

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

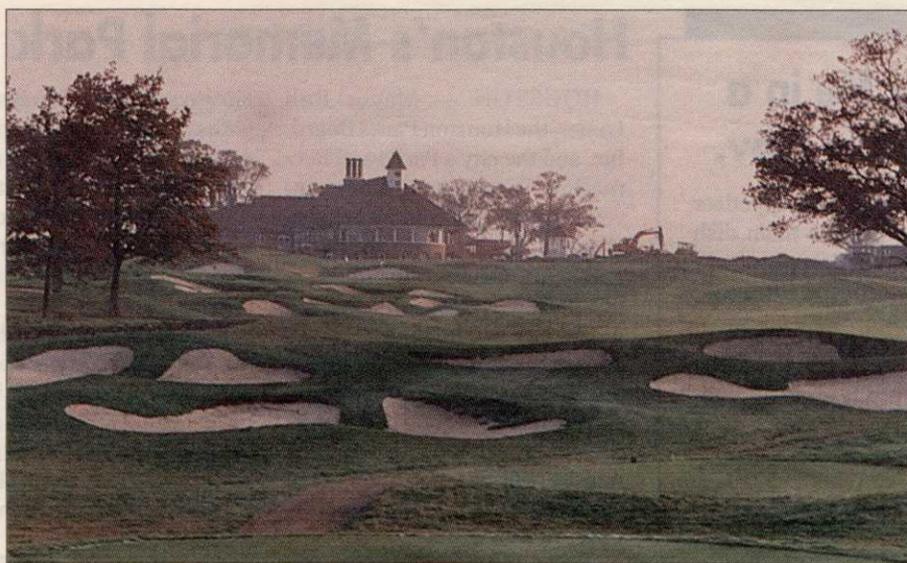
SURFSIDE BEACH, S.C. — Deer Track Golf Resort is midway through a year-long renovation of its North Course. The 7,200-yard layout designed by Bob Toski and Porter Gibson will include faster greens, changes in bunkering, the addition of pine-straw areas and new mowing patterns. Changes to the course are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

By MARK LESLIE

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Wrapping up his co-design work with ex-partner Jay Morrish, Tom Weiskopf has formed his own golf course architecture company here and declared the world is his stage.

"This is my future. This is where I want to be and what I like to do," he said of Tom Weiskopf Signature Designs. "Playing golf still remains a hobby."

Weiskopf has worked to put together a design team since last November when Morrish decided to slow down his design work and Weiskopf opted to increase his own load. "I have two associates who will do working drawings and help in the field and with the routings," he said. "It's taken me some time. The choice is one of blending personalities and philosophies and experience."

The response has been "unbelievable," he said. "I'm overwhelmed. It has given me so much confidence."

Saying he already has seven course designs under contract, Weiskopf attributed the success in part to "the package I've put together — in regard to promotional agreements, during construction and ongoing; in regard to management, by associates outside the company..."

"We're trying to keep this under one roof: marketing and feasibility studies, management, and design. More than half our clients have needed a total turnkey package."

Under contract are:

- Vestosa in Tucson — a four-course project, with two public and two private tracks, that will be built out over the next five years, beginning this fall when ground will be broken on one of the public courses.
- Another course at Troon North, which is under negotiation with the city of Scottsdale.
- A new private facility at PGA West, construction of which will start in late fall.
- A private residential community in Lake-of-the-Ozarks, Mo., which will be started this fall.

Faced with this bulk of work, Weiskopf said he will continue to set Tour play aside, where it basically has remained since 1983. "This golf course design business with Jay was a full-time job," he said. "It's even more full-time now. I will play, but very sparingly. I will never let play interfere with my responsibility to my clients. I'm not just putting my name on these projects. I will continue to respect my clients and their needs in time, not just in using my name."

"It is attention to detail that gave Jay and me our respect in the industry. I'm going to take it to another level."

He said he is interested in projects the world over — "if I have the time and they are the right people in the right market and with good land." He is involved in talks concerning three courses in Mexico, which, he said, "is busting out," and others in South America.

A key player on the Weiskopf team is former Pebble Beach assistant superintendent Dave Porter, who holds degrees in agronomy and aeronautical engineering and has helped build golf courses, including Loch Lomond in Scotland.



Tour pro/golf course architect Tom Weiskopf, left, and former design partner Jay Morrish, right, talk with Double Eagle Golf Club owner John H. McConnell at the Galena, Ohio, course.

Q&A: Morrish on design, superintendents...

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bounce the ball onto the right half of this green right here. He would close it off. We will allow you to bounce the ball to a portion of it. But we still have a nice, tucked-away pin position where you're going to have to work the ball...

GCN: To make it tougher for the pros.

JM: Sure.

GCN: Weiskopf and Nicklaus can help design for pros. But what about the influence on designing a golf course for the average player?

JM: I rely on my own instincts because I'm a mortal. I've always felt Nicklaus really doesn't understand how bad people are. To him, a bad player is a two-handicap. If you're a 15-handicap, you're hopeless. There's no sense of you even being out there.

He's never said that. That's just a sense I've gotten. I've always been the one to make certain we give poor players the easy angle on the tee shots, that we get them up close and let them bounce the ball.

GCN: You've designed courses in the desert, in the mountains, links. What is your favorite kind?

JM: Somebody asked Johnny Mercer, "What's your favorite song you've written?" He said, "The next one." That's the way I feel.

I think an architect shouldn't critique his own work until the course is 4 or 5 years old. I'd say the best I've worked on of that generation are Forest Highlands [in Flagstaff, Ariz.], Troon and Troon North [in Scottsdale, Ariz.]. I lump all three of those together.

I think Double Eagle [in Galena, Ohio] will prove better than those. And one we will never equal again is Loch Lomond [in Scotland].

GCN: How much does ease of maintenance affect your design?

JM: We're not creating a paradise for a superintendent. We're creating a golf course. And our courses are much easier to maintain than some I've seen. We do try to make it easier around the green, but once in awhile you have to build in a bunker that they [grounds crew] are really going to have to take care of.

GCN: Do you find a conflict between the demands of a superintendent wanting a course that's easier to maintain, and your own desires to make a course that's fun and difficult to play?

JM: My philosophy is, there are 100-and-some-odd architects in our society.

Somebody's going to do it the way you [developer] want it done. If you like what I do, hire me. If you don't, hire whoever you want. If I'm going to make bunkers in a way you think is unfair, hire somebody else.

GCN: More superintendents are coming on the job during course construction. How much influence does he have on design for maintenance ease?

JM: We discuss everything with the superintendent. But I'm not going to let him go out there helter-skelter and change our design. Certainly we want to be cooperative with them. We don't ever want to get the image we have created a monster to maintain.

For instance, [superintendent] Terry Buchen at Double Eagle said: "Make it as hard for me as you can. It's a challenge. Do anything you want."

GCN: Does seeing and playing great golf courses like this one (San Francisco Golf Club) affect your design?

JM: I'd love to be able to emulate these bunkers. They're fantastic.

GCN: What sets these bunkers apart?

JM: [A.W.] Tillinghast took some relatively simple shapes, put bunkers in combinations and created intricate designs. He made some very simple bunkers, and some very complicated ones.

One thing I'm trying to do with bunkers (that a lot of American architects aren't doing) is; You'll see fingers coming out of low areas, instead of off high areas, into the bunkers. I've seen a lot of the great old architects do that. It's very difficult to get the modern construction company to understand that because they've never done it. As simple as it looks, it's very difficult to get a contractor to build

that. It's like the finger is torqued.

I'd like to find some 90-year-old construction guy and get him on one of my jobs.

GCN: There's something to be said for having a shaper or two who knows your style. Why doesn't everybody do that?

JM: We do limit it to three contractors. If we ask for so-and-so we usually get him.

GCN: You talk about getting back to classical design. How do you define classical design?

JM: I wish I knew. I can relate to courses I call classical design. They have some of these elements here. Shinnecock, for example. There's nothing behind the greens and very few bunkers. It's a good example that you don't need big mounds to stop the ball going off the green. Let it go off.

GCN: What if you're Stimping greens at 10 or 11 — doesn't that become penal?

JM: The greens should still be designed to hold the shots. Pinehurst #2 is a great example. The edges of the greens go down the slope and, if you don't put the ball in the proper place, that ball is going to run off down there. But what is so neat about it is, Ross gave you the option to chip, pitch or putt it.

GCN: Do you think golf will go in the other direction from green?

JM: In maintenance, yes. Dry them out. Reduce pesticides. They may even take away some of the materials that control poa annua and weeds in greens.

That doesn't bother me a bit — as long as everybody does it. I don't want to be forced to do it while the guy up the road is not. But if the whole industry does it, I think that would be great.

GCN: How about the architects taking a lead in doing that? Or is it not up to them?

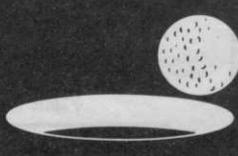
JM: It really isn't. It's maintenance.

GCN: So you are putting it in the lap of the owner. It is the owner or greens committee that will tell the superintendent how they want the course.

JM: It won't work. They want them green. I remember a conversation I had with Byron Nelson and he said when he was learning his craft, part of the challenge was the fact that one green might putt four on the Stimp meter and the next one might putt nine. You might get a horrible lie right in the middle of the fairway. You might get a great lie in the rough.

You had to be very innovative. It was part of golf. He said now if they ever get any kind of a bad lie, they just scream about it. He said that is wrong. And I agree with him 100 percent.

I think golf courses are maintained too well. I'm just as guilty as anybody else. I want my course to be better maintained than somebody else's down the road.

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