

Snyder-Richardson finish Ariz. Biltmore work

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Jack Snyder and Forrest Richardson have completed reconfiguration and design changes to the William Bell-designed Adobe Course at the Arizona Biltmore here.

The facility is expected to reopen later this month, complete with new 10th, 11th and 16th holes and a larger practice facility.

The project was necessitated because half the 10th hole and the practice range were located on leased land, the owners of that land decided to develop it. KSK Property Management of San Francisco, which owns the two Arizona Biltmore courses and

has a working agreement with the Biltmore, hired Snyder and Richardson to fit the layout into the new perimeters.

"It was a 7,000-yard course and we were able to shorten a couple of holes to make it more playable for the resort golfer," Richardson said. "The 16th is a new hole entirely and the 10th is now a par-3. Jack also built four sand traps reminiscent of Oakmont [Country Club's] 'church pews.'"

Richardson said the track was "a grand traditional old Bell course built in the '30s. No one had touched it [architecturally] for years and years."

Cobblestone construction now underway

KENDALLVILLE, Ind. — Cobblestone Golf Course has started construction and is scheduled for completion in October 1997.

The golf course, developed by Cobblestone Golf L.L.C. Managing Partner Tom Jones, is part of a 325-acre upscale real-estate project being developed by Sturges, Griffin Trent & Co. The course is designed by Burns Golf

Design and built by Fox Contractors Corp. of Fort Wayne, along with Robert Kitchen Contracting of Waynesville, N.C., and Midwest Irrigation of E. Dubuque, Ill.

Situated on moderately rolling to hilly terrain, several holes feature 25- to 30-foot elevation changes. Lakes and streams influence play on eight holes, with natural wetlands on five more.



The 14th hole at Tim Cate's first creation under his own name, Panther's Run. Note Cate's use of indentations, as opposed to mounding, to define the fairway.

Q&A with Tim Cate

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GCN: What did you learn from Willard?

TC: The mechanics of golf design and the importance of an architect's involvement during construction. The best courses we did were the ones where we were with the shapers every day.

Otherwise, you leave any necessary changes to the contractor and you can end up with something different than you envisioned. Cattail Creek [in Frederick, Md.] and Lion's Paw were the best I did with Willard and it was because we were on site a lot.

GCN: Tell us about Panther's Run.

TC: It's a pretty piece of land. I just wanted to complement it, fitting the course into the nicer areas and enhancing those without strong elements. There's a beautiful hardwood, bottom swamp with dwarf palms and abundant wildlife. We hardly moved any dirt on holes 6-9. In fact, we backed the cart path back off the swamp and turned it onto a sort of nature ride.

The back nine is on flatter upland, through farms and fields. We got a little bolder there and incorporated a lot of ornamental grasses.

I don't particularly like mounding. Nine out of 10 courses in Myrtle Beach have used extensive mounding because the land is so flat.

But I prefer to do the opposite. I dug out grassy depressions along the fairways. They define the holes just as well as mounding, but they blend in more with the natural scenery. The depressions are

visually intimidating if you're in one, but you often get a better lie than you would on the side of a mound.

It would have been real hard for me to go out on my own without knowing I had this course to come to. It was a golden opportunity for me.

GCN: How is work on the third Ocean Ridge course progressing?

TC: It was sort of a puzzle to route. There are wetlands and ponds to deal with. And an effluent system on site made it interesting. But we've come up with a nice plan that could be on the best piece of land yet. When you design around things like this you can actually use them to your advantage.

The course is 50-percent complete. But the owner wants to give Panther's Run a year or two to build up a reputation before bringing another course in. The third course will probably open by fall 1998.

GCN: How important is it that Panther's Run does well in the Golf Digest rankings?

TC: I'd be lying if I said I wouldn't be happy if it won. If it finished in the top 20, I'd be honored. But there's a lot of competition. One of the things I'm proudest of is that we built this course for \$3 million and it's getting more play than courses that cost \$10 million or more to build.

GCN: What are your future plans?

TC: I'd like to stay in the Southeast. My roots are here. I grew up playing golf in Atlanta. I love the South Carolina/Georgia Low Country look.

Of course, I'd design a golf course wherever the work took me. I plan to stay in the golf course design business no matter what.

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