

Melnyk, Burke joust over Champions moniker

HOUSTON, Texas — Jack Burke Jr., who with fellow pro Jimmy Demaret formed The Champions golf club of Houston in 1938, may have taken round one — but Steve Melnyk isn't about to throw in the towel.

After filing suit against Champions Golf & Country Club in Rogers, Ark., a jury ruled that Burke's trademark name had been infringed upon and the Rogers club must change its name. Burke said he would stay on the court playing field until all

courses comply with name change. He said that, "for 35 years we've done a lot of hard work to make Champions what it is. I don't want any confusion surrounding it." He added that the biggest problem he had with others using the Champions name is the confusion it will create for champions from the club.

Enter Melnyk, the tour player-turned-TV broadcaster who owns Riverside Golf, a management company that looks after no less than five courses named Champions Club. Melnyk said his club's

name is registered with the U.S. Patent Office.

"I respect what Jackie Burke is doing out there in Houston," Melnyk told the *Houston Post*, "but it has no bearing on what we are doing here. I went out to meet with him and try to resolve it, but without success. I can't stop one's ego from running amok."

In his own version of Target Golf, Burke said the next lawsuit would be against Champions Club course in Lexington, Ky. That case is to be heard in April.

Missouri track secures zoning approval

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — A proposed 18-hole golf course, centerpiece of a development at Evans Road and U.S. Route 65, has received county rezoning approval and has a name — Millwood Golf & Racquet Club.

The next step is selecting a golf course architect. Construction hopefully will begin this spring. The course could be ready for limited play late this summer. The daily-fee facility will feature from three to

five tees on each hole.

Developer Keith Keltner plans to offer semi-private club memberships that would include preferred tee times. The clubhouse will encompass a restaurant, lounge and meeting banquet rooms.

The \$75 million project embracing 180 acres will have 50 to 75 "villa" homes, smaller, leased houses built closer together and termed by Keltner "upscale but affordable."

Mission, Texas muni looks to add nine holes

MISSION, Texas — Shary Municipal Golf Course generated \$1 million in the year dating from Sept. 30, 1992.

That's sufficient cause to favor adding nine holes to the 18-hole layout and constructing a driving range.

Mayor Ricardo Perez said the city may buy a 60-acre tract of land east of Mayberry Road and south of Griffin Parkway for the expansion. The expansion and range could be ready next fall.

Said Perez: "It's an economic tool in that it attracts a lot of winter tourists who want to reside and settle in Mission. So we thought we'd enhance the course for the golfers — and for more revenues."

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