

Mass. group handed reins at Ft. Devens track

HARVARD, Mass. — Despite a Pentagon shutdown and prison construction project scheduled for part of the course, a reformed nine-hole version of the Fort Devens golf course is open under new management — Devens Golf Course Limited Partnership, a group of 10 investors led by accountant David Poutry.

The transition is significant because the golf course has become the first visible for-profit business at Devens since the Pentagon announced the base-closing in mid-1991. The local partnership was one of three entities vying for the management contract with the Massa-

chusetts Government Land Bank, the state agency leading base development projects.

The course will be halved to nine holes next season because the Federal Bureau of Prisons bought a 240-acre parcel in Harvard for a planned medical complex and part of that parcel covered nine holes. Because of the prison complex, the current clubhouse will also be razed. A former mess hall will be renovated to be used as a clubhouse.

Base planners hope to build nine new holes to restore the course to an 18-hole layout within two years.

Renovations underway at Ill. links

STERLING, Ill. — The rejuvenation of the former 18-hole Emerald Hill Golf Club is continuing under the guidance of the Sterling Park District.

Last year, the district decided to buy the badly deteriorated Emerald Hill from owners Bob and Bonnie Collins. Emerald Hill was once a hub of activity in the 15,000-population city with bowling alleys, dinner theatre, swimming pool, banquet facilities, softball diamond, golf course and game room.

In the past 12 months the site —

now known as the Emerald Hill Golf and Learning Center — has undergone dramatic improvements: 22 new bunkers and computerized irrigation system on the golf course, new clubhouse with a dining room and pro shop, and a new driving range.

Officials expect about 25,000 to 27,000 rounds of golf this year, which would be ahead of expected projections made during the sale. The park district also plans to launch a first-ever junior golf program through school and after-school programs.

Wis. airport course up in air

JANESVILLE, Wis. — Rock County's wish to get an 18-hole public golf course built on county-owned land at the Rock County Airport has stalled indefinitely after a second developer withdrew its proposal.

Rock County Golf told the county's transportation committee it was unable to secure adequate financing to complete the proposed \$2.2 million project.

The county's first choice for developer, LSH Inc. of Janesville, withdrew its bid in 1994, saying it wanted to concentrate on industrial park development. A third developer, GreenVisions Inc. of Chicago, was interested in the project but may have to pull out because of a merger with Crown Golf of Chicago that would cause business conflicts.

Koch to design Michigan facility

GAYLORD, Mich. — The owner of one of northern Michigan's historic resorts plans a \$137 million expansion that includes a new 18-hole, Gary Koch Golf Course and 818 condominiums on 1,127 acres.

Keith Gornick is seeking permits to build the development over the next eight years north of the existing golf-and-ski resort, The Ostego Club at Hidden Valley. The new course would be the 14th in Ostego County.

Tennessee layout receiving facelift

JACKSON, Tenn. — The nine-hole Highland Green, one of west Tennessee's most heavily used public golf courses, is undergoing a facelift thanks to the widening of Highway 45.

Highland Green, where 34,000 rounds of nine-hole golf were played last year, is redesigning and rebuilding three of its nine holes and also building a new 3,000-square-foot clubhouse that will be nearly twice the size of the existing clubhouse. The complete redesign will cost about \$300,000.

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