

## Golf developer steps to plate in Va.

LOCUST GROVE, Va. — Two years ago, Bill Matthews, a wealthy nursery owner, opened a 19-hole course outside Fredericksburg known as Meadows Farms.

His first golf course includes the novelty of a warm-up hole and the nation's longest hole at 841 yards, a par-6 that has become something of a legend among Mid-Atlantic golfers.

In April, Meadows unveiled

another doozy — a new nine-hole public layout at Meadows Farms with one par-3 hole designed to look like a baseball field.

Another hole features a green situated on top of a manmade waterfall.

The par-3 "Baseball Hole" plays from tees set up behind home plate across a regulation-sized diamond complete with bases and a mound to a green set in center field.

## Tenn., Nicklaus may join forces on two more courses

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The state of Tennessee may build two additional 18-hole Jack Nicklaus-designed golf courses beyond the four it has already committed to construct.

According to the *Greeneville Sun*, state officials and the Nicklaus group have expressed considerable interest in 286 acres of land at Kinser Park. The state-owned park currently has a swimming pool, numerous water slides, a miniature golf course, baseball field, boat access to the adjacent Nolichucky

River, a go-cart rack and several picnic pavilions.

Kinser Park is not one of the original four sites chosen for a golf course under a \$20 million project to build Nicklaus signature layouts at four Tennessee state parks.

For the golf course to become a reality, a series of events would have to occur.

First, the Greene County Commission and the Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen would have to approve a donation of the land to the state for

the construction of a Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course.

If those two boards approve, then the state legislature would have to approve the additional funding for the construction of the course.

Even if state and local approval is received, a course at Kinser Park may not be built for three or four years because the four courses which have already been funded — including those at Harrison Bay, Tims Ford and Chickasaw state parks — will most likely be built first.

## S.C. state park track set for Bermuda switch

CHERAW, S.C. — The greens at Cheraw State Park golf course here are set for a dramatic makeover starting this month.

The greens, which have been bentgrass, will be converted to Bermudagrass in a process that will take the course out of play for at least two months this summer, maybe longer.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism decided to convert to Bermudagrass greens because it felt the summer climate was putting too much stress on the bentgrass and caused a drop off in the number of golfers playing the course in summer.

Work is scheduled to begin June 17, with the stripping of bentgrass sod from the greens. Play will be allowed to continue with temporary greens through June 24. But the course will be closed June 24. Seeding is expected to start July 1 and officials hope the course could be ready for play by Aug. 30.

## Holes uncovered at Texas layout

ABILENE, Texas — The latest golf course to undergo expansion in the Abilene area is Merkel Golf Club, although rediscovery might be a better word.

The former nine-hole Merkel Golf Club has had a back nine for the past 15 to 20 years. The layout, located west of the existing nine, was hidden by weeds, scrubs and new growth.

Merkel's golf pro and owner George DiJulio and greenkeeper Jim Smith went in to the long-lost nine and rebuilt the greens, tees and irrigation systems. They also built a lake.

Seeding started in April and they hope to have the new/old back nine open by September.

DiJulio, who formerly worked at the Mesquite Grove Golf Course at Dyess Air Force Base, bought the Merkel club two years ago and oversaw extensive improvements on the existing front nine before this current rebuilding project.

# A new twist to

A new 18-hp diesel engine powers higher-capacity hydraulic pumps in the new 2653A to deliver 33 percent more torque to the reels.

