, but to pick situations that allow us to express ourselves.

GCN: Is it the traditional aspects of your designs that is drawing attention to you?

Crenshaw: I suppose. We are no different than some people who think the work that was done in the '20s was done by the best artists and we try to learn from them. Those traits and qualities are the lasting ones. There's a great bit of art in fine work. It's subtle but at the same time it's something we feel lasts and is there for every golfer.

GCN: You're a real student of classic design. You go out of your way to see courses designed by the old masters. How have they influenced your work?

Crenshaw: I view it as an art student going into a museum. You're drawn to different works. Bill feels the same way. Whenever we can, we visit a course on which you can see a great stamp of individualism and the blending of art.

GCN: Who has had the most influence on you, Ben?

Crenshaw: Certainly, Mackenzie has a flair for art that I think was totally unique. His bunkers and mounding, his green contouring — strategic architecture is so well depicted in his work. There is a route for everyone. His bunkers are very eye-catching. They have different levels in them sometimes. They have fingers, bays and tongues. They frame and orient the shot as well as anyone's.

On the other hand, on a [Donald] Ross bunker you don't see much sand, but they still have a lot of feel. I prefer to see a little more sand. Not to say we're not magnetized by Ross. His green contouring is brilliant.

GCN: Explain why you think we went from these classic designs to a dearth of them, and now they are making a comeback.

Crenshaw: There are a lot of reasons, but I think it really boils down to the implements we move earth with. To do delicate work you have to have a small apparatus. It's been difficult to do that with the advent of the bulldozer.

GCN: Do you think Ross and the others would have had more movement and earth-moving if they more modern equipment than horse-drawn blades?

Crenshaw: They had to be drawn to certain pieces of land. They knew they couldn't move mass quantities of earth, so they

truly went for getting a rolling site. The delicate undulations around the green reflects the drag pan.

GCN: What is your favorite golf course and why?

Crenshaw: I've always been inclined to go with Pine Valley, Marion and Royal Melbourne, in no necessary order. A lot of the variables and traits we know make great golf come together on those particular sites. There are 10 others I could mention in the same breath.

Coore: Quite candidly, I don't think there is any such thing. There are groups of

extraordinary courses around the world. One thing that makes golf so fascinating is the variety. It's the heart and soul of golf. I grew up playing Pinehurst #2 and adore its subtlety and the crowned greens. By the same token, I love the imagination of the National Golf Links (on Long Island). It is one of my absolute favorites in the world. And certainly no two courses could be more different.

GCN: The last couple of years the industry's collective voice is "we're returning to classical design." Has the pendulum really swung back?

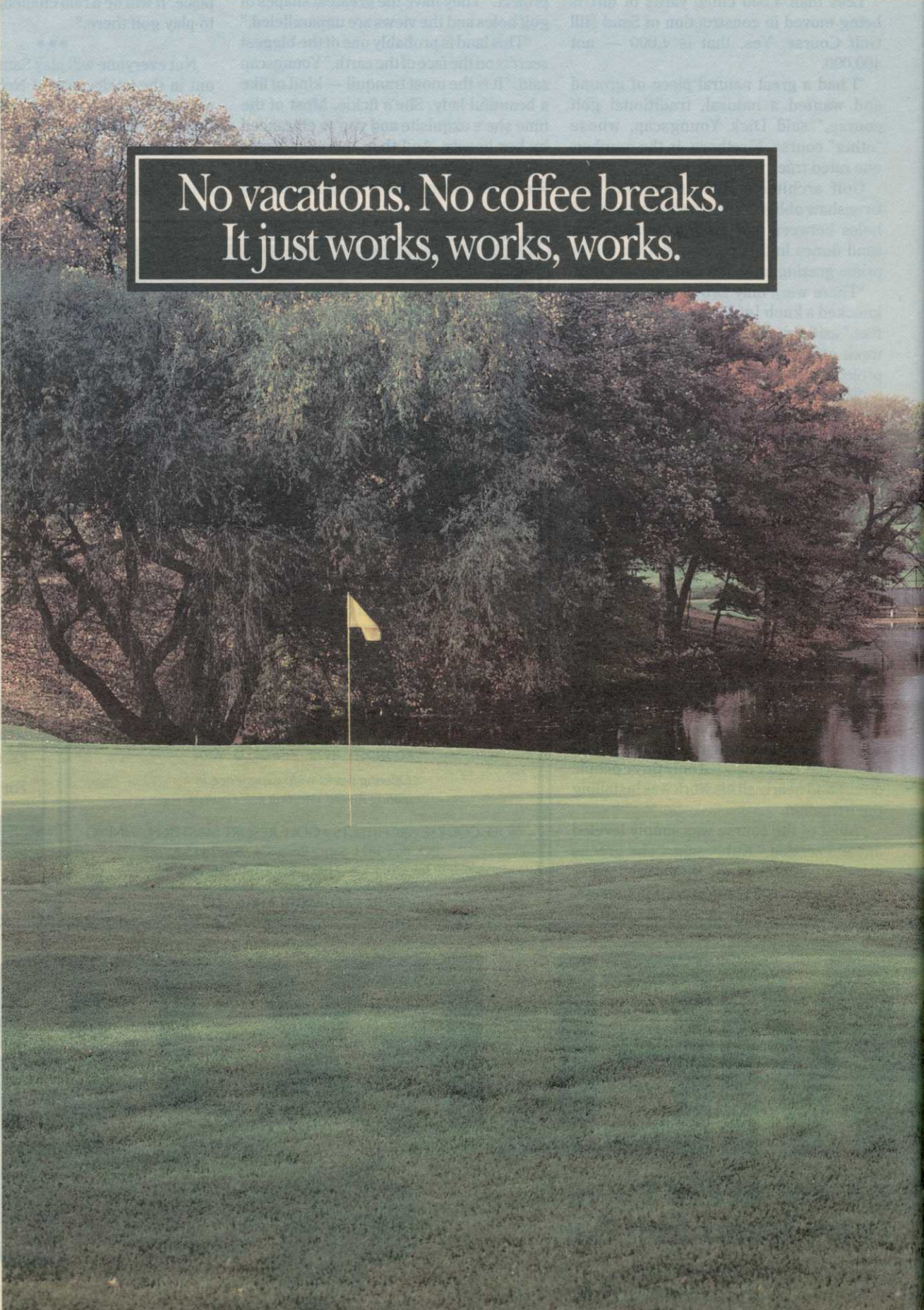
Crenshaw: The first depictions

of golf architecture — other than seaside golf — was in the latter 1800s when man actually started working with earth artificially. From that point on, it has gone through tremendous swings and fluctuations in style, depictions, earthworks and all kinds of different presentations. I think the last 15 to 20 years is almost a natural reaction to what golf technology and implements and balls are giving us. Let's face it, the clubs and balls we use today are far surpassing anything we ever thought of 25 years ago. When I hear Pete Dye trying to devise different ways to combat

that, I am very much in concert with his philosophies on how to test the best players. That point given, there are masses of golfers coming to the game who on television have seen golf courses laden with water and all different types of visual presentations. When you mention a course — like Oakmont and Royal Melbourne which don't have bodies of water — I'm sure they scratch their heads and say 'Where is the pizzazz? Where are the bells and whistles?'

We've gotten beat over the head by magazines, television, all types

Continued on next page



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Q&A: Crenshaw and Coore

Continued from previous page

of things that show waterfalls everywhere, flowers, all kinds of things. But Bill and I are conservative in that way.

GCN: Some golf course design teams have been notoriously short-lived. Most recently, Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish are ending their professional relationship. How secure is Coore and Crenshaw?

Crenshaw: There are no guarantees for long-term personal

relationships of any type — marital or business. If any two people ever set out not to be partners, it was us. We're partners because we respect each other. We have learned immensely from one another. My personal opinion is that we will continue for a long time.

Coore: I learn from Ben every day — particularly subtleties, shot values and things of inordinate value in the quality of a golf course that might be overlooked by someone without his talents. He is extremely well versed in golf architecture. This is the furthest thing imaginable from the situation common in the last 10 to

12 years of players consulting.

This is an ego-oriented business as well, and sometimes — particularly from the lesser-known person's perspective — some guys may have a problem doing work when their partners get the lion's share of the credit. We don't have that problem. Ben even tends to downplay his role, which is not fair to him. We try to show up together as much as possible.

GCN: Your involvement in buffalograss seems to be such a departure from the Tour and course design, Ben. What got you interested?

Crenshaw: I have been

interested in how a course should be maintained and what awaits us in the future. Buffalograss is an alternative — nothing more. It's not a wonder grass. You can use less water with it...

Superintendents have such a difficult existence these days. There's so much demanded from them. A lot of times things are asked of them that are impractical. And they are very much maligned in a lot of different aspects. I have a lot of admiration for them.

GCN: Are you watching any other grasses in particular?

Crenshaw: Lots of new Bermudagrasses are coming out

that are extremely heat-tolerant and use less water. There's a tremendous surge of new bentgrasses. We're at a very, very nice situation and time where we can offer these grasses in the future. And it's fun to watch and apply them.

GCN: How will water use and grasses affect course design?

Crenshaw: In a lush situation, there's a limit to what the ball can do and what its outcome will be. In a lot of areas and a lot of our courses in America, what happens to the ball when it hits the ground becomes a non-thinking proposition. It's an air game. Why is it that people worked so hard on [greens] approaches in the '20s? That's where the game has shifted and is presented to different classes of players. The old architects preached all the time about the approach. It can be just as important as the green itself, and so can how it's maintained because it allows lesser players a chance.

GCN: Bill, what does the element of your five years of work as a superintendent bring to this aspect of your career?

Coore: It's a great asset. I never started out to be a course superintendent. I worked with Pete Dye in the early '70s. Golf course design had been a hobby of mine. I appreciated Pete's finesse. I got the chance to learn construction from the ground up. At one of his courses I inherited the superintendent's job, which, quite frankly, I was not trained for. I was forced to learn about maintenance. I knew what a well-maintained course was like, but how to get it there was foreign. Dick Psola, a well-known soil scientist out of Ohio, held my hand for a year and taught me.

I learned, it worked well and it was a fruitful beneficial experience, because having done that I am at least aware of superintendents' concerns — and whether those concerns are legitimate.

Sometimes they are and sometimes they are a personal objection.

Byron Nelson, Weibring team up

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Byron Nelson and PGA pro D.A. Weibring have teamed up with German developers to plan The Palm Springs Classic, a 368-acre mixed-use project featuring a championship 27-hole golf course.

The development will also feature a hotel with as many as 400 rooms, corporate offices, commercial space and up to 400 vacation ownership units. The project is financed by Hypo Bank of Munich, Germany.

Project developer is D.T. Palm Springs Inter-Continental Golf Center Enterprises, Ltd., headed by Rolf Deyhle of Stuttgart, Germany.

City Manager Rob W. Parkins said city staff stand ready to process the application as a high-priority development.



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