

Student design convinces Mich. city officials to build course

WALLED LAKE, Mich. — If and when a nine-hole course is built on a wetlands-heavy, 96-acre parcel in Van Buren Township, a group of students at Walled Lake Central High School may just have to be given credit — as course architects.

Led by teachers Lenore Hiscoe and Kevin Olson, a group of students enrolled in a golf course design class made a presentation to Willow Metro Park officials that was impressive enough that it's being kept on file by officials as a complete study.

The students made a presentation to parks

officials that included an oral review of their plan and a three-dimensional booklet with computer-generated isometric views of all nine holes.

Landscape architect Sue Nyquist told the *West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric* that if a decision is made to build a course at the site, the chances are "very good" that at least some of the students' work will be recommended to be included in the project.

Central High School, meanwhile, said it will keep the course design class in the curriculum for the 1996-97 year.

Eastwood eyes golf business

MONTEREY, Calif. — Another famous Hollywood star is looking to get into the golf course business.

Clint Eastwood, an avid duffer who also happens to own the film rights to the early mystical golf novel "Golf in the Kingdom," wants to build an 18-hole members-only course on a ranch near this seaside city.

Eastwood also wants to build 12 member suites at the course, a driving range, clubhouse, fitness center, equestrian center and five

employee housing units. According to plans submitted to the Monterey County Planning Department, Eastwood also envisions 34 residential lots in the project.

Eastwood bought about one-third of Monterra Ranch, a 2,900-acre site on a hillside adjacent to the Monterey-Salinas Highway.

Eastwood's plan comes at a time when work is underway on Dunbar in South Dakota, a golf, recreation and theme resort being developed by Hollywood star Kevin Costner.

Whitcomb to manage troubled Phoenix links

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Maricopa County officials have awarded an interim contract to the Whitcomb Golf Group to maintain and manage the struggling 18-hole public course at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. The contact lasts until May 1, 1997.

Whitcomb, which took over from Dick Mulvaine Inc., announced it will spend \$50,000 on course improvements in July and August. It will resod some of the grass areas, upgrade parts of the sprinkler system, improve the turf on the tees and upgrade the restrooms.

County officials, who were unhappy with the conditions of the course, reportedly want to have a long-term arrangement next year. The number of rounds played at the course dropped from an average of about 48,000 in previous years to 36,000 last year. Whitcomb officials have said they would like a long-term deal, maybe for 25 years, to run the course. But county officials have said competitive and open bidding for a future lease arrangement will start in mid-September.

Whitcomb already is involved with two other courses in the Valley. It was part of the management team that developed the 500 Club Golf Course in north Phoenix. It also has managed the Paradise Valley Golf Course since 1981. The Estrella course, which is a 25-minute drive from central Phoenix, opened in 1962 as a nine-hole course and expanded to a full 18 holes in 1967.

GA. TRACK REOPENS AFTER LENGTHY SHUTDOWN

ROME, Ga. — Stonebridge Golf Club, an 18-hole daily-fee course opened in 1994, reopened last month after a six-week shutdown caused by severe winter kill. Stonebridge suffered serious damage after severe winter weather. Thirty acres of grass was killed and the course had to plant new grass at a cost of about \$60,000. Course officials estimated they lost about \$125,000 during the shutdown. Several part-time employees at the course were laid off during the shutdown.

Stick to News.

Inexpensive
option?

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION
VOLUME 8, NUMBER 4
APRIL 1996 • \$4.50

INSIDE

Upfront Prep

Dr. William Torello has ideas on sparing turf the effects of harsh winters. Start in the fall 17

Sod Sees?

High demand for sod? Production philosophy a stock 53

COPY FRANK ON THIS!



ALL IN THE FAMILY
Robert Trent Jones Sr. (left) has teamed with elder son Bobby to form a new architectural entity, RTJ Golf Ventures. For story, see page 37.

COURSE MAINTENANCE

Sprinkler uniformity sought but not found 17
New Chemistry: biologicals & nematodes 20-21
Putting green research: Top 10 projects 22

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Family-accessible design 23
2 Tons 24

PLAYERS SURVEYED ON SUPERS' ROLE

Image enhanced but golfers insist on 'green' look

BY PETER BLAIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — Most golfers see superintendents as trained professionals and the person most responsible for the course conditions — news course superintendents should find encouraging consistency in national efforts to elevate their image. Disturbingly, however, few golfers recognized the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America (GCSAA) as the superintendents' national organization. Also troubling was the unwillingness of most golfers to accept poorer playing conditions in exchange for reduced maintenance and water use on their courses. According to a recent survey conducted by the National Golf Foundation,

STUDY SHOWS:

Name designers pull higher dues and green fees

BY PETER BLAIS
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Private courses designed by signature architects command higher initiation fees and monthly dues.

MAKE THE CALL!