

BRIEFS



PACKARD PACKS PUNCH AT THE GENERAL

GALENA, Ill. — Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort has begun construction on The General, an 18-hole, par-72 golf course six miles east of here. The course, set to open in the fall of 1995, was designed by architect Roger Packard and pro golfer Andy North. It is located at the entrance of the Eagle Ridge development. Named after Gen. Ulysses S. Grant who was native to this area, the course will also feature its own lounge, restaurant, locker rooms, pro shop and meeting rooms.

BUSINESS UP, JOHNSTON MOVES

HILTON HEAD, S.C. — Golf course architect Clyde B. Johnston is moving his office here, due to a recent increase in business. The new office is located at 10 Office Park Road, Carolina Suite 100, Hilton Head Island, S.C., 29928. The phone (803-842-3367) and fax (803-842-6135) numbers will remain unchanged.



Clyde Johnston

COURSE PART OF BUSINESS PARK

BROOMFIELD, Colo. — Professional golfer David Graham and golf course architect Gary Panks have been chosen to design the 27-hole Interlocken Conference Resort. The project is the second-phase expansion of a business park development. Preliminary course design is underway and construction is expected to begin by early 1995.

DEER TRACK REMAKE ON TRACK

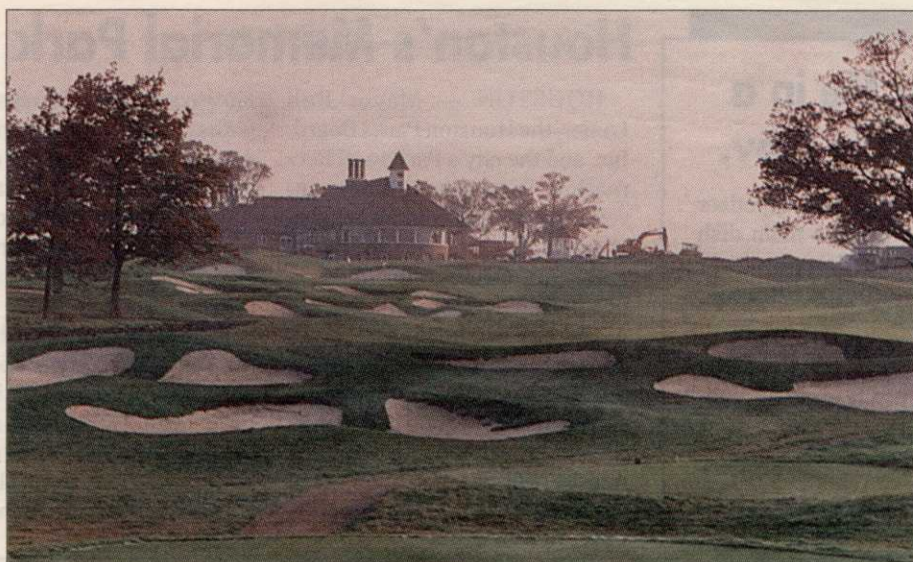
SURFSIDE BEACH, S.C. — Deer Track Golf Resort is midway through a year-long renovation of its North Course. The 7,200-yard layout designed by Bob Toski and Porter Gibson will include faster greens, changes in bunkering, the addition of pine-straw areas and new mowing patterns. Changes to the course are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

KERN BEGINS MISSOURI TRACK

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Construction has begun here on the Eagle Knoll Golf Course. Designed by Gary Kern, the development includes some house lots that adjoin the course. Builder Tim Cox of Nixa hopes to finish construction within the year. An opening is scheduled for summer of 1995.

IRWIN GOLF SERVICES MAY BE SOLD

The Brassie Golf Corp. of Delaware has entered a letter of intent to acquire Hale Irwin Golf Services. Brassie owns, builds and operates courses throughout the United States and Canada. Irwin specializes in course design and operations management.



The 9th hole at Steve Smyers-designed Chart Hills Golf Club in London looks scary from the tees, but a generous landing area lies between the two sets of bunkers.

Smyers, Faldo join forces in UK

By MARK LESLIE

LONDON — Taking a page from the Alister Mackenzie design book and blending in the modern bentgrass playing surface, American architect Steve Smyers and British Touring pro Nick Faldo have finished their first collaboration, Chart Hills Golf Club here, and are working on their second design.

Smyers said Chart Hills and Gadbridge Farm, a daily-fee project planned for the suburb of Brey, are forerunners of more work done under the Faldo-Smyers signature in Europe and America. Faldo

is also working with Brit Stenson of International Management Group on course designs in Asia-Pacific.

Faldo's input on design is mainly conceptual, Smyers said. "We bounce a lot of ideas off one another, especially about strategic values. Then we take those ideas and implement them into the plans," he said. "It's like Jay Morrish and Tom Weiskopf. Jay said it best: 'I'm the author and he's the editor.'"

Chart Hills, a private club with a large golf academy, opened here this spring.

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Yes Maas: Super accepts challenge of grow-in battle

By MARK LESLIE

The medical profession has pediatricians, podiatrists, internists and other specialists. Attorneys specialize in corporate, real estate, international and other areas of the law. And the turfgrass profession has its own specialties: plant pathology, turf breeding, biogenetics, golf course superintendent.

Add one more, thanks to certified golf course superintendent Stephen Maas.

Maas is believed the first person to hang up a shingle as a golf course grow-in specialist, period. One job at a time — wherever it is and whether resort, private or public — Maas' focus will be on new construction.

His luggage packed, credentials in hand and family in tow, Maas will show up even before the first spade of earth is turned and remain on site until the course is opened and a su-



Steve Maas

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Q & A Morrish: On his own again

From his early days working, first, with Jack Nicklaus in the 1970s and with Tom Weiskopf from 1983 until this year, Jay Morrish has had a hand in designing some of the great golf courses in America. Managing editor Mark Leslie interviewed him while walking, and giving accolades to the A.W. Tillinghast-designed San Francisco Golf Club.



Golf Course News: You've worked with Jack Nicklaus, with Tom Weiskopf and on your own. What's the difference between working with a pro/designer and solo?

Jay Morrish: I can't say there is that much difference. I hope I've helped them with some points they may have not understood, and I certainly learned from them.



The 7th hole at very private Double Eagle in Galena, Ohio, which Morrish says may turn out to be the best of his American golf courses.

GCN: What have you learned from Nicklaus and Weiskopf?

JM: A lot about strategy. What a good golfer expects and wants to see. Of course, everybody has some slightly different phi-

losophies. I quite honestly am much closer to the Weiskopf philosophy, or strategy, than Nicklaus'. For instance, in the old days Nicklaus would not allow you to

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Jacobson transforms sand pit into double-green 9

ONIEDA, Wis. — An 84-acre sand pit has been transformed into a par-36 golf course with nine double greens that will open July as Thornberry Creek Golf Club.

"It's beyond comprehension to see it turn out like it did," developer Jack Schweiner said of the Rick Jacobson-designed track.

Each hole has multiple tees and two greens or one large connected green. The dual strategy was incorporated due to acre-



Rick Jacobson

age constraints that would accommodate only nine holes of golf.

"The area where this course was being developed was saturated with nine-hole courses, so we proposed the dual strategy as a means to provide the client with a unique golf experience

to market," said Jacobson, of Libertyville. The double-green concept, coupled with multiple tees, will allow golfers to experience the golf course differently each time it is played.

While working with Jack Nicklaus Golf Services, Jacobson assisted with plan document preparation for the dual-strategy Renegade Course at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz. The dual strategy was

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Busy worldwide, Smyers teams with Faldo on British projects

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Developed by London-based Debra Corp., which owns Metro West in Orlando, Fla., it is an 18-hole track that measures from 4,800 to 7,250 yards.

"The flair of the golf course is its bunkering," Smyers said from his office in Lakeland, Fla. "We implemented the big, sweeping Mackenzie-style bunkering. But in each bunker we put in riveted turf (stacked sod) like the links courses. It becomes a conversation piece

of the facility."

Built on terrain like a Midwestern cornfield, the site does have "some roll" and sports exceptionally large old English oak trees.

Faldo and Smyers imported American superintendent Ed Devine, who is familiar with bentgrass, to oversee the course which has PennLinks bent on tees, greens and fairways.

A former student of Dr. Joe Duich at Pennsylvania State



"I like to make the golfer use his creativity."

— Steve Smyers

University, Devine was assistant superintendent at Wolf Run in Indianapolis, then head superintendent at Rivers Bend in Richmond, Va.

Duich and Stan Zontek of the

U.S. Golf Association Green Section are consulting agronomists on the project.

Smyers said Gadbridge Farm stands as Faldo's way of "giving back to the game."

Faldo wants the 27-hole public track to provide high-quality golf at an affordable price.

"He's going to have golf academies and special sessions for the handicapped, underprivileged, people getting out of halfway houses," Smyers said. It will do everything for everybody to get them involved in golf.

Construction is expected to start in the fall. An opening date should be early summer of 1996, Smyers said.

In the United States, ground was broken in late June on a Smyers solo design. The 36-hole daily-fee facility, which has been in planning for two years, is located in Hillsboro Township, N.J., — 43 miles from downtown Philadelphia and 45 from downtown New York City.

Belle Meade Development, which builds office parks, is developing the project. Belle Meade bought the 440-acre property years ago for an office park. But a feasibility study found the best use of the land was for a public golf course.

Smyers said the design on the gently rolling site will be low-profile, and will "heavily emphasize a strategic shot on each shot."

"I like to make the golfer use his creativity," he said.

Meanwhile, Smyers-designed Carramar Golf Course in Perth in western Australia opened in late May.

The 18-hole daily-fee course measures 7,100 yards and boasts what Smyers describes as "a major, major practice facility" of massive size.

"Golf in western Australia is extremely popular," he said. "Every daily-fee facility within the surrounds of Perth exceeds 100,000 rounds a year. The climate is ideal and they go crazy over golf."

"People go there in droves just to hit golf balls."

Green fees are \$US15 to \$US18 and nobody rides golf cars.

Sand pit turned to golf course

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applied on all 18 holes and was well received.

Thornberry Creek will accommodate all skill levels, measuring between 3,100 and 3,200 yards off the back tees and between 2,300 and 2,400 yards from the front tees. Strategically placed bunkers, natural waste areas, water and holes carved through trees will add to the challenge.

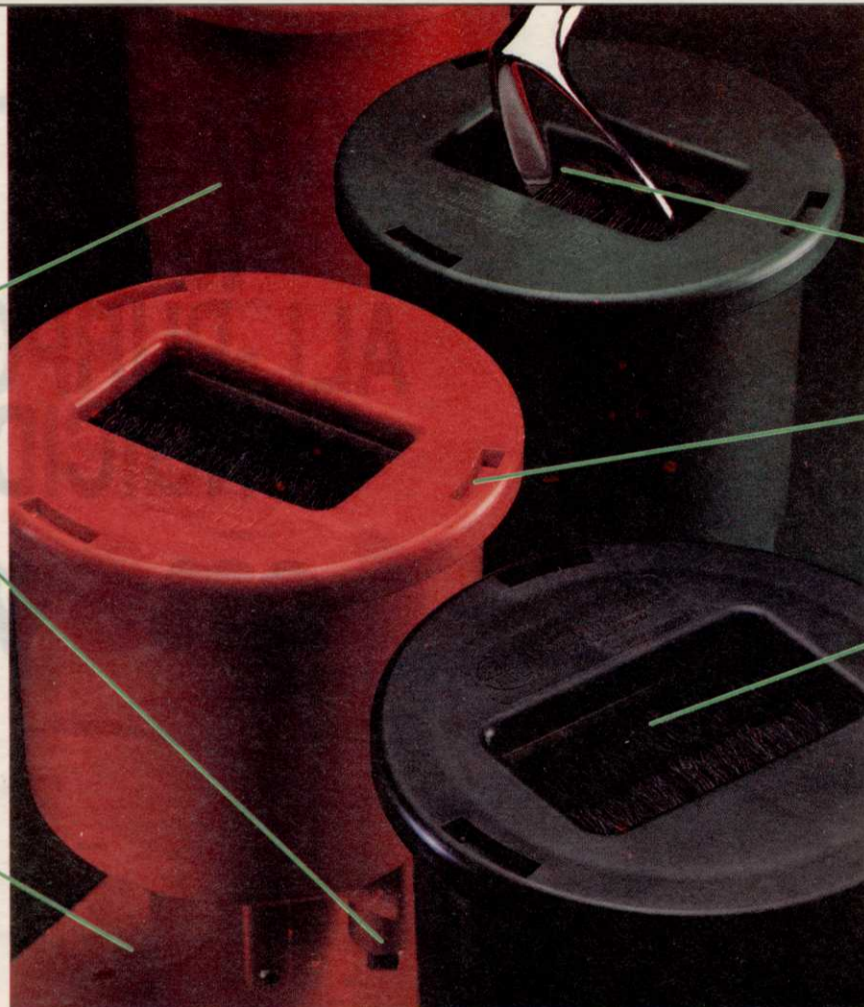
Schweiner has bought an adjacent 430 acres with plans to build an 18-hole golf course and residential community.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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