

Ironhorse unveils 'Little League' facility

LEAWOOD, Kan. — The nation's first "Little League" golf facility was introduced at the Ironhorse Golf Club here June 24. This facility, designed by Dr. Michael Hurdzan, allows youngsters the opportunity to learn and play golf in a fun, challenging and rewarding atmosphere [see related story page 9].

It features a practice tee, short game center and three-hole practice course which is part of Ironhorse Golf Club.

"We're proud to be the national model site for the Hook-A-Kid On Golf facility which will serve

as the guide for future golf course development nationwide," said Scott Whitaker, director of the Leawood Parks and Recreation Department.

When Leawood began construction on Ironhorse, officials intended that the facility not only provide a golf course for adults but also a feeder system for youngsters to learn the game.

"We've had various programs on our fields, but until Hook-A-Kid On Golf was created we never had a league-structured program for kids to get involved in golf on a regular, ongoing basis," Whitaker said. "The program is truly an exciting innovation long over-due."

Through Hook-A-Kid On Golf's Tee Level Clinics, which are held at 150 sites nationwide each summer, youngsters receive a week of golf instruction and various materials to help them learn and play the game. They can progress to the Challenge Golf League, which allows junior golfers to play in a team format like they can in the more traditional team sports.

Municipal parks and recreation departments nationwide provide an estimated 61,000 facilities for youngsters to play baseball, soccer, football and various other "Little League" sports.

Leawood's practice tee includes grass and artificial hitting surfaces. A separate teaching tee provides a private atmosphere for instruction. There are four target greens which give golfers a different look to sharpen their skills.

The short-game center features a large pitching and chipping green, coupled with a 13,000-square-foot putting green for practicing bunker play and pitch shots.

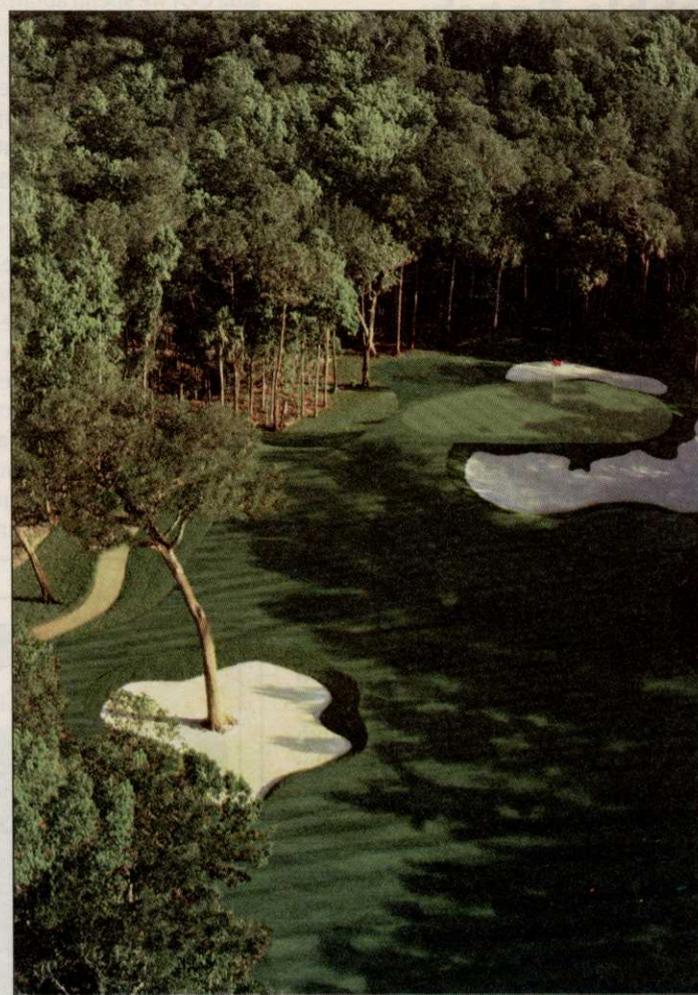
The practice course consists of three par-3 holes that allow youngsters to integrate real-game situations into their practice routine.

Press Maxwell is nominated for Hall

DENVER, Colo. — The Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association (RMGCSA) has nominated James Press Maxwell for induction into the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame. The RMGCSA's board of directors nominates golf course architects, builders, turfgrass professors and superintendents who have made significant contributions to golf in the state.

Maxwell, the son of noted golf course architect Perry Maxwell, was one of the pre-eminent architects in the United States during the 1950s and '60s. He was born in 1916 in Ardmore, Okla., but has made his home in Morrison the last 30 years. In 1960, Press served as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

Press designed or remodeled more than 20 courses in Colorado. His most prominent Colorado designs are Hiwan, Kissing Camels, Boulder Country Club, Inverness, Rolling Hills and Pinehurst.



CELEBRATED CO-DESIGN

Celebration Golf Club in Orlando, the long-awaited collaboration of Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Robert Trent Jones Jr., will open Oct. 3. The golf course, managed by American Golf Corp., is a centerpiece of the new town of Celebration, built by Walt Disney World Co.

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