

Landmark elm tree granted second life as statue

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — For decades, a stately old elm tree stood 200 yards out from the first tee at the University of Minnesota Golf Course, oblivious to the ravages of high winds, heavy snows, and wandering golfers.

In recent years, however, Dutch Elm disease has taken its toll and the landmark tree was set for the groundskeeper's chain saw.

But Larry Overskei, an 8-handicap golfer and past president of the Univer-

sity Golf Club, had an idea. Overskei and the club commissioned Minnesota tree sculptor Dennis Roghair to carve an 8-foot high figure of Goldie Gopher, the University of Minnesota mascot, from the stump of the dead elm.

Roghair's work is well known to Minnesota State Fair visitors. He has exhibited more than 20 of his wooden chain saw sculptures on the grounds of the Fair. Hundreds more sit at private and public locations around the world, from

New York to Florida and Japan to Germany.

Working on scaffolding under a tent of nylon netting to protect him from errant golf balls, Roghair took three days to complete the sculpture.

Goldie Gopher was then painted with three coats of protective sealer and then finished off, of course, wearing a letter sweater in the school colors of maroon and gold and holding a replica wood golf club.

Price & Smyers combine forces on capital design

BEALLSVILLE, Md. — Golf course development remains in full swing in the Washington, D.C., area. A new, 18-hole public course is planned for this small town in northern Montgomery County by Baltimore-based developer Joseph Meyerhoff II.

The proposed Four Streams National Golf Club will be designed by PGA Tour player Nick Price and architect Steve Smyers on a 300-acre site at Routes 128 and 109. The course is scheduled to open in the spring of 1998.

Four Streams will be Meyerhoff's second golf course in the area. Earlier this year, his company, Magna Holdings, opened The Links at Challedon near Frederick, and Meyerhoff said more courses are on the drawing board. Meyerhoff said he is aiming to meet what he sees as a strong demand for high-end public-access golf courses in the Washington area. In the last several years, nearly a dozen new public layouts have opened here.

Nicklaus' Md. links set to open in 1998

CUMBERLAND, Md. — The \$54 million Rocky Gap resort and golf course is in the early phases of construction and on schedule to open in April 1998.

The project, which includes an 18-hole course designed by Jack Nicklaus, is about 20 percent complete. Along with the golf course, the resort will feature a 220-room, six-story hotel, conference center and other recreational facilities.

The Maryland Economic Development Corp., a not-for-profit public agency, owns the resort project that will occupy about 260 acres of Rocky Gap State Park's 3,400 total acres.

The 170,000-square-foot-hotel, to be called The Ledge at Rocky Gap, and the attached 14,000-square-foot conference center are being built on the shore of Lake Habeeb near the park entrance from Route 68.

The 10th hole of the Jack Nicklaus signature course is located in the same general area.

When the resort is completed, it will be managed by Buena Vista Hospitality Group of Tampa, Fla., the firm that owns and operates the Buena Vista Palace, a hotel in Orlando, Fla., affiliated with Disney.

CORRECTON

KEYSTONE, Colo. — Keystone Resort's second course, the Resort Course, will be a championship-length, not an executive-length track as reported in the October edition of *GCN*. Construction will start next spring and the course should open in spring 1999.

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