

BRIEFS



HILLS BREAKS GROUND IN MICH.

SOUTH HAVEN, Mich. — HawksHead Golf Club, an 18-hole Arthur Hills design here, has broken ground. The upscale daily-reservation course will play through a sandy, treeless landscape replete with scrub growth and unkempt dunes. HawksHead is scheduled to open next summer.

ZOELLER, JOHNSTON COLLABORATE

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Chestnut Hills, an upscale daily-fee golf course here, has opened as the fourth design collaboration between course architect Clyde Johnston and design consultant Fuzzy Zoeller. The par-72 course plays 6,996 yards from the back tees and tracks across creeks and through an expanse of rolling Indiana farmland. Johnston and Zoeller used native grasses to frame the golf course and integrate it with the surrounding natural landscape.



Fuzzy Zoeller

and design consultant Fuzzy Zoeller. The par-72 course plays 6,996 yards from the back tees and tracks across creeks and through an expanse of rolling Indiana farmland. Johnston and Zoeller used native grasses to frame the golf course and integrate it with the surrounding natural landscape.

GOLFERS UNITE TO BUILD IN MAINE

BELGRADE LAKES, Maine — A group of golfers has formed a partnership and pooled \$4.5 million to build a top-level semi-private golf course here. General partner Pat Donahue, a real-estate developer from Portland, said the 18-hole track will meander over a 237-acre site in this village. Many holes on the undulating, sometimes steep, wooded site will have views of the Belgrade Lakes, he said. Plans are to get necessary permitting completed in time to begin construction in the late summer of 1996 and open the facility in 1998.

WALTER WOODS JOINS ELS

PALM DESERT, Calif. — Ernie Els and Clive Clark have appointed Walter Woods to Els Clark Design, as their specialist consultant on links-style golf courses. Woods is recognized for his expertise in this area, having looked after The Old Course at St. Andrews — as well as The New, The Jubilee and The Eden courses — for 21 years. Clark said: "Both Ernie and I have played a good deal of golf in tournaments in Scotland and we like many of the qualities offered to golfers by Scottish links. We feel that Walter Woods' experience will be a great asset to Els Clark Design."



Walter Woods

Clark said: "Both Ernie and I have played a good deal of golf in tournaments in Scotland and we like many of the qualities offered to golfers by Scottish links. We feel that Walter Woods' experience will be a great asset to Els Clark Design."

From the Golan to the Gulf, Israelis await golf

By MARK LESLIE

GADOT, Israel — From the Golan Heights to the Gulf of Aqaba, there has been only one golf course in Israel. Until now...

With expertise from the likes of South African pro-designer Gary Player and American designer-builder Perry Dye, Israelis and tourists to this country are about to have the world of golf opened up to them.

And it appears that with approval for five new golf courses from the government and support from the Jewish financial community in New York, Israeli kibbutzim looking for more profit centers may also join the picture. Already:

- In Elat — on the shores of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Jordan River — several courses are being planned as part of a destination resort area located partly in Israel and partly in Jordan. A popular tourist spot, Elat is a free-trade zone with no taxes.

- Gary Player Design Co., led by Phil Jacobs of the South African office, is designing one layout in the Elat complex, while another client is looking



The first tee at Israel's only golf course, The Caesaria Golf Club, a private 18-hole facility that opened in 1961.

for property for an inland course east of the Gaza Strip.

- Kibbutz Gadot, located just above the Sea of Galilee on the Jordan River — barely 200 to 300 yards from the original Syrian border before Israel

won the Golan Heights — has hired Dye and American golf course consultant Jim McLoughlin to work on a course as part of "a large-scale tourist project," including two vacation

Continued on page 30

It's do or Dye at Black Bear

By MARK LESLIE

EUSTIS, Fla. — Eighty-foot backdrops in central Florida? Features reminiscent of PGA West making a statement of character? A 19th "Shootout Hole" (lighted, no less) to break ties, or offer up a challenge after a round of golf? Yes, and more, says majority owner and general partner Richard Stein of his Black Bear Golf Club.

"We wanted a fun course, sort of a PGA West on the East Coast," Stein said. "And we wanted a golfers' club, not a country club. Golf alone. That's what we've got."

To get his wish, Stein hired P.B. Dye — son of PGA West architect Pete — to design the 18-hole semi-private track. Then he brought in John Reger, PGA president for North Florida, as director of golf and Dan Fore of the Medalist Club as superintendent.

The result opens for play Nov. 1 and hosts a tournament less than a week later. Golfers will be tested by sandy waste bunkers, undulating greens and dramatic fairway elevation changes on a track measuring 5,100- to 7,000 yards over five sets of tees. Dye, now partner-owner, moved 500,000 cubic yards of earth to create soft rolls on the 164-acre site — a chore made easy since the former citrus grove boasts sugar sand 60 feet deep.

Two bodies of water add punch to the challenge, including a 10th hole that is circled

Continued on page 34



P.B. Dye operates a bulldozer on his new design, Heritage Club, in Mason, Ohio.

P.B. filling his own Dye-ary

P.B. Dye, 40, is the brother of designer Perry Dye and youngest son of Pete and Alice Dye, the most famous golf course design duo on the planet. A scratch golfer, P.B. [Paul Burke] admits to learning most of what he knows about course design from his parents. He assisted Pete with highly touted Long Cove Club (1982) on Hilton Head Island, S.C., and the Honors Course (1983) in Chattanooga, Tenn. He has designed numerous courses on his own, including Black Bear Golf Club near Orlando, which will open in November, and the new nine at Urbana (Ohio) Country Club, which his grandfather originally designed in 1929.

Golf Course News: Is there



anything that distinguishes a P.B. Dye design from other courses?

P.B. Dye: I want something that is highly playable, but not necessarily easy. I was playing with a guy on one of my courses and he said, 'You know, this course has VD. It's visually disturbing.' I like that. My father and I like to visually disturb people. Our courses may look hard, but they don't really play hard. I want to make a course as hard

Continued on page 34

PGA + Fazio = Golf Club at The Reserve

By MARK LESLIE

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Fraternal twins, born together but very different in look and style. That's how Tom Fazio views the two courses he has designed here at the PGA Golf Club at The Reserve, which will become home to the pros and open to the public when it opens this winter.

The North and South courses represent "a vast difference in styles and looks," said Fazio. "I think if you took a consensus of golfers after they played the two, you'd get a split vote on which is best."

Comparisons will come soon enough. The North Course is slated to open in December and the South Course a couple of months later.

Their openings delayed at least two months by a series of drenching hurricanes and storms, the courses are "the fruition of a lifetime dream for the PGA to own a golf club our members can call their home," said PGA of America Chief Executive Officer Jim Awtry. With a cap of \$49 set on the greens fee and car during high season, the tracks fulfill the association's mission "to make world-class golf open and affordable to the public," he added.

A learning center is also planned and a third 18-hole

Continued on page 30

Land of Bible targets golf

Continued from page 27

villages, golf school, water sports, hiking and horse-riding trails, and study centers on nature, archaeology and history.

• And another kibbutz, gifted with a beautiful piece of property west of Jerusalem, may also be interested, McLoughlin said from his McLoughlin Group offices in Plainville, N.Y.

These all join the only existing facility, Caesaria Golf Club, a private club built on the Mediterranean between Haifa and Tel Aviv in 1961.

"Clearly, there is a need," McLoughlin said. "But the five [planned] courses in Elat don't address the need for golf in Israel. Elat is to Tel Aviv, for instance, as the Florida Keys are to Boston. The Elat courses won't serve the everyday needs of the country of Israel."

A Kibbutz Gadot leader, Haim Milrad, said: "The demand for new golf courses in Israel is larger than what the government can allocate. At this time, there is no final decision as to whom the government will support."

The one course at Gadot is not enough to convince the general tourism community to add golf to its attractions, McLoughlin said. "Ninety-five percent of the Christians and Jews traveling to Israel are going for religious purposes — not to play golf," he said. "But all the tour operators could just add on golf [to their portfolios] and start attracting a wider group."

"You should be talking about three to five courses north of the line from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem," McLoughlin said. "It's what I call 'critical mass.' If there could be a course in Gadot, another at the other kibbutz and if the government or someone else would make \$500,000 available to upgrade Caesaria Golf Club and make it accessible to the public, that would be a beginning. Then, with

all the business between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, it [golf development] would happen."

In addition to tourists, McLoughlin believes resident Israelis "would take readily to the game."

Kibbutz leaders consider Tel Aviv residents "a huge weekend market," Dye said. "The [Kibbutz Gadot area] is cooler, and is a place to get out of the city. They also have the opportunity to bring in foreigners."

The courses in Elat, which is being developed as an international resort area, should do very well, McLoughlin said. "For Europeans, there are few pure resorts to go to during the winter. Besides the Canary Islands, which are booked solid, Europeans have to go to Asia, or the United States."

Construction on the Player-designed course in Elat could begin as soon as September, said design associate Christian Robinson from Player's South African office. "We're just working on [contract] semantics," he said.

Robinson said Elat Golf Course, developed by an Israel-based company, will be a desert-style 18-hole championship-caliber track.

"It has been delayed by a mixture of money and political problems," he said. "It costs about \$3.5 million in U.S. money to build a golf course these days. And that's just the course. They have to get a hotel chain behind the project."

•••

Meanwhile, Kibbutz Gadot may be indicative of other kibbutzim. Where in the 1950s there were 1,200 of the communities in Israel, today they number less than 300. Each kibbutz has to economically support itself and its families.

Kibbutz Gadot farms and operates a plastics factory, but its ruling council decided to build a 1,000-room hotel-villas complex to attract tourist money. The project hasn't started yet, but McLoughlin said he has obtained enough support from Jewish friends in New York to pay for two \$6 million courses.

Public golf in D.C.? At Augustine, yes

STAFFORD, Va. — The Washington, D.C. area's newest golf facility, Augustine Golf Club, an 18-hole Rick Jacobson-designed course, has opened for public play.

The Augustine Golf Club is the centerpiece of the Augustine community, which is under construction. The residential community will include 352 single-family homes developed by the Michael T. Rose Cos. of Laurel, Md.

Jacobson designed the golf course to blend with the character of Stafford County, and to harmonize with the area's topography and natural surroundings. The course was built by Wadsworth Golf Construction Co.

"Our firm's design philosophy favors subtlety and detail to create courses that are aesthetically pleas-

ing, playable by a diverse golfer profile and challenging," said Jacobson of his Libertyville, Ill., firm. "We were given the flexibility to design a course which blends aesthetically with the existing landscape yet is cognizant of the residential community that borders it. A win-win situation for everyone — the public golfer, the community and the developer."

The course design incorporated two five-acre man made lakes and 19 acres of wetlands to help create natural wildlife corridors linking the undisturbed open-space areas.

Superintendent Rick Owens is confident the Augustine golf course will meet criteria for the New York Audubon Society Golf Course Sanctuary program.

PGA Reserve tracks near opening

Continued from page 27

course is a possibility at the facility under Senior Director of Operations Marty Kavanaugh.

"The North Course is in a denser, forested area," Fazio said. "It has tighter driving areas because of the tree cover. From its form, shape and contour, it has quite a bit of roll and elevation change. It's more of a classic-style look in its shapes and form of bunkers."

On the other hand, the South Course is "substantially different," he said. "It's larger and wider and grander in scale. It's more of a '90s-looking course... It contains bolder, steeper slopes, and it is longer because of the bodies of water and the variety of features we put into it. Creating lake areas gave us more dirt and an opportunity to form more contours, relief and elevation change."

"We've buffered the lakes and play areas with multiple shapes and forms of bunkers — long, undulating and with more use of sand and more visual impact."

"It will look a lot harder, stronger and difficult than the North Course, but in actuality it probably won't be more than one shot per side more difficult."

What pressure is there from having, in effect, 14,000 golf professionals as a client?

"Knowing it's the PGA of America and the club pros will be coming there, obviously strength and quality is something you consider for that level of player," Fazio said. "But we always start with designing a course for the best players in the world as well as taking into account that lots of different golfers will play it..."

"I feel comfortable it will fit in with any golf course we've done."

He added that the biggest challenge was "to match the quality of what the PGA of America is all about. It's a big, quality organization, and each member is proud of it. They themselves are coming from great golf courses. We will be judged by them."

Tee & Green & In Between

Whether your challenge is a deadline, a tee, a green, a fairway, a rough, or a bunker surround, we have a blend that fits your needs.

We understand the variety of problems you face because we have spent a great deal of time listening to golf course superintendents. As a result, Tee & Green Sod offers the most complete product line



TEE & GREEN SOD
— INCORPORATED —

available to the golf course industry— even a four-foot wide washed roll!

Give us a call for information about our selection of products, and our unique harvesting and washing techniques.

- Bentgrass
- Bluegrass
- Washed sod
- Bluegrass-Ryegrass
- Bluegrass-Fine Fescue

401/789-8177 • 401/789-3895 (fax) • PO Box 418, Exeter, RI 02822

CIRCLE #121

Railroad Ties for Landscaping

Highest Quality • Best Prices • National Delivery



CROSSTIES • SWITCH TIES
BRIDGE TIMBERS



800-769-TIES (8437)

Midwest Railroad
Tie Sales

CIRCLE #122