

Q&A: Crenshaw and Coore

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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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