

New greens, fairways take shape at Hills' Bonita Bay

BONITA BAY, Fla. — A bird's-eye view of Bonita Bay shows nine new fairways and greens taking shape as the community adds a third 18-hole championship golf course by splitting one of its existing courses and adding nine new holes to each half.

The front nine of the Marsh course, opened in 1985 and ranked ninth in the state and 85th in the nation by *Golf Digest*, has been closed since mid-May. The greens are being rebuilt to United States Golf Association specifications.

By mid-November, the new Marsh will open, along with nine holes of Bay Island, Bonita Bay's newest course. Bay Island's remaining nine holes are scheduled for completion in late 1994.

"With initial site work completed, we already can

see that the views are even more incredible than we had imagined," said Ed Rodgers, vice president of club operations for Bonita Bay Properties, Inc.

All three courses were designed by Ohio-based course architect Arthur Hills. Many fairways border wetlands sloughs and other natural areas which comprise one-quarter of the Bonita Bay site.

While three of Creekside's holes border Spring Creek, part of Bay Island will run along the western edge of Bonita Bay and offer dramatic views of Estero Bay.

Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. built the Marsh and Creekside, the second Bonita Bay course which opened in November 1990, and will build Bay Island as well.

Jones Sr. signs casino course deal

LEDYARD, Conn. — A deal has been struck, and a contract signed committing The Robert Trent Jones Companies to building an 18-hole golf course within the boundaries of the Mashantucket Pequot Nation.

The course is one of two to be built as part of an effort to upgrade the Pequot's Foxwoods casino complex into a destination resort.

The project will be a father-son collaboration of sorts, as the Pequots have hired Jones' son, Rees, to build the second course on the site. Design and specification work has begun on both layouts, but it remains to be seen what environmental obstacles may come in the way of construction. Developers hope clearing will begin before the weather makes work impossible next winter.

Robbins/Koch to design The Club at Mill Creek, N.C.

MEBANE, N.C. — Robbins/Koch Golf Designs, Inc. has been selected to design an 18-hole golf course here to be called The Club at Mill Creek.

The design team of PGA Tour player and ESPN golf analyst Gary Koch and architect Rick Robbins has planned a par-72 layout over 190 acres that feature mature trees, winding streams and rolling terrain with an elevation change of more than 95 feet. The semi-private, daily-fee facility will fit within the single-family residential community.

Robbins said the course will reflect a traditional style of design that will complement existing land features. The championship tees will stretch to nearly 7,000 yards, while the front tees will set the course at just under 5,000 yards.

Koch, a six-time winner on the PGA Tour, added: "Our primary objective was to create a course that will make golf fun. Mill Creek will be challenging, fair, and most important of all, playable for the average player."

The golf course and residential community is being developed by First Oakland Properties, Inc., headquartered in Raleigh, N.C.

\$20-million facelift for Grand Geneva

LAKE GENEVA, Wis. — Grand Geneva Resort & Spa is undergoing a \$20 million renovation, including improvements to its 18-hole Brute and Briar Patch golf courses.

A Scottish-style links course designed by Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus, Briar Patch will undergo extensive work. A variety of holes on Brute will also be redesigned and renovated.

Last July, Marcus Hotels and Resorts of Milwaukee bought the property, which was known for 10 years as American Lake Geneva Resort. The facility was closed last fall and is reopening in May.

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