

BRIEFS



NATIONS FOCUSES ON GOLF

ATLANTA, Ga. — Large, golf-oriented complexes will receive particular loan attention from the newly-formed Nations Financial Capital Corp. Offered will be flexible first mortgage loans on sports resorts, stand-alone golf courses, bowling centers and marinas. Vice President Donald Rhodes started and managed golf course financing operations at Textron Financial, doing more than \$200 million in golf course loans.

HIDDEN VALLEY HIRES ROBBINS KOCH

GAYLORD, Mich. — Robbins Koch Golf Designs, Inc. of Tampa, Fla. has been selected to provide land planning and course design services for the new golf course community at Hidden Valley Resort & Club here. The golf course and resort community will be located on 1,000 acres that features dramatic views; many mature trees; and a rolling terrain with elevation changes of nearly 500 feet.

BURNS BUSY ON STATE PARK COURSE

WAYCROSS, Ga. — Construction has begun on Laura S. Walker State Park Golf Course. Designed by Steve Burns Golf Design of Fernandina Beach, Fla., the course is being built by Niebur Golf, Medford, Ore. Yardage will range from 4,717 to 6,820 yards. There will be three lakes, several grass bunkers and 30 sand bunkers. About 320,000 yards of dirt will be moved to create elevation changes of up to 20 feet.

FOREST RIDGES OPENS NINE

CABLE, Wis. — Play has commenced on the North Nine of Forest Ridges Golf Course, while the South Nine will open for play this month according to Phil and Kathy Rasmussen, co-owners of Lakewoods Resort, Lodge & Conference Center on nearby Lake Namakagon. Because of its adherence to environmental and wildlife preservation standards, Lakewoods' Forest Ridges has been approved for membership in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

WOODS FORT CC OPENS

TROY, Mo. — Troy Development Co., Inc. and Mid-America Golf Management, Inc. have opened Woods Fort Country Club here. Open to the public, it features a 6,600-yard, par-72 layout. The course has multiple zoysiagrass tee boxes, bentgrass greens, 24 sand bunkers, four lakes and uses a double row automatic irrigation system. There are also 20 residential lots on the property. They average 1/2 acre plus and are currently being sold.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Ault, Clark take to new heights

By MARK LESLIE

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — "The best three golf courses I have ever designed." That is how Tom Clark describes three new tracks from the palette of Ault, Clark & Associates — LedgeStone Golf Course at Stonebridge Village in Branson, Mo., Diamante Golf Course in Hot Springs, Ark., and The Woods Course at Kingsmill on the James here.

"We're getting better and better sites, plus well-budgeted projects, good property and good contractors," said Clark, adding that with increased sodding, new courses are better from Day One.

The home of entertainer Kenny Rogers, LedgeStone was expected to open nine holes on Oct. 1 and the other nine the first of November.

Playing off Rogers' movies and songs, Clark has nicknamed holes Gambler's Revenge, Sidewinder, Straight Shooter, Deception, Ruby, Ambush — you get the picture.

In the heart of the Ozarks, Clark called it a "true mountain golf course



A view of LedgeStone Golf Course's 16th green viewed from the 17th tee. The par-4, 392-yard 16th, nicknamed The Big Chill, features a sharp dogleg right — and Kenny Rogers' new home on the hill.

with tremendous elevation changes," plays from 5,000 to 6,724 yards, and includes the most-expensive hole Clark has ever built.

That hole, the 15th, is a 177-yard downhill par-3 that falls about 100 feet and required blasting the side of the

mountain to create the green and a lake. The green is built on a rock shelf. Rogers' mountaintop home sits just to the right of the hole.

LedgeStone was totally sodded with bentgrass greens, zoysia fairways, tees

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The 6th hole at the Tom Doak-designed StoneWall Country Club outside Philadelphia, which measures 446 yards from the back and 347 yards from the forward tees. The no-carts-allowed, par-70 course measures 6,300 to 6,700 yards.



Q & A Doak: A designer of the ages

It almost sounds as if Tom Doak's interest in golf course design were pre-natal. Exposed, at an early age, to golf on business trips with his father, he went on to study landscape architecture at Cornell University, travel the United Kingdom under a fellowship to study course design, and write on design for Golf Magazine and his own book, "The Anatomy of a Golf Course." He worked under Pete Dye — then briefly for Perry Dye — before going out on his own and designing a half-dozen golf courses, among them High Pointe in Traverse City, Mich.

Golf Course News: Tell us about your organization.

Tom Doak: Bruce Hepner is my number two designer, and Jim Urbina, my shaper out of Denver and worked for the Dyes for awhile. Both are invaluable as we start getting bigger and get more commitments in advance. Not knowing exactly when they will happen, I can't promise I'll be on every course every day. These guys understand and we're a real good team because we're not afraid to get down in the dirt a little bit and we have a lot of construction expertise among the three of us.

GCN: You've studied a lot of courses in the UK. But you must have special memories of caddying for a couple of months at the

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ASIAN ROUNDUP

Designers prolific overseas

OSAKA PREFECTURE, Japan — Despite the decline in new golf course development here, **Jacobson Golf Course Designs** of Libertyville, Ill., has been asked to design two new courses — World Country Club here in Osaka Prefecture and Cherry Hills Country Club in Gumma Prefecture.

Both projects, backed by Japanese investors, are expected to be open for play in 1996. Principal Rick Jacobson cut his architectural teeth with Nicklaus design before forming his own firm in 1992.

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QINGDAO, Peoples Republic of China — The Qingdao Golf Club in the southeast part of the Peoples Republic of China is still awaiting final approval, according to the builder.

"It could be another month, it could be three," said **William Kubly**, president of Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb.

Japanese architect **Shiro Tashiro** is working with American designers **Greg Nash** and **Billy Casper** on the 18-hole resort layout. Casper Golf Management opened its Asian office here Sept. 1.

Qingdao GC was originally scheduled to open in late 1995. It will include a hotel and villas, Kubly said.

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YONGIN-KUN, Korea — **Palmer Golf Design Co.** has completed one golf course here, which is awaiting grand-opening ceremonies along with two in the Philippines and one in West Java, Indonesia.

Arnold Palmer's architectural team, which has designed dozens of courses in Asia-Pacific, has put its final design touches on Eunhwassam Country Club here.

The Philippine facilities now ready for golfers are Orchard Golf and Country Club's Legacy Course in Manila and Evercrest Country Club in Nasugbu, Batangas, which is near Manila.

Emerald One, in the Cimanggis District of West Java, is also complete, while Palmer Design continues construction of eight other projects in the region.

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MANILA — Make it two Johnny Walkers in a row for **Gary Player Design**. Arguably Asia-Pacific's most prestigious professional tournament, the 1995 Johnny Walker Classic will be held at The Orchard Resort, which features a Player-

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Ault, Clark undertake 'best projects ever'

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and green surrounds, and Bermuda and fescue roughs.

The 18-hole private facility, built for Cooper Communities, Inc., has "terrific views of the Ozarks" and boasts seven new ponds and four holes bordering Roark Creek.

Diamante is the sixth 18-hole private course in Hot Springs Village designed by Ault-Clark. It stretches over an immense 7,500 yards — the longest track in Arkansas. Cooper

Communities and ClubCorp. of America retained the designers and expect to open the course next spring or summer.

Clark promises "a heckuva test of golf" at The Woods Course, which opened in late September as the latest complement to the golf community Kingsmill on the James.

Designed by Clark and PGA Tour star Curtis Strange, The Woods Course boasts an

Augusta National look. Sitting next to Busch Gardens, but with no homes, the track joins the Pete Dye-designed River Course, Arnold Palmer-designed Plantation Course and Clark-designed nine-hole Bray Links. Kingsmill hosts the Anheuser-Busch Golf Classic which Clark hopes one day will play over The Woods layout.

"It has a tremendous variety of holes, with all the shot values," Clark said — from a

285-yard par-4 to a 230-yard par-3, a 130-yard par-3 and a 600-yard par-5.

Pointing out that there is no rough on the entire course, Clark said, "We wanted an Augusta look where you get a terrific lie anywhere."

The Woods Course measures 6,800 yards from the back tees, and plays over "tremendous gullies" and around the five man-made ponds.

Official opening will be next spring.

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Clark and partner Brian Ault

are also excited about Ft. Belvoir (Va.) Golf Course.

Ft. Belvoir added 23 holes to its existing 18-hole Robert Trent Jones golf course, cutting out some Jones holes and parlaying the mix into four nine-hole tracks, all leaving from the new clubhouse.

Ready to open in late September or early October, two of the nines are all-new and comprise a 7,000-yard championship-caliber course.

The other two nines combine existing and new holes to comprise a 6,700-yard layout.

Planning four nines leaving a clubhouse, "is a good practice," Clark said, because it allows course officials to assign golfers to play wherever is most efficient.

The large practice area, chipping complex and putting green can accommodate 40 to 50 golfers.

The site, Clark said, is "a pretty, rolling property but segmented by roads, archaeological areas and wetlands. We had just enough usable land left over for these holes."

The design/build project, coordinated by Ault-Clark, included C.A. Barrs of Newport News, Va., as the course builder and Zeigfried Construction as general contractor and clubhouse builder.

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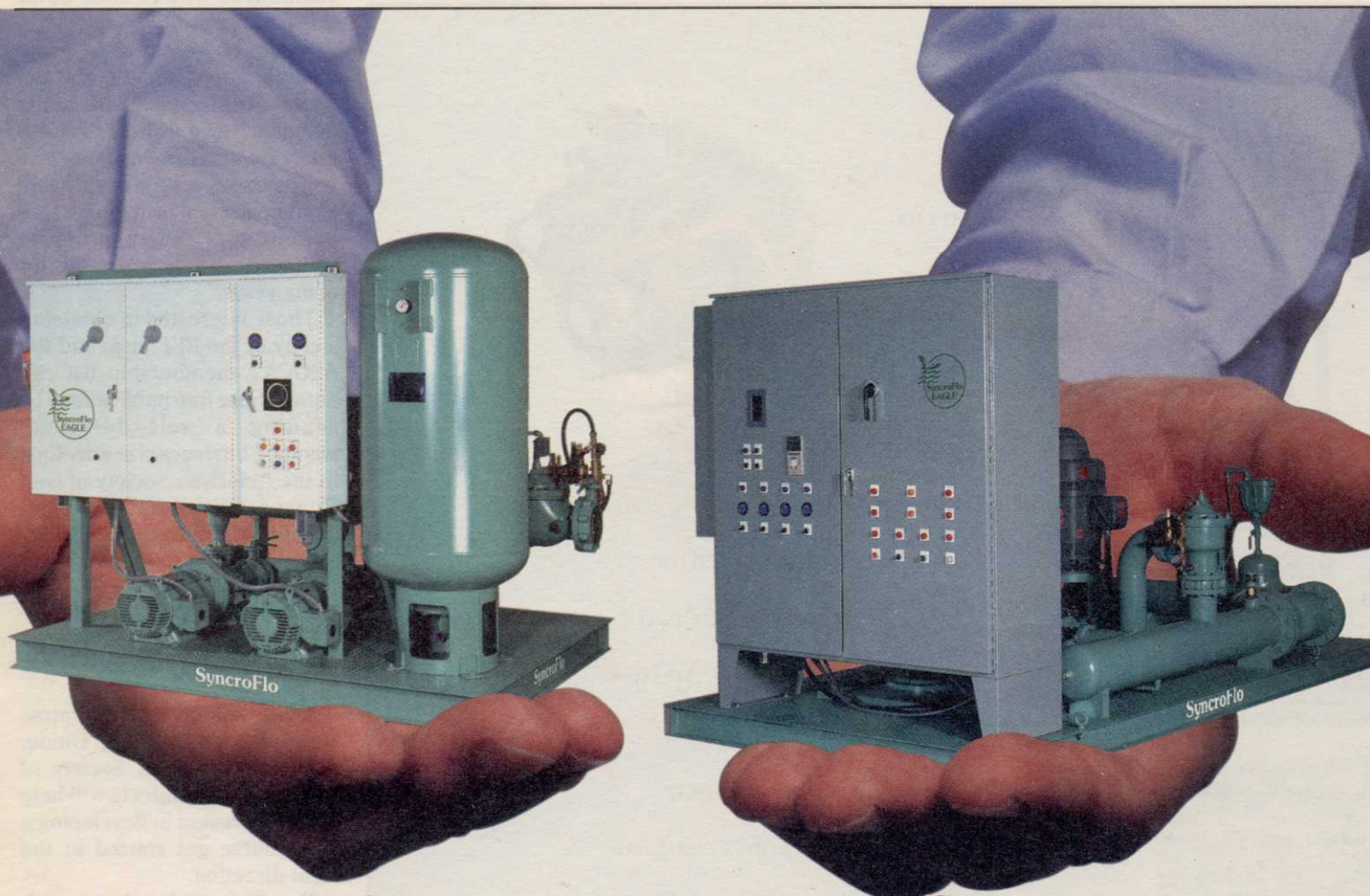
Meanwhile, the firm opened three projects over the summer — a Bill Love-designed 18-hole addition at Tom's Run Golf Course in Blairsville, Pa.; the second nine at Culpeper (Va.) Country Club, designed by Ault; and a renovation of the 18-hole Overbrook Country Club, designed by Clark, in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Houston track will boast Finger, Dye, Spann imprint

HOUSTON — Finger, Dye, Spann will design the daily-fee Palmetto Hills Golf Course now under proposal for development on a 500-acre parcel of piney woods, 80 miles north of here.

Palmetto Hills will be an 18-hole, par-72, 7,045-yard wooded course, with four tee areas per hole. Planners are due to complete a final analysis and make recommendations to the county's zoning administrator. If all goes well the project will open in the fall of 1996.

The course is being developed by the limited partnership, Palmetto Hills Golf & Conference Center, whose principals are currently scouting for a senior management firm to complete their development team.



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