

Armstrong polishes off new Maine nine

SANFORD, Maine -- Construction has been completed on the 9-hole addition to Sanford Golf Club here, according to Marvin Armstrong of Francestown, N.H.based Armstrong Associates.

"Considering the very wet fall [1995] and this spring, the project has moved along smoothly," said Armstrong.

International Golf Construction of Arlington, Mass., completed the work only slightly later than agreed, even with the weather delays. The ownership hopes for an aggressive grow-in, resulting in a July 1, 1997 opening

Armstrong Associates was able to design the new holes so that play on the existing course would not be interrupted. Only a pond — on the existing 7th (future 16th) required a temporary tee last fall for permitting reasons.

In other Armstrong Associates news, the firm has been retained by the City Worcester, Mass., to complete a renovation master plan that will explore the incorporation of a driving range and relocation of the clubhouse.

Also, Armstrong continues to complete renovations at Longshore Park Club for the Town of Westport, Conn. Armstrong said he expects to continue work for Three Rivers Golf Club in Woodbury, Conn. and Cold Springs Golf Club in Belchertown, Mass. Also, feasibility work was recently completed for 17 holes for the Town of Plymouth. Mass.

Tour 18 ruling: **Owners** prevail

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According to Wilkerson. Judge Hittner took more seriously the claims of Sea Pines because "Harbour Town uses the lighthouse as a corporate logo, which is treated differently than just a golf hole. With the Pinehurst and Pebble Beach holes, the judge ordered some modification in our advertising, bigger disclaimers and less prominent use of their names. But he did allow us to continue using their names in our holes.

ClubCorp viewed the decision as better than nothing.

"It's not as broad as we would like to have seen it," said Terry Taylor, general counsel for the Dallas-based club management giant. "The decision establishes a new application of the trade dress law, which is exactly what we wanted to establish. We think it doesn't go far enough. We haven't come to a decision on an appeal.

Stephen Wille, vice president of marketing for The Pebble Beach Co., is similarly ambivalent with Hittner's ruling.

"While we didn't agree with everything the judge ruled, we were pretty happy with the primary ruling, which we take to mean that copycat courses can only use non-famous, nondistinctive holes," Wille said. "The ruling, as I understand it, says he must indicate the origin of the hole design in various listings - like scorecards or yardage books. What he can't do is say, 'You may have always wanted to play Pebble Beach. You don't have to go to Monterey. You can do it at Tour 18.' which he was doing in advertising all over the place.'

In addition to the Tour 18 courses in Houston and Dallas, there are several other "homage" courses up and running, including the Donald Ross Memorial at Boyne Highlands Resort & Country Club in Highland Springs, Mich., and Golden Ocala (Fla.) Golf Club. Taylor said there are no similarities between the Ross project and Wilkerson's.

"We were contacted and asked to participate in [the Donald Ross] project," Taylor explained. "The big difference, in our view, is the Ross Memorial was put together to honor the spirit and legend of Donald Ross, not to copy otherwise popular holes without any sort of licensing in place. We see absolutely no similarity between the two."

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