

## Indy track set to reopen after 30-month facelift

INDIANAPOLIS — Coffin Golf Course, opened in 1904 and once the crown jewel of the city's 12 public golf courses, is set to regain its former glory after a \$3.2 million restoration project that lasted nearly two and a half years.

Coffin, which hosted the National Public Links tournament in 1935, 1955 and 1972, slid into disrepair in the 1980s and was temporarily closed after the 1992 season.

Tim Liddy, a golf course architect based in Muncie who trained with another Indianan,

Pete Dye, redesigned the course to focus attention on the White River. The river winds along the edge of the property and comes into play on 18 holes. Liddy also raised fairways to encourage quick runoff, included wetlands, installed more than 50 bunkers and seeded the tees and greens with bentgrass.

The course, which opened in late June, is overseen by the minority-led, non-profit Indianapolis Golf Management Corp. There is also a fundraising effort underway for clubhouse renovations.

## Three projects underway in Mont.

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — It's been more than 25 years since a brand new golf course has been built in the Golden Triangle — an area expanding north of Great Falls, south of Canada, and bordered by Cut Bank to the west and Havre to the east.

But projects currently under development in the towns of Fairfield, Shelby and Power could turn the Golden Triangle into the Golden Golfing Triangle.

Harvest Hills Golf Club in Fairfield is the closest to reality

of the three new projects. Ground was broken this spring and the course was expected to be seeded by the end of August. Harvest Hills is a community-operated course. Thanks to volunteer work during construction, the entire course, including the clubhouse, will be built for about \$400,000, as opposed to the predicted \$900,000. Supporters are hoping the 18-hole Harvest Hills will be ready for play by summer 1996.

Volunteer labor is also being used on the nine-hole addition in Shelby at Marias Valley. The new nine should be open by summer 1996.

The third project is the 18-hole Big Muddy Creek Golf Course three miles west of Power and 28 miles from Great Falls, where local farmer Brad Schaefer and a group of farmers and business people are hoping to build a 3,250-yard, nine-hole course on farmland. Schaefer is looking to raise \$285,000 before starting major construction and apparently fundraising efforts have temporarily slowed down because of the harvest.

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## Ga. track first in S'East to receive full certification

DULUTH, Ga. — The Standard Club, a private 18-hole club opened in 1983, is the first golf course in the U.S. Golf Association's Southeast Region to be named a fully-certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the New York State Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System.

The course was certified in all six category designations: environmental planning, public involvement, wildlife and habitat management, water conservation, water-quality management and integrated pest management.

Mark Hoban, the superintendent since the course opened 12 years ago, said his goal from the beginning has been to ecologize the course. Hoban has combined manicured greens with native vegetation in the rough where local wildlife live. Bluebirds and purple martins prosper thanks to nesting boxes on the course, quail live in plant habitats and red-tail hawks and barn owls thrive in areas that have been left in their natural state.

Hoban worked with horticulturist Mike Crissman to develop plantings and projects to enhance nature on and around the course. Butterfly gardens, native plantings of broomsedge, wildflower meadows, blackberries along cart paths and tall grasses bordering play areas are some of the environmental features of the course. Wildlife inventories include species counts of 31 birds, 18 reptiles and amphibians, 13 mammals and 25 butterflies.