

## Milwaukee layouts show renewed life

Park officials had considered closing three facilities during early 1994

MILWAUKEE — After a five-year slide in attendance, the Brewtown public has shown a renewed interest in Milwaukee County golf courses.

The increase might prevent course closings as administrators look for cost-saving measures. Park officials tried to close three little-used par-3 courses earlier this year, but failed.

According to a study, almost 648,000 rounds of golf were

played through mid-November 1994, a 7-percent increase over the comparable figure for last year.

More importantly, \$5.2 million was raised through mid-November, up more than \$1 million, or 24 percent, over the same 10-month figure for 1993.

County Golf Superintendent Steve Bailey credits the turnaround to publicity surrounding the move of the PGA's Greater

Milwaukee Open tour stop to Brown Deer Park. Greater Milwaukee Golf Management spent nearly \$1 million in private money to improve the course and clubhouse for the tournament.

The upswing in 1994's numbers follows a 20-year low for golfing numbers in 1993. Bailey said the low 1993 numbers were due to renovations at Brown Deer and exceptionally wet weather.

## City could lose Oklahoma golf course

McALESTER, Okla. — Thundercreek Golf Course, currently under construction, has been declared in default of a trust agreement with its bank, Liberty National Bank and Trust Company.

The Thundercreek Golf Course Trust Authority must now address three conditions of default to avoid possible lawsuits and losing possession of the golf course.

The three conditions are:

— A \$90,648 shortfall in the account from which the bonds' interest payments are made;

— Failure of the golf course trust authority to get city council approval of three so-called recreational facilities project agreements; and

— Failure of the golf course trust authority to provide documentation of construction fund expenditures to the trustee bank.

## Course depends on authorization of bond sale

BETHALTO, Ill. — Village officials here hope golfers may soon be able to tee off on a new municipal golf course.

The Village Board recently approved a preliminary ordinance authorizing up to \$4.5 million in bonds to build a new course.

The board must first find a location and pass an ordinance authorizing the bond sale. That could take place this spring.

The village has been exploring the possibility of a municipal golf course for several years.

A feasibility study conducted in 1994 by a golf course consultant came back very favorable. A new municipal course could provide additional funding for parks in the village.

## Jordan backs off golf complex

LONG GROVE, Ill. - In the face of strong opposition from Long Grove residents, the Michael Jordan Golf Co. has withdrawn a proposal to build a nine-hole golf course and golf complex on in the 400-acre Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve.

Project developers estimated the complex, which would have included a sports shop and small cafe, would have brought a minimum of \$2.3 million to the forest preserve district over 20 years.

Critics said it was too commercial and gave an unfair advantage to a big corporation by allowing private development on public land.

### WORK UNDERWAY ON LIGHTED PAR 3 FACILITY IN ILLINOIS

CARLYLE, Ill. — Work has started on a par-3 golf course the developer says will eventually be lighted for night play. Bill Warren said his 950-yard course at Governors Run will be ready for play by summer 1995. The new course will be adjacent to an 18-hole championship course that opened in two stages in July and October 1994.



For some, beautiful drives down the fairway occur long before the first tee time.