

## Veterans department closes N. Chicago links

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. — The Joe and Marie Sisolak Golf Course, a nine-hole layout tucked away at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center since the 1940s, is closed for good.

The 2,974-yard course was among 22 in the country maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at a cost of \$1 million per year. The annual cost to maintain the Sisolak course has been about \$120,000.

The VA decided to close its golf courses to free more resources for

the health care and medical treatment of veterans and their families.

Since its construction in the 1940s, the Sisolak course was open to VA employees and patients with nominal greens fees. Because of limited access to the isolated course, and a lack of parking, the course was never opened to the general public nor was there any effort to lease the course to an outside firm.

In 1994, the course — which started as an 18-hole layout but was reduced to nine — was dedi-

cated to Joe and Marie Sisolak of Waukegan, in honor of their many contributions in promoting and teaching golf.

Joe Sisolak, 78, serves as the medical center's golf professional. He was profiled in a recent issue of PGA Magazine for his work with young golfers. Sisolak has helped young golfers in the Waukegan area for almost 50 years and still teaches high school students during the summers. In the winter he runs a junior golf program in Melbourne Beach, Fla.

## Martty to revamp Mississippi layout

NATCHEZ, Miss. — Martty Golf Management has begun a six-month consulting agreement with the City of Natchez to refurbish and revamp the 18-hole public Duncan Park Golf Course.

Martty Golf hired a golf professional, Job Humphrey, and brought in one of its agronomists, Chuck Collins, to oversee the improvements at the course.

Renovation plans are being

made for each of the 18 holes at the course, with efforts focusing on the front nine to begin with, according to Collins, especially the topsoil.

Collins said there will also be more defined edges between greens and fairways and other elements across the course. There are also plans to renovate the clubhouse and improve the landscaping.

## Remodel likely for Ill. facility

QUINCY, Ill. — The 50-year-old Westview Golf Course could be in line for a facelift.

The Quincy Park Board recently set aside \$28,000 for an architectural study with suggested improvements to the popular public 27-hole facility.

"What we hope to accomplish here is to have a blueprint for Westview Golf Course that will take us into the future 20-30 years and give us a guide we can use to improve our golf facility," Park Commissioner John LaTour said.

"We have an excellent facility — probably the best in 100 miles. But this is the 50th anniversary of Westview Golf Course. It also shows that she's getting old. There's a lot of things we need to do."

There has been talk for many years about whether Westview should be expanded. But that question will not be a central focus of the architectural study, according to city golf officials. The central goal, they said, is to make the existing course better.

## Facelift finished at Kansas track

WICHITA, Kan. — The oldest public golf course in Wichita is expected to reopen this month after a \$2 million facelift.

The 18-hole McDonald Park course, built in 1911 and remodeled in 1936, 1950, and 1963, has been closed since late February 1995 for its most extensive renovation yet.

Some of the changes designed by Oklahoma-based golf course architect Mark Hayes are subtle: trees trimmed and planted, a repainted clubhouse.

Others are more substantial: Each of the 18 holes has new tee boxes, rebuilt greens and rebuilt bunkers. Some of the distances on a few of the holes have also been changed. One of the most noticeable changes is water, as in six new ponds on the course.

McDonald Park was actually the original Wichita Country Club course and became a public course in 1950. The course has always been one of the city's most heavily played, with about 50,000 rounds a year, according to course superintendent Randy Siroky.

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