

## BRIEFS

**WALKER REDESIGNING DAYTONA TRACK**

**DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.** — Daytona has selected Robert C. Walker, Inc. of Atlantic Beach to redesign and oversee reconstruction of the North Course at the city's 36-hole facility, Daytona Beach Golf Club. Walker is also conducting a study of the South Course for future renovation. Plans and specifications are being developed and construction should begin this spring.

**MARSH POINT A WHOLE NEW 18**

**KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C.** — The revised Gary Player-designed course at Kiawah Island Resort should be ready for play this fall. The former Marsh Point



Gary Player

course, which will be renamed, closed late last year for a major renovation. Plans soon changed in favor of building an entirely new course. The par-72 layout will stretch to 6,800

yards from the back tees compared to its former 6,334-yard length. Wadsworth Construction is the builder. Virginia Investment Trust owns the resort and is financing the \$3.5 million construction effort.

**GROUND BROKEN ON CC AT DC RANCH**

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.** — Scott Miller of Scott Miller Design has been selected by DMB Associates as the golf course architect for The Country Club at DC Ranch. The course is under construction and scheduled to open in January 1997. It will be a private 18-hole, 6,918-yard layout.

**DYE UNDERTAKES KENTUCKY PROJECT**

**LEXINGTON, Ky.** — Don Hensley, a 49-year-old retiree from IBM in Lexington, is developing The Peninsula Golf Resort on Herrington Lake near Dix Dam in northern Garrard County. Construction is about to begin on the 18-hole public-access golf course designed by Pete Dye. Hensley said he would like to see the golf course finished by spring 1997. Danny McQueen will oversee construction.

**9-HOLE OCALA PINES DUE OPEN**

**OCALA, Fla.** — Ocala Palms, a new nine-hole course designed by Steve Newgent, is expected to be open and ready for play by late April with a full-scale opening by September. The layout will measure close to 3,400 yards from the back tees but can also be played at executive-length.

## REUNITED

**Joneses tie design knot, yet remain independent**

By MARK LESLIE

**MURRIETA, Calif.** — A renewed father-son partnership that began almost as a whim with construction of Walt Disney Co.'s Celebration golf course in Orlando, Fla., is now a legal entity incorporated as RTJ Golf Ventures.

The Robert Trent Joneses — Sr. and Jr. — tied the corporate knot after the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) and a development group both asked them to co-design their projects.

Jones Jr. had been hired to add a new nine holes to the SCGA's Jones Sr.-designed Rancho California Golf

Course here and design an 18-hole track outside Sacramento for partners C.C. Myers and rancher Jerry Johnson. But an opportune Christmas-time visit by Jones Sr. with his son led to meetings with leaders of both groups. RTJ Golf Ventures was created and contracts with Jones Jr.'s RTJ II International were rewritten with the new firm. RTJ II International and the Jones Sr.'s Jones Companies will continue to design their own projects as well.

"Dad came out at Christmas to look over the SCGA project, and I suggested to them [developers] it might be fun to

make the grand master a part of it," Robert Jr. recalled. "It's a collaboration and a wonderful, fun experience."

Asked who's the boss, Robert Jr., who worked for his father from 1960 to 1972, dismissed the idea of being "joined at the hip like Siamese twins," saying: "No, it's arm-in-arm."

Describing a visit by his father to Disney's Celebration course — built for families — Robert Jr. said: "He said everything had good flow of line, a linksland feeling, and he was very happy."

Asked how much input his father had

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## ASIA-PACIFIC UPDATE

**Building boom continues pace**

**TOMIOKA, Japan** — The \$200 million Lakewood Tomioka Country Club will welcome the public when the first round of golf is played here this month. The 27-hole facility will bring to 99 the number of holes Shigemitsu Omori has developed at Japan's Lakewood golf course chain.

A stand-alone course in the foothills of the Japanese Alps, 90 minutes due north of Tokyo, Lakewood Tomioka is "a breathtaking property," said golf course architect Ted Robinson, who has designed all five Lakewood facilities.

Meanwhile, in Bogor, Indonesia, the Jakarta-based Suryamas Group will open the Robinson-designed Rancamaya course this month. Also, on Korea's Cheju Island, the Robinson-designed Pinx Golf Club is now being planned. A stand-alone facility that calls for an 18-hole private course with a 9-hole public-access track, Pinx will be Robinson's first course design in Korea.

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**OSAKA, Japan** — Stressing an "environmentally sound approach," Greg Norman Golf Course Design has completed the 18-hole Himeji Shirasagi course here.



The elegant 9th hole at the Nick Faldo-designed Ocean Dunes in Phan Thiet, Vietnam.

"Despite the significant earthworks (3 million cubic meters), through our 'least-disturbance' approach, we were able to maintain 40 percent of the property's pine forests untouched," said Bart Collins, international vice president of Norman Design. "The course has already received a great deal of attention in Japan as this approach has given Himeji Shirasagi an unparalleled aesthetic beauty."

Mitsui & Co. built the project.

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**MEDAN, Indonesia** — The Gary Player Group is reporting an "overwhelming re-

sponse" to its Grand Village golf project here in Indonesia's third-largest city. The 18-hole Player design is already under construction, close to the city center. Upon completion, Grand Village will be Medan's first "international standard" golf course, according to Player officials.

Player's 18-hole Royal Jakarta project is continuing apace, as grassing is about to commence. Design coordinator Kosie Mentz, who assisted in the maintenance of the Gary Player-designed Fancourt golf course — recently voted South Africa's

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Shiun Golf Club in Niigata, Japan, was a collaboration between Denis Griffiths and his then-associate Tom Johnson.

**Q & A ASGCA's 50th president, Griffiths, high on future**

**BRASELTON, Ga.** — Denis Griffiths assumed the presidency in late March of the prestigious American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). Griffiths earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture in 1970 from Iowa State University, then immediately went to work for the Atlanta, Ga., design firm of Davis, Kirby, Player & Associates. In 1980 Griffiths became a full partner with Ron Kirby and one of his designs, Pole Creek GC in Winter Park, Colo. was selected by *Golf Digest* as Best New Public Course in 1984. In 1987 Kirby left to work with Jack Nicklaus in Europe and Griffiths continued his practice as Denis Griffiths & Associates. He has worked throughout the world.



**Golf Course News:** As the new president of the ASGCA, what is your focus?

**Denis Griffiths:** My platform is to listen the best I can to where our members feel we need to be going. I feel very strongly about keeping the costs of golf course construction down. I am polling our members about where they want the society to go. But we have so many levels of individuals — a strong influx of members over the last five, six, seven years, and others who

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