

ASIAN ROUNDUP

Third Nicklaus joins world of architecture; Palmer, 8 others design 18 in Philippines

ILO ILO, Philippines—A third son of **Jack Nicklaus** is becoming increasingly involved in golf course architecture. **Gary Nicklaus**, 27, is undertaking his first solo effort on this Filipino island an hour's plane ride south of Manila.

Gary's brothers—**Jack II**, 34, and **Steve**, 33, are also course designers.

Pasig City-based Fil-Estate Group of Companies is developing the 18-hole facility.

Groundbreaking for the private course, which is located on 450 acres of rolling pasture land, took place in mid-April with full-blown construction scheduled to commence by early summer.

Located within an existing residential community, the course should open by late 1997 or early 1998.

Fil-Estate and Nicklaus have teamed on four other Filipino projects in various stages of development. They include:

✓ **Manila Southwoods**—Two Nicklaus-designed courses have already opened.

✓ **Antipolo, Manila**—Jack II designed this 18-hole layout, which is under construction and scheduled to open sometime next year.

✓ **Trece Martires, Cavite**—The 45-hole facility includes 18 Nicklaus holes, nine by Jack II, nine by **Gary Player** and nine by **Arnold Palmer**. All the Nicklaus holes are open for play.

✓ **Looc Cove, Luzon island**—The facility includes an 18-hole Nicklaus Signature layout and an 18-hole Nicklaus Design.

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MANILA, The Philippines—**Arnold Palmer** and eight other major tournament winners each will design two holes of a golf course to be built here—one of nine projects involving a dozen courses Palmer Course Design Co. (PCDC) is working on in

Asia-Pacific.

Fred Couples, Steve Elkington, John Daly, Nick Faldo, Ray Floyd, Tom Kite, Nick Price and Fuzzy Zoeller will all join Palmer, each designing two holes for the Manila project, called Ft. McKinley Golf & Country Club.

PCDC officials said they reached an agreement with Pagbabago Development Corp., which was acting on behalf of a consortium of developers.

The developers expect that Ft. McKinley Golf & Country Club will become an amenity in the largest commercial and residential development in Metro Manila history.

Construction is expected to start late this year, with tentative opening expected in early 1998.

PCDC has two other projects under way in Manila—Forest Hills Estate and Caliraya. A third, in Debu City called Ayala-Cebu Golf Estates (formerly Kang-Irag Hills), is being rerouted to meet government approval. All are 18-hole courses.

Also in Asia-Pacific:

✓ In Fuji, Japan, the 27-hole Fuji Country Club is 70 percent complete.

✓ The 36-hole Furano Kogen project in Furano, Japan, is awaiting government approval and expecting construction to begin this summer.

✓ A July opening is anticipated for Washington Club Meihan (formerly Hakusan-Ieki) in Hakusan, Japan. Twenty-seven holes will open, and another 27 holes are projected in the future for the complex.

✓ Indonesia-PCDC reached an agreement with Pt. Putra Alvita Pratama for an 18-hole course near Jakarta, Indonesia. It will serve as an amenity for an upscale, master-planned community—Kota Legenda (Legend City).

Kota Legenda will become the standard-bearer for golf and residential communities in the area, PCDC said. Construction will begin this summer and opening is expected in early 1998.

✓ The 18-hole Legends Golf & Country Club (formerly Sedenak) in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, is in phase II of construction.

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FORSTER/TUNCURRY, Australia—Tallwoods Golf Club, a 600-acre community featuring a **Michael Hurdzan**-designed 18-hole golf course, is being built in this popular resort area.

Site clearing is underway and course construction will begin in earnest Aug. 1 at this spot some 210 miles up the coast from Sydney, according to David Whelchel, a senior designer with The Hurdzan Design Group in

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Asia-Pacific boom continues

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Columbus, Ohio.

Tallwoods Proprietary Ltd., led by Dubbo developer Bill Richardson and a silent partner, foresees the project as second-home and retirement community.

The course will be private to community residents, but will offer tee times to visitors, such as from hotels at the neighboring towns about 20 kilometers away.

The site is just 2 kilometers from the ocean, spread over hilly topography, Whelchel said. "The climate is wonderful, and it's a great property," he said, "hills and valleys and with 100-foot-high and higher eucalyptus trees. We'll be playing up valleys, with several lakes on the golf course."

"We're working around some interesting native vegetation. It contains some very, very nice, small rain forest-type areas, and we'll play around them and highlight them within the course."

The 6,100-meter, par-72 track will be "retirement-person oriented," Whelchel said. "We want golfers to have fun. We don't want to beat them up. It will be challenging from the back tees and friendly from the middle tees."

Because Tallwoods Proprietary is the general contractor, the course will cost just Australian\$3 million, he added.

JOHORE BAHRU, Malaysia — Robert Trent Jones II is overseeing a complete renovation of the existing Pulai Springs Resort Golf Club and will design a second, 18-hole layout there as well.

Reconstruction of the original Peter Dalkeith Scott-designed layout, which opened in 1986, has begun and should be completed by mid-1997, according to Jones' office. No construction date has been set for the new course.

A new membership drive is being undertaken in conjunction with the redesign. The Chua Chi Minh family owns Pulai Springs.

Jones is also involved in several other Asia-Pacific projects including:

✓ Pueblo de Oro, Mindanao, The Philippines — An 18-hole course, practice range and clubhouse are part of the golf/residential, master-planned community.

This is the first golf project for developer Regatta Properties, a Manila-based, real-estate holding company that controls many industrial and warehouse facilities.

✓ Puerto Azul Resort, The Philippines — Construction on a new 18 will start this summer to complement the existing Gary Player-designed layout. The

Jones' layout should open by late 1997 or early 1998.

✓ Gulf Harbour Resort, Auckland, New Zealand. The 18-hole course was grassed this year and should open this fall.

Other RTJ II projects include an unnamed course in Beijing and Ya Loong Bay Golf Course on Hainan Island for the Henry T. Fok Group of Companies; Trans Strait Golf Club in Fuzhou City, China; a remodel of Navatanee Golf Course in Bangkok; and the second 18 at

President Country Club in Bangkok.

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PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Cambodian Golf & Country Club, one of three golf courses now under development in this emerging country, will open its first nine holes in July.

The second nine is scheduled to come on line before the year is out.

The Taiwanese-Cambodian joint venture includes tennis courts, a gymnasium/spa and swimming pool. Life memberships run from between \$15,000

and \$20,000, according to Business News Indochina (BNI).

Cambodia G&CC is well ahead of The Royal Cambodia Country Club, a Singaporean development whose ambitious \$US50 million price tag includes plans for residential units and hotel.

The 27-hole golf course, designed by J. Michael Poellot, just recently broke ground on the marshy 160-hectare site north of the capital.

The third project, a Japanese-financed 18-hole development, is located an hour south of Phnom

Penh in Phnom Tamau. BNI reports the golf course is expected to open for play in early 1997.

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GUANGDONG PROVINCE, China — A two-year construction process has begun on a golf course residential development here.

Dirt is now being moved on the 27-hole project, designed by James J. Engh of Global Golf Design, based in Castle Rock, Colo. Dongguan Hillview Golf Club will constitute the core of the development.

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