

Padula named head super at new Wis. layout

FOND du LAC, Wis. — Robert Padula has been named golf course superintendent at the new Whispering Springs Golf Course currently under construction east of Fond du Lac.

Padula will be responsible for the grow-in and maintenance of the club's new 18-hole golf course and practice center, scheduled to open this summer.

Padula is a native of Downers Grove, Ill., who most recently worked as superintendent at two of northern Illinois' more highly-rated facilities — Pine Meadow in Mundelein and Conway Farms in Lake Forest. While under Padula's care, Pine Meadow was named America's best new public course in 1986 by *Golf Digest*. The same magazine also named Conway Farms one of the country's top five new private courses in 1993.

Prior to serving at those two courses, Padula was an assistant superintendent at Butler National Golf Club, the long-time site of the Western Open PGA Tour event.

The first nine holes at Whispering Springs are expected to open in late July or early August, with the second nine to follow a month later. Whispering Springs will be a daily-fee course with limited memberships and will be the centerpiece of a 300-acre residential development.

Detroit suburb to finally build public facility

INKSTER, Mich. — After two decades of wrangling, the hard-scrabble town of Inkster south of Detroit is finally getting its own 18-hole public golf course.

The Wayne County Commission has approved a \$6.4 million course to be called Inkster Valley Golf Course. Thirteen holes will be in Inkster, five in neighboring Westland. The course is scheduled to open in 1997.

City leaders see the course as part of a renaissance for the city.

The facility will include an 18-hole regulation-length course, nine-hole executive track, and a driving range. The county will own the course but the city is negotiating to run the clubhouse.

The new course will bring golf back to Inkster after a long hiatus. A private company once ran a course on the same site in the 1920s but went bankrupt during the Depression. During the past two decades, wetlands regulations held up plans to build a new golf course. But an agreement was reached to construct two wetland projects in the Lower Rouge Parkway and in the Wayne County Park System.

Dye's Blackwolf Run set to ban metal-spiked golf shoes

KOHLER, Wis. — Blackwolf Run, a 36-hole Pete Dye-designed facility that has been a trendsetter in more ways than one from the day it opened in 1988, is setting another precedent.

Blackwolf Run — where greens fees reached a hearty \$100 last year — recently announced it will not allow metal spikes on golf shoes as of this season. Golfers will be required to wear shoes with non-metal spikes on both the River and Meadow Valley courses. As most other courses that have announced similar policies, the Black

Wolf pro shop will replace guests' metal spikes with non-metal versions at no charge.

Paul Becker, director of golf at Blackwolf Run, said the new policy banning metal spikes should produce a dramatic reduction in wear and tear on the greens.

Blackwolf Run will be the only public-access, daily-fee course in Wisconsin to have a spikeless policy. Several private clubs in Wisconsin and the semi-private Bog in Saukville have either mandated or strongly encouraged a ban on metal spikes.

In another interesting development,

Blackwolf Run plans to introduce a caddie program this year. The caddies — who will be optional — will provide such traditional services as replacing divots, raking bunkers, cleaning clubs and holding pins. The curious twist is that they will not carry golf bags.

Both courses at Blackwolf's 36-hole facility require golf carts. "The design of our courses dictated that golf bags be left on the carts," Blackwolf's Director of Golf Paul Becker told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.



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