



Mark Brooks tees off at Walnut Creek

Brooks-Baine complete first course design

MANSFIELD, Texas — Mark Brooks can celebrate twofold. In the wake of his design firm — Brooks-Baine Golf, Inc., completing its first project in November, he won the Bob Hope Classic in Palm Desert, Calif., on Jan. 21.

Brooks-Baine Golf had finished the 18-hole Oak Course here at Walnut Creek Country Club southeast of Fort Worth. The country club is owned and operated by Dallas-based Club Corp. of America

Burt Baine, headquartered in Fort Worth, redesigned an existing nine before designing and building a new nine to create a 6,751-yard, par-71 18-hole course. The renovation and new construction cost \$3 million.

The club now has two 18-hole tracks.

"Burt and I have created a course that is challenging, yet fair, and one that will remain interesting and fun to play," said Brooks, who christened the course in November.

"Our basic design philosophy on the Oak Course is strategic. And because golf is a game of angles, we have included a high degree of risk-reward in our design."

Established in 1992, Brooks-Baine Golf provides a complete range of services relating to the design and construction of golf facilities, including the development of renovation plans for existing courses and full design programs for new facilities.

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Mississippi State

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garden homes will be built, it has a lot of elevation change."

Middleton's timetable calls for nine holes to open next September and nine in June 1997.

Dogwood could be a perfect teaching venue for MSU, which boasts golf course management and turfgrass programs. "A lot of the turfgrass students are working for me right now," he said.

Middleton has sold more than 70 house lots. "Four of my classmates have bought condos," he said, adding that MSU Bulldog Club members, other alumni and area residents are his clientele.

"We have alumni who come here 30 times a year and they're spending money on hotel rooms, restaurants, etc. If we can give them a secure, nice environment and a place to play golf and then go to their university games and other functions, it can be worth it to them financially," he said.

"We have a property management group that will rent that property out when they're not going to be here. Or, some may want to buy a condo for their child to live in while in school, write it off in taxes, then sell when they graduate."

The concept is similar to resort areas, but taking advantage of the university and its attractions as opposed to a resort's amenities.

Middleton is no stranger to golf. He worked for American Golf Corp. during construction of Old Waverly Golf Club in West Point, a Bob Cupp-Jerry Pate design many consider the best course in Mississippi. After serving as a construction foreman, he became assistant at Old Waverly under superintendent Bill Colloredo.

He left to organize Middleton Golf Course Construction and built River Birch Country Club in Amory, an 18-hole track that opened in 1994. Middleton designed that course with long-time shaper Fred Moore, who has worked extensively with Jack Nicklaus and Tom Fazio, among others.

"I learned a lot about course design from Bob Cupp," Middleton said.

Middleton hopes to develop similar projects in a couple other college towns. His sights, he said, are on Alabama.