Mark McCumber tops off sizzling Tour year with some TPC icing

By MARK LESLIE

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. — Westinghouse division Coral Ridge Properties, the city of Coral Springs and the Tournament Players Club have announced a new development here involving a daily-fee golf course that will host the Honda Classic for at least the next 25 years.

The project is "a nice marriage" between everybody involved, said McCumber Golf Design architect Mike Beebe, whose boss, Mark McCumber, has some very personal interest in it.

Coming off a three-victory season culminating in the Tour Championship on the PGA Tour, McCumber "is real excited" by the project, called TPC at Heron Bay, Beebe said. "Not only is it a high-profile design job, but it's one his playing peers will be evaluating over the years."

A course architect before joining the Tour, McCumber "is always very involved in our projects, but even more so in this one," Beebe added.

Coral Ridge Properties will develop the course, clubhouse and related housing, while the city will build a 30,000-square-foot conference center and, later, a 300-room resort hotel. The TPC will manage the course, which will host its first Honda Classic in 1996. McCumber plans to have the golf course grassed out by June and a soft opening in November or December.

"This is very exciting news for the company and the community," said Roy W. Ramsey, executive vice president and general manager of Coral Ridge Properties, which is the founder and primary developer of Coral Springs.

It will not be a stadium course, but "spectator friendly, with significant mounding and spectator areas," Beebe said.

One million cubic yards of dirt will be moved since the course sits on 210 acres that are "as flat as a table — a pasture, no trees, and just a channel and berm away from the Everglades," he said.

A major challenge is designing a layout to fit the southern Florida climate. The Honda Classic is held every March, "and in March on the east coast, the wind roars," Beebe said.

Those winds led the Tour to move the Honda Classic from Eagle Trace, five minutes from the Heron Bay property, to Weston Hills.

"So we are designing a course where you don't have a carry on every single approach shot or tee shot," Beebe said. "When the wind blows those types of courses can become unplayable. This will be playable whether the wind blows or not.

"The real theme here will be the bunkering, as you might expect with no trees. We need to create visual targets."

Also, because of the winds, the course is routed so that most of the water on site lies on the perimeter and golfers will have a lot of room to hit the ball, he said.

Rees Jones active East Coast to West

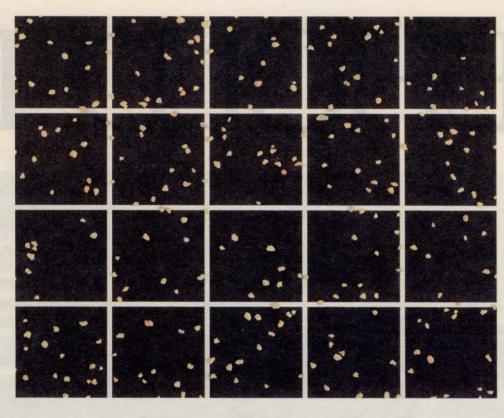
DESTIN, Flaa. — Burnt Pine Golf Club, designed by Rees Jones, is the latest addition to the already plentiful golfing options at the Sandestin Resort, a 2,400-acre residential resort community here, near Pensacola along Florida's Emerald Coast.

Burnt Pine, which will be open to members and resort guests until further notice, features four sets of tees that will allow the course to be played from approximately 6,500, 6,000 and 5,100 yards as well as the championship yardage of 7,046. The par-72 track was carved from sandy pine forests and freshwater wetlands.

Burnt Pine adds 18 holes to the original Sandestin Links and the 27-hole Baytowne Golf Club, giving Sandestin a total of 63 holes.

Meanwhile, at Durham, N.C., the newly renovated Duke University Golf Club was christened late last year by Jones after a \$2 million facelift. The original course, designed by Rees' father, Robert Trent Jones, opened in 1957. The redesign provided Rees with a chance to do what he called "a hands-on-job, a true labor of love." The campus-based course now has redesigned and rebuilt greens, tees and bunkers and regraded fairways.

In North Scottsdale, Ariz.the Dioguardi Companies and Foot Wedge Golf L.L.C. is working with Rees on the construction of Legend Trail Golf Club. The club will consist of an 18-hole course and a territorial style clubhouse that will be located within a 573-acre master-planned community.



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