

Raymond Floyd, Bobby Weed partners in 'full-service' design firm

By MARK LESLIE

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Robert C. Weed Jr., who last year left PGA Tour after 11 years as its course architect, has joined forces with PGA Hall of Fame golfer Raymond Floyd to create a full-service course design company.

Floyd/Weed Design has offices here and in Miami Beach.

"I've worked with a number of talented architects over the years and I believe that Bobby's unique combination of skills, creativity

and responsiveness to his clients and their goals put him at the top of the list of the new breed of golf course architects," Floyd said. "I have played in tournaments and have won on Bobby's courses, and, believe me, they are terrific."

Weed's designs include Tournament Players Clubs (TPCs) at Tampa Bay, River Highlands in Cromwell, Conn., Summerlin in



Raymond Floyd

Las Vegas and Mito Japan. Before joining the PGA he apprenticed for seven years with Pete Dye, assisting in the development of Long Cove Club on Hilton Head Island, S.C., Cypress Links in Jupiter, Landfall in

Wilmington, N.C., and the TPC at Sawgrass Stadium Course and Amelia Island Plantation in Florida.

Joining Floyd "could lead to

some high-profile projects and opportunities," said Weed, an associate member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and former certified golf course superintendent. "Raymond's got a wealth of knowledge from playing the game for so many years on such a professional level, and he has a lot of insight to add to design from a playability standpoint."



Bobby Weed

"He's out there playing every week with amateurs, and he's played all the great courses of the world. He was involved in golf courses with his father from a maintenance and construction standpoint from an early age. Design is a natural fit for him."

Floyd, who has won 53 tournaments on the PGA Tour, has been involved in course design the last five years, working on 12 projects — most recently The Legacy in Springfield, Tenn. Among other Floyd co-designs are Arrowhead Golf and Country Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C., River Run in Charlotte, N.C., and the Captain's Club in Grand Blanc, Mich. He redesign of the Doral Golf Resort's Gold Course led to its renaming to the Raymond Floyd Gold Course, and he intends to begin work on Doral's famous Blue Monster course after this year's Doral-Ryder Open.

Floyd will play in only about 20 tournaments a year, Weed said.

"He doesn't want to be perceived as a dabbler [in design]. He fully wants to apply himself to it. We anticipate great things."

Weed said they will focus on work in the States. "I don't see any let-ups," he said. "We feel we're going to be busy the next two or three years with the projects we are involved in right now."

Floyd and Weed say their work has been influenced by the "naturalistic approach" to design made famous by such classical designers as Donald Ross, Alister Mackenzie and A.W. Tillinghast.

With help, Houston restores Mem'l Park

HOUSTON — The grande dame of Houston golf courses, Memorial Park, has reopened after a \$5.7 million course renovation and clubhouse expansion.

The project involved nearly three years of planning and united the city's Parks and Recreation Department with the private, non-profit Houston Parks Board, Inc. for public-private funding and project management.

The city funded \$4.2 million in course reconstruction and drainage improvements, overseen by architects Finger Dye Spann. The Houston Parks Board raised \$1.5 million in private contributions to expand the clubhouse and establish an ongoing maintenance fund.

The course was transformed with 38,000 feet of drainage pipe, more than 1,100 new trees, 60 new bunkers, 8-foot-wide concrete cart paths, 15-foot-deep detention lakes, all-new tee markers and on-course restroom facilities.

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