

Solheim brood named golf's family for '94

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The Karsten Solheim Family of Phoenix has been named Golf Family of the Year by the National Golf Foundation.

The Solheims will receive the award here on Nov. 19, at a special dinner being held in conjunction with Golf Summit '94, an industry leadership conference being hosted by the NGF.

The award recognizes families that have made significant contributions to the game and exemplify the ideals of golf and family. The award is an outgrowth of the NGF's family golf campaign which Jack Nicklaus helped create in 1985. Consequently, the award is known as the "Jack Nicklaus/NGF Golf Family of the Year Award." Recipients are determined by the NGF's Executive Committee.

In addition to the Nicklaus family, previous recipients include the families of Renee Powell, Nancy Lopez, Jim Cook, Pat Bradley, Joe Jemsek and Jim Gallagher. Last year it went to the Harold Eller Family of Tennessee.

The Solheims are the first family from the equipment design and manufacturing end of the game to receive the award.

The patriarch of the family is Karsten Solheim, who made his first putter 35 years ago. His company, Karsten Manufacturing Corp., has since gained worldwide acclaim for his Ping line of golf clubs. The family firm is also a long-time supporter of turfgrass research, having donated \$500,000 for research to the University of Arizona.

Oklahoma Update:

McALESTER — Investigation of a possible violation of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act by the Thundercreek Golf Course Trust Authority is unlikely.

In June, the authority met in executive session "to discuss potential pending litigation" regarding a bill submitted by Energy Construction Specialists, the authority's general contractor for construction of the course.

"From what I've gathered, I don't see a gross violation," said Monte Brown, Pittsburg County district attorney.

DUNCAN — Cowboy Creek is the new name of Twin Oaks Golf Course and Riley Parr the new owner, but 40-year course superintendent Bob Hardy will remain on the job until the long-awaited second nine opens next summer. And why not? Hardy hasn't lost a green in 40 years, and his expertise showed when he assumed course control in 1964. He began clearing the way for the back nine in 1990.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Players Int'l has big plans for Mesquite

MESQUITE, Nev. — The roll of the golf ball soon may further compete with the roll of the dice in Players International Inc. management.

Its proposed \$60 million Players Island Resort & Casino is intended as the first phase of a large-scale resort complex that eventually will include a second hotel and golf course. The course, along with an existing 18-hole track and a nearly completed 36-hole facility, could

turn Mesquite into a golfer's paradise, said Players Chairman Ed Fishman.

The first phase of Players Island will embrace a spa, four restaurants, a 400-seat theater, meeting rooms, gift and retail shops. The company operates riverboat casinos on the Ohio River in Metropolis, and Lake Charles, La. The project marks the company's entry into land-based casino resorts in a mature gaming jurisdiction like Nevada.

Citizen suit blocks Tennessee project

OAKRIDGE, Tenn. — The state Court of Appeals is considering a lawsuit filed by eight citizens attempting to block city financing of a golf course project here.

The City Council is exploring alternative ways to fund the proposed golf course.

Hearing and ruling could take four to six months. The plaintiffs claim use of public credit to benefit private enterprise is unethical, and that the agreement constitutes a partnership.

If the plaintiffs lose at the appellate level, they could take the case

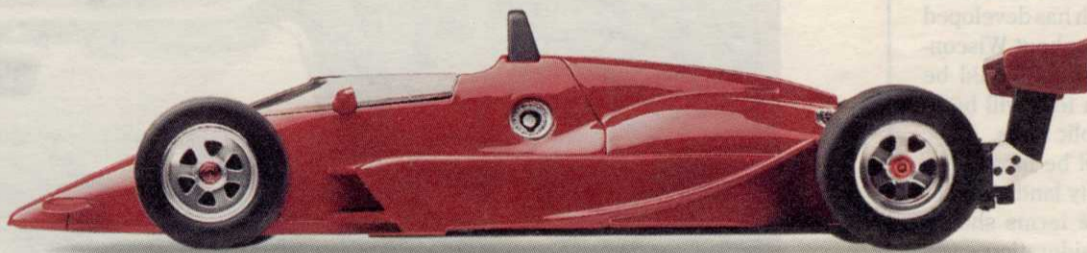
to the state Supreme Court. This could delay the project from three months to a year. The membership of the club would be limited to 400 members.

Corporation attorney Rena Wiseman said limited membership and lack of a driving range and lights for nighttime golf could keep the course from generating much traffic or intense play.

Councilwoman Pat Rush said the city has adequate funds to finance the course. City attorney Bob Wilkinson said that would avoid a major issue in the lawsuit.



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