

GOLF MAY HELP LURE BEARS OUT OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO — A new nine-hole public golf course is part of the bait Gary, Ind., officials are using to lure the NFL's Chicago Bears to a proposed \$482 million multi-use sport and commercial development called Planet Park. In addition to the state-of-the-art stadium and generous concession/parking guarantees, a group of Indiana businessmen is offering a nine-hole layout that one consulting company estimates would generate \$4.7 million annually.

Four courses hit the auction block in mid-January

By PETER BLAIS

ORLANDO — Four 18-hole, daily-fee golf courses, three near Orlando and a fourth near Corpus Christi, Texas, will be auctioned by Sheldon Good & Co. of Chicago.

The three Florida courses up for bid at the Jan. 23 open-outcry auction at the Orlando Airport Marriott are The Monastery Golf and Country Club (G&CC) in Orange City, Palisades Country Club (CC) in Clermont and Wedgefield G&CC east of Orlando. North Shore CC in Portland, Texas, is the fourth course on the auction block.

Successful bidders can buy one, two, three or all of the courses, said Alan Kravets, senior vice president of the auction firm. The European-based owners will provide seller financing. Minimum bids will be accepted on three of the properties and a fourth is subject to seller's acceptance of the bid.

"The owners basically just don't want to be in the golf business anymore and can better use the money elsewhere," Kravets said.

Golf Communities USA has been managing the properties for the owners since a previous deal to sell the courses to Brassie Golf Corporation fell through roughly a year ago.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PONTIAC, Mich. — Cardell Corp., an automotive supplier formerly of Rochester Hills, recently bought the 27-hole public Arrowhead Golf Course in Auburn Hills near the sprawling Chrysler Tech Center and World Headquarters. Cardell reportedly has proposed a \$32 million development for the site that will include five buildings and a new 18-hole golf course on adjacent property.

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GREENVILLE, N.C. — Two new public access 18-hole courses recently opened near Greenville. The \$2.5 million Bradford Creek Golf and Country Club opened in November and features an 18-hole, 7,210-yard daily-fee course with 15 acres of ponds, 300-yard, three-tiered practice range and clubhouse. The second is Ironwood, which will have an 18-hole public-access course and an 18-hole private course, the first such facility in Greenville.

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NOCONA, Texas — The Nocona City Council has taken control of the city's 18-hole municipal golf course. Members of the Nocona Golf Association, who operated the course for years, ran into revenue problems in 1995 and decided they could no longer run the links. New 18-hole courses in nearby Nocona Estates and Muenster have lured golfers away from Nocona's original course and the city is now trying to make it profitable, according to City Manager Joe Gambill.

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