

BRIEFS



JONES OPENS FLORIDA TRACK

ODESSA, Fla. — Fox Hollow Golf Club, an upscale public-access facility featuring an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr., opened for play Jan. 20. Fox Hollow is the centerpiece of the 3685-acre master-planned Trinity Communities development in southwest Pasco County 30 miles north of Tampa. Each hole has six sets of tees on the par-71 course which can play from 4,454 to 7,138 yards. William Sandri of Bernardston, Mass., owns and will operate Fox Hollow. Sandri also operates the award-winning Crumpin-Fox Club in Bernardston, Mass., designed by Jones.

MAPLES TRACK REOPENS

SUNSET BEACH, N.C. — The Dan Maples Golf Course at Sea Trail Plantation and Golf Links has opened for play after undergoing a renovation. First opened in 1985, the Maples Course is Sea Trail's original track. The renovation consisted of resurfacing eight greens with Penncross bentgrass to allow for more consistent play.



Dan Maples

PALMER HIRES VEAL

Joe T. Veal has joined the staff of Palmer Course Design Co. as design associate and construction inspector. Veal interned with the company during summer breaks from his studies at the University of Georgia, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture. After graduation and prior to joining Palmer Course Design, he worked as a project superintendent for MacCurrach Golf Construction Co., Inc.

SULLIVAN TABBED FOR NY JOB

VALHALLA, N.Y. — Sullivan Architects of Valhalla has been retained by Westchester County as the project architect and Cornish and Silva Inc. as course architects for the expansion and rehabilitation of Mohansic Golf Course. Sullivan Architects and the County officials are hoping to have golfers playing the expanded facility by the spring of 1997.

BARBARON BUILDING AT CYPRESS LAKE

LAKELAND, Fla. — Barbaron, Inc. of Crystal River has been selected by Cypress Lakes Ventures to construct a new 18-hole additional course at the Cypress Lake Golf and Country Club here. The course has been designed by Powell Golf Design of Bradenton and is scheduled to open in the early fall.

Gotham City golf industry gets new face

Manhattan's piers get new wrinkle with golf range

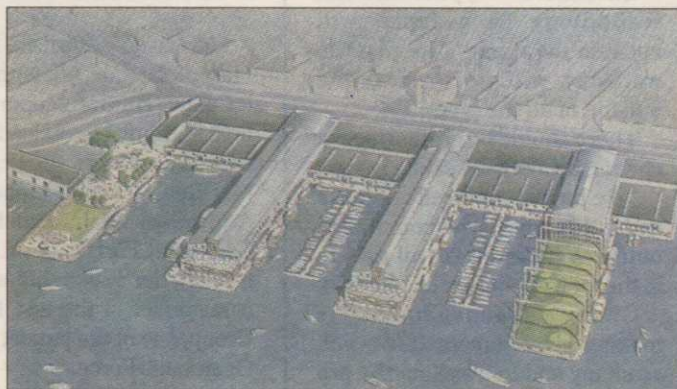
By MARK LESLIE

NEW YORK CITY — New York City is reclaiming its Manhattan waterfront and golf has a hand in it. The natural feel of a golf course will be blended with a high-tech delivery system in a major project that will bring a four-deck golf range to a Hudson River pier.

"We're taking an urban concept you'd find in Japan and importing it to New York — the difference being, instead of a smaller parcel of land, our parcel happens to be a pier and one that is structurally quite substantial," said Steve diCostanzo, a consultant on the Chelsea Piers project.

Construction will begin in late spring on the Chelsea Piers Golf

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Golf facilities at Chelsea Piers, above, and Liberty Park, below, will greatly enhance the golfing options for New Yorkers.



NYC skyline the backdrop for Jersey City track

By PETER BLAIS

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — There is a light at the end of the Liberty State Park tunnel. And the chief proponent of the long-awaited golf course project says there is a better than even chance believers will be able to drive through it by summer's end.

"We're hoping to get Department of Environmental Protection and Energy approval within the next six months," said Peter Ylvisaker, president of the non-profit Liberty State Park Development Corp.

If approved, construction should start in early 1995. The course could be ready for play in 1997, two decades after the idea of a golf course was first proposed.

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Florida Public Television tunes in: How to construct a golf course

By MARK LESLIE

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — With golf development booming all around it and the golf industry bringing billions of dollars a year into the state, the southwest Florida public television station is broadcasting a 13-part documentary, How To Build a Golf Course.

"Golf is a large component of the construction and real-estate business in southwest Florida. Most real-estate developments are using golf courses as a prime marketing tool," said Kirk Lehtomaa, station manager at WSFP-TV, who will offer the series nationwide this summer. "Within a 10-mile radius of our station, at least six or seven 18-hole

championship courses are under construction."

With that in mind, Lehtomaa spent part of 1993 following the construction of a fourth nine holes at Pelican's Nest here, from pre-construction site inspections in April through opening day in December. The result is the series of half-hour shows which began airing Jan. 20. Each show will be broadcast twice — Sundays at 2 p.m. and Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

In the first segment an environmental consultant walks the audience over the course, pointing out wildlife that will have to be protected and enhanced. In another show, Wadsworth Golf Construction Co.

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Q & A Weed: Tour's designer of record

Robert C. 'Bobby' Weed, 38, has been the PGA Tour's chief designer since 1987. Prior to that, he was superintendent of TPC at Sawgrass and construction superintendent for TPC projects. Working



out of the Tour's Ponte Vedra, Fla., office, Weed has been involved in numerous TPC course designs. A South Carolina native, he apprenticed with Pete and Alice Dye and was involved with such widely known Dye designs as Harbour Town and Long Cove in Hilton Head, S.C., TPC at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra, and Amelia Island (Fla.) Plantation.

Golf Course News: You believe you may be the only member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects who is also a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. How has that helped your design career?

Bobby Weed: I know from my agronomic background what a superintendent can live with and maintain. When I'm designing fairways, sometimes I imagine I'm on a mower. Knowing how something will have to be maintained can give you an edge. Labor is 60 to 70 percent of your maintenance budget. More people are tuning into that in the design phase. If you address it then, it dominoes through to the superintendent's budget and ultimately the fee charged the consumer, who is really paying for all this, anyway.

GCN: How early do you like to bring in

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72 HOLES AND GROWING

The Scott family continues to add to its Gull Lake View Golf Club halfway between Chicago and Detroit, and is in the midst of a new 18 that will make a total of 90 holes. Stonehedge, shown here, was designed by Charles Scott, as was Gull Lake View East. Darl Scott designed Gull Lake View West and Bill Mitchell laid out Bedford Valley — both of which Charles Scott later remodeled.

Chelsea Piers a facelift

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Range on Pier 59 and it should open in the spring or summer of 1994, according to diCostanzo, executive director of the Golf Range and Recreation Association of America.

The range is part of the \$50 million Chelsea Piers Sports and Entertainment Complex in which Piers 59 to 62, between 17th and 22nd streets, will be renovated.

Then-Mayor David N. Dinkins called it "the first major step linking our neighborhoods and our waterfront as contemplated by the Hudson River Park Conservancy and New York City's Comprehensive Waterfront Plan."

After two years of planning, Chelsea Piers Management, Inc. secured a 10-year lease with 10-year renewable option on the four piers from New York State, which owns them.

The Hudson River Park Conservancy wants a park from the battery to 59th street.

Officials felt this was compatible with Chelsea Piers' plans, which include the range on one pier, a health and fitness center called the Summer Games Training Facility on the enclosed Pier 60, two Olympic-sized skating rinks on another enclosed pier, and possible an outdoor rollerskating rink on the fourth, said spokeswoman Betsy Haggerty. The first skating rink should open by next Christmas and all four piers should be complete by the end of 1995, she said.

...

From 52 heated teeing stations, the 60- by 225-yard driving range will "evoke the feelings" of three famous greens — the 11th at St. Andrews' Old Course, TPC Sawgrass's island green and Pebble Beach's 18th, diCostanzo said.

The Hudson River and a waste area on the left will create the feel of Pebble's finale; railroad ties and foot-deep water around the green will simulate Sawgrass's 17th; and the bunker complex fronting St. Andrews' green will add to the illusion.

Artificial turfgrass will be on the contoured landing areas and slightly elevated, pitched greens. Video cameras at hitting stalls will provide instant replay of golf swings.

All this will blend with an automatic tee-up delivery system imported from Japan's Sunaga Kaihatsu, a leader in the field. Balls will be picked up conventionally at low points on the fairway and brought to the retrieval system, which will return the golf balls in water troughs and into a conveyor network that will deliver the balls to each level and then to each tee.

"The tee-up accepts a debit card so there is good cash control," diCostanzo said, adding that per-hour costs will range from \$15 to \$25, depending on the time of day.

Extensive pole-and-net technology from Japan will encircle the range. A pedestrian walkway will go around the outside of all the piers.

There should be no shortage of clients, diCostanzo said.

"We have a captured audience and will do aggressive community outreach programs to all golfers in the metropolitan area," he said.

Chelsea Management is making arrangements for a golf academy and to lease out the pro shop.

Call him 'Colonel, sir'

Hurdzan will retire outranking some, but not Arnold

Dr. Michael Hurdzan is a golf course architect most of the time, but for a few days each month, he is Colonel Hurdzan, commander of an Army Reserve unit. Recently he received one of the Army's highest peacetime honors, the Legion of Merit Medal, from Maj. Gen. Donald Campbell, commander of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. Hurdzan was decorated for superior leadership and dedication as retiring commander of the 2nd Psychological Operations Group, one of the largest units in the Army Special Operations Force.

Hurdzan's basic branch is Special Forces, more

commonly called "green berets," but he is also qualified in psychological operations, civil affairs, infantry and chemical warfare. He is an experienced military parachutist, has earned the expert infantry badge, as well as foreign airborne qualifications from the British and German military forces.

Col. Hurdzan is planning to retire within a few months. "Many people are encouraging me to stay longer to make the rank of general," he said, "but I now outrank Alister MacKenzie and Hugh Alison, who were majors, and Pete Dye, who was a sergeant. Besides, golf already has one fine general, (in name only) Arnold Palmer."



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Liberty Park course revenues 'will drive development' on the site

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Revenues from the \$10 million golf course — which will afford spectacular views of Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty and Manhattan skyline — will also pay for \$13 million in improvements and additions to the rest of the park. Approximately 75 percent of Liberty State Park, which opened in 1976, has remained undeveloped for lack of funds.

"The course is the engine that will drive development,"

Ylvisaker said.

Ylvisaker has been around for most of the past 20 years. He has seen environmentalists and nongrowers delay the project again and again, through the courts and through the media.

But opponents have never provided an alternate plan that would pay for the needed improvements at a time when the government simply doesn't have the cash.

"It's been frustrating," Ylvisaker

said. "It's been a deliberate effort to stop the project and frustrate any development plans.

"We recently won a court case involving a marina there. It's about the sixth time we've been to court. The judge chastised the environmental groups for bringing such a frivolous case to trial. It's taken patience and perseverance to get this done. But it should finally pay off."

The turning point, Ylvisaker said, came in December. That's

when the working committee — consisting of local and state officials, concerned organizations and individuals — endorsed reducing the course size by 75 acres. Many opponents warmed to the revised plan and the recommendation was forwarded to the DEPE, Ylvisaker said.

"It will still be a quality course and leaves room for everything else," said Mark Mungeam, associate designer with course architect Cornish & Silva.

Everything else includes 35 acres of wetland habitat, 40 acres of passive open space, nine acres of ball fields and other active open space, community pool, summer camp, picnic areas and jogging trails.

The park sits on an abandoned rail yard where the presence of heavy metals has been an ongoing concern.

Experts have recommended putting a two-foot-thick soil cap over much of the site.

The cost has been estimated at \$4 million.

But a recent development could reduce and possibly eliminate that expense, making additional money available for other Liberty State Park projects.

The state Department of Transportation must remove 800,000 cubic yards of clean fill as part of a wetlands mitigation project on nearby Route 287.

DOT expects to receive bids on the project in February and could make the fill available, at no cost, to Liberty State Park.

"It would assure public safety, help with the design and significantly reduce golf course costs," Ylvisaker said.

Once completed, greens fees are expected to be between \$20 and \$26, Ylvisaker said.

At a projected 53,000 annual rounds, he said the golf facility could generate \$2 million in annual revenues within a few years.

Public TV covers construction

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takes viewers to two golf holes under construction, discussing what his crews are doing, what he looks for from shapers, and other related issues.

In another show, Fazio Golf Course Designers' project director Charlie Feeley explains how to build a golf green.

Since public television stations are independent, some may choose to run the shows while others may not.

But, Lehtomaa said he has talked to several public television station managers who enjoy golf and "they seem to have an interest in the series." (Coincidentally, a number of them played Pelican's Nest, a popular public track, during a conference two years ago.)

The part of the construction that most impressed Lehtomaa was "There is a great deal that goes on under the golf course that people never see. I was astonished at how much time and energy is spent moving water off the course after it rains."

When will the series be airing on stations that pick it up? "With public television, you never know," Lehtomaa said. Stay tuned.



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