

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.

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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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