

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**

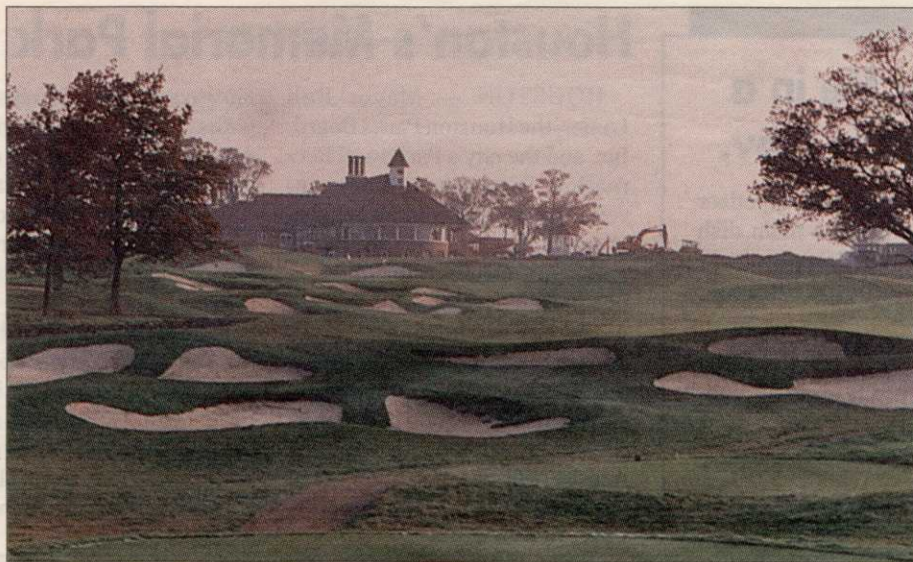
SURFSIDE BEACH, S.C. — Deer Track Golf Resort is midway through a year-long renovation of its North Course. The 7,200-yard layout designed by Bob Toski and Porter Gibson will include faster greens, changes in bunkering, the addition of pine-straw areas and new mowing patterns. Changes to the course are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

Continued on page 36

**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

Continued on page 35

**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

Continued on page 37

**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

Continued on page 36

## Have know-how, will travel, says Maas

Continued from page 31

perintendent is on the job. He will handle on-site management, administration of construction, grow-in, maintenance and training.

"I'm the first ever to do this, as far as I know," Maas said from his very temporary home in Columbia, Ill. "It's certainly a niche market I'm trying to pursue."

His wife, Marci, and 11-year-old son, Derek, look at this job as "a great adventure," he said. "We'll pack up and move to wherever the next job is. When that course is complete, it will be on to the next place."

Maas sees the service, named Congrow Golf, as "a natural transition from my prior work as a superintendent."

He pointed to the five golf courses where, as superintendent or assistant, he has helped grow in — The Woodlands in Alton, Ill., in 1993-94; AnnBriar Golf Course in Waterloo, Ill., in 1991-93; Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) Resort Golf Club in 1989-91; Forest Highlands Golf Club in Flagstaff, Ariz., in 1987-89; and The Country Club at Castle Pines in Castle Rock, Colo., in 1985-87.

Maas will relocate anywhere in the world and dedicate himself solely to one project.

He hopes to arrive at each project site "as early as possible to help consult with irrigation design, (from an agronomic standpoint) work with the architectural firm in selecting grasses, bunker sand, even the design of the course for maintenance matters, whatever the owner is looking for. Also, I'll be there for grow-in and opening and to help hire my replacement.

"From my experience, it's taken almost two years to the day from ground breaking until you can turn over day-to-day maintenance."

Crucial to construction and grow-in, he said, is documentation — "your daily log book, pictures, VCR, filming of construction, correct as-built drainage, irrigation, utilities, etc., and all your plans carefully logged and filed so no matter what problems arise down the road, you have the correct information to research and get a better grasp where you need to go."

He said this documentation takes on added significance in light of a trend toward superintendents changing jobs more often, and therefore coming into unfamiliar situations.

A graduate with distinction from the Pennsylvania State University Turfgrass Management two-year certificate program, Maas said he will also pay close attention to:

- Administration of construction. "Experience is the key to developing an organized flow of scheduling to assure the owners that the project will be completed on time and within budget."

- Grow-in. "The importance of a successful grow-in cannot be understated. It will determine when revenue will first be realized, the first impression on the golfing community and the long-term effects that weather, traffic and agronomic needs will have on turf."

- Maintenance. "As the seedlings emerge from the soil, a program set specifically for that particular golf course will be formed. Irrigation, fertilization, landscaping, chemical applications, top

dressing, aerating, rolling, mowing" and other practices will be put in place.

- Training. "Without proper training, all prior work will have been done in vain." Selection and motivation of a qualified team to operate equipment and maintain a high-quality course will be a priority, he said, as well as writing an employee manual.

"It's also a unique opportunity for the owner because [the new superintendent] can be brought on board as my assistant while I

am still there. The owner can establish if he is comfortable with that person. If not, I can stay on until they find a person they are comfortable with."

Saying he has worked with different soils, grasses and topographies, not to mention a variety of owners, contractors and architects, Maas said, "It's important to be pretty flexible."

That flexibility must meet an owner's guidelines, and Maas will be that person's representative overseeing the project.

Ultimately, he said, "I don't think there could be a better

place for this [service] than Europe." Indeed, touring Europe would be his family's ultimate goal.

"Obviously, Europeans don't want an American to take their job, so I would train whoever they want to take over. Then, after a couple of years, the course is up and going and their man has been trained and is in position. I would just move on to another job."

"I always think why will something not work, not just why will it work," Maas said.

Pondering the creation of Congrow Golf, he found no reasons why it would not work.



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