

BRIEFS



NGF PROMOTES FRANK

JUPITER, Fla. — Barry S. Frank, 36, has been named manager of NGF Consulting Inc., a subsidiary of the National Golf Foundation specializing in feasibility and operational studies for planned and existing golf facilities. Frank will direct five other consultants for NGF Consulting, which also offers acquisition/due diligence studies for investors and lending institutions.

DONALD ROSS TREE DEDICATED

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Oak Hill Country Club, site of the 1996 Ryder Cup, has dedicated a tree on its Hill of Fame to honor famed golf course architect Donald Ross. The Hill of Fame, located on the 13th hole, memorializes golf legends by dedicating trees in their honor. Ross designed more than 400 golf courses during his career, including Oak Hill, Pinehurst and Inverness. Mrs. Dale Shapiro, a granddaughter of Ross, attended the ceremony.

HARBOTTLE BREAKS GROUND

STEVINSON, Calif. — Ground has been broken here on the Stevinson Ranch Savannah Course. The 7,000-yard daily-fee track, designed by John Harbottle and George Kelley, is the first 18 holes of a planned 36-hole project by The Lurie Company and GHK Development. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 1995.



John Harbottle

ST. LOUIS ADDS COMMUNITY

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Conrad Properties Co. has teamed with three The Jones Co., Meyer Homes and McKelvey Homes to develop St. Louis's newest golf community. The proposed 390-acre site will have 560 homes and an 18-hole golf course with a learning center. The course will be an upscale daily-fee facility. The project is estimated at \$4.5 million. John C. Allen has designed the course. Construction of the clubhouse began in November, with completion expected in time for a course opening in April or May.

CYPRESS LAKES OPENS EXECUTIVE

LAKE LAND, Fla. — Cypress Lakes, named the number one community in the U.S. by the Manufactured Housing Congress, has completed and opened its new executive golf course. The 3,680-yard course, designed by Chip Powell of Powell Golf Design, winds through and around numerous cypress hammocks.

Mississippi's coast eyed by developers

By PETER BLAIS

GULFPORT, Miss. — Local officials expect a developer to announce plans this month to build one or two golf courses along the Mississippi coast, a move that will help diversify the area's casino gaming-dominated economy.

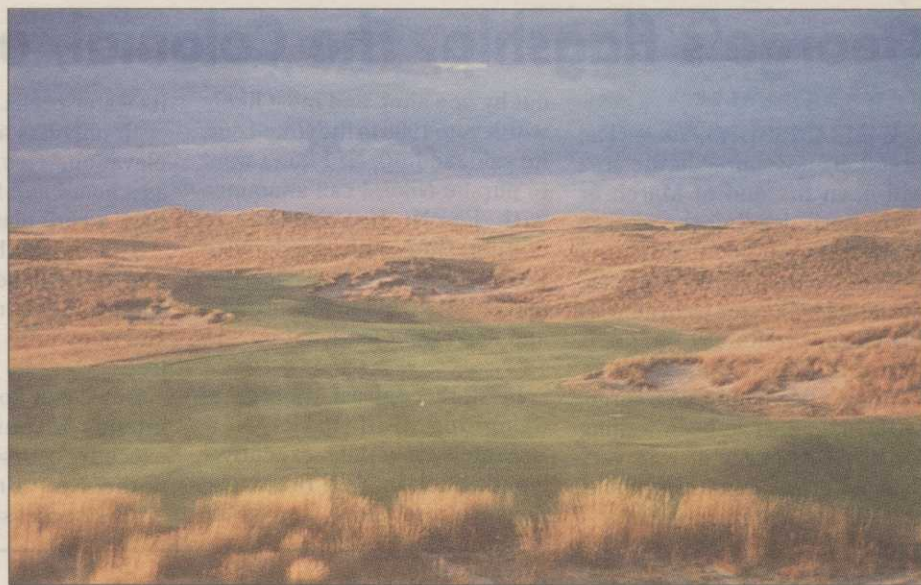
"We've had three groups looking at the marketplace so far and expect three more this month," consultant Donald Wizeman said in early December.

"One group wanted to buy an existing facility and a second was still looking for financing. The third group proposed taking two of the six primary sites we want to develop and would like right of first refusal on the other four. We're negotiating right now and I expect something to be signed by the end of January."

Harrison County Development Commission Executive Director Michael Olivier said: "We're looking at \$4 million to \$5 million signature courses. We need some good tracks for the area to emerge as a major golf destination. We hope to have five or six projects get underway this year and be on line sometime in 1996."

As reported in the August issue of *Golf Course News*, the Harrison

Continued on page 41



EARLY FAVORITES?

Golfers everywhere are already talking about where these two golf courses will be rated in the 1995 polls. Owners of Sand Hills in Nebraska, top, and the Links of North Dakota will have to wait to see. Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore designed the Nebraska track out of that property's sand hills, while Stephen Kay tooled the North Dakota 18 out of the Badlands. For more on *The Ratings Game*, see p. 44-46.

Florida Cabinet nixes Ross course in favor of park

By MARK LESLIE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Jacksonville citizens, city councilors, state legislators and golfers lost a major vote by a "lame-duck" state Cabinet, which unanimously voted to retain Ft. George Island exclusively as a state park.

Jacksonville area citizens, who overwhelmingly support reclaiming Ft.

George Island Golf Club, now must hope the new Cabinet will listen to them.

Gov. Lawton Chiles and the Cabinet voted unanimously on Dec. 13 to keep the golf course closed, retaining the entire 500-acre island as a state park. The Jacksonville City Council had set aside \$2 million to refurbish the Donald Ross-designed golf course, and support was

strong from citizens who pointed out that merely 67 acres would be maintained.

But after 20 minutes of speeches from both sides, including opponents Friends of Fort George Island and the Florida Audubon Society, the governor and Cabinet voted without debate.

"I'm still in shock," said proponent John

Continued on page 38

Jack Kidwell: 'Retire' not in his vocabulary

QA

Scratch golfer, Class A golf professional, golf course superintendent and award-winning designer, Jack Kidwell has been one of the most prominent, knowledgeable and respected men in Ohio golf for the past six decades. Kidwell, now in his mid-'70s and living in Columbus, is a former member of the PGA, a past president and lifetime fellow of both the American Society of Golf Course Architects and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He started caddying at age 7, worked on a grounds crew at 16, bought the nine-hole Beacon Light Golf Course with his father and ran it at 19, and, in 1958, designed his first 18-hole course at 39. Since then he's designed or renovated more than 100 courses. His design practice has since been bought out by protégé Dr. Michael Hurdzan, but he remains active.



Jack Kidwell

Golf Course News: Did your early experiences with golf, i.e. as a caddie in the 1920s) shape your ideas about golf and golf course design?

Jack Kidwell: I'm from a different age than golf today... The changes in golf have been so dramatic I think sometimes I've

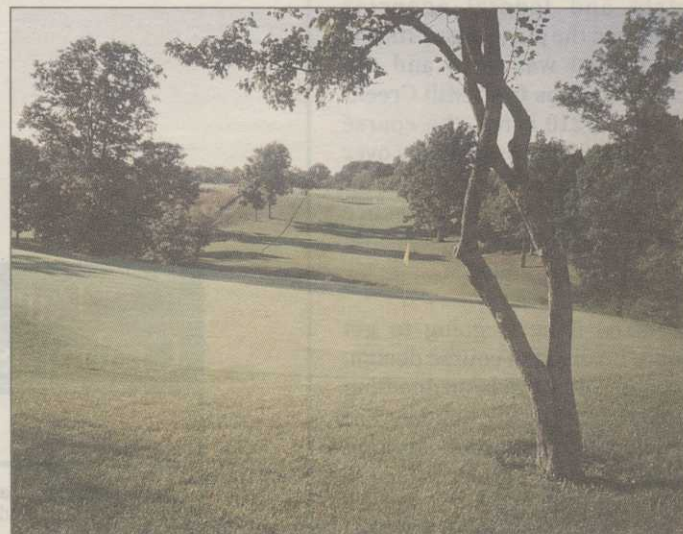


Photo by Brian Morgan

A Jack Kidwell creation — Hickory Hills in Columbus, Ohio.

been left behind. I've done a lot of work that's been well accepted but I do find it hard to think of spending \$8, \$10, \$20 million to build a golf course. All I remember about my caddy days was that it was hotter than blue blazes and I was tired. I do think I did learn a lot about human character. A lot of fellas that play golf show what they're made of when they're playing.

GCN: When did you start playing golf?

Continued on page 40