



Much-anticipated Tennessee muni opens front nine

JACKSON, Tenn. — The front nine holes at the new, long-awaited city-owned Bent Tree Golf Course have opened for play. The back nine is expected to open either late this fall or early next year.

The upscale course, located at Kate Campbell Robertson Park, will measure 7,132 yards from the back tees and feature the longest par-5 hole (591 yards) in Jackson. Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer was one of a dozen golfers who got a sneak playing preview of the course before it officially opened.

Kentucky links fill out to 18

CANNONSBURG, Ky. — Diamond Links Golf Club recently opened its new back nine which makes the public course a regulation, par-71 layout.

Diamond Links opened three years ago as a nine-hole track with plans for expansion. Those plans stalled because the former owner ran into financial problems. The new owners, Huntington attorney Stan James, Mike Steinbracher and Bob Rufus, have followed through.

James and his associates bought Diamond Links in late 1994 and started working on the back nine in March 1995. Early spring and summer rains slowed some of the work on the new back nine but James said the new holes are coming into their own as fall approaches.

Spanish Wells now operating 27 holes

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — The new nine holes added to the original 18-hole course at Spanish Wells have been completed and are in play.

The new nine was designed by Bruce Howard of the Corral Howard Collaborative. It features a variety of natural areas and the layout winds through native pine, oak and cypress trees with boardwalks along stands of cypress and wetlands areas.

The original 18-hole course at Spanish Wells opened in 1979. With the new nine, the club now offers three sets of interchangeable nines.

CORRECTION

Because of a reporting error in last month's story, "Jacobsen to keynote Public Golf Forum," the name of architect Jim Hardy was spelled incorrectly. In the same story, design credit for Eagle Point Golf Club in Medford, Ore., was mislaid. Robert Trent Jones II is the architect of Eagle Point.

Club opens on Outer Banks, finally

COROLLA, N.C. — The Currituck Club took seven years to complete, but the newly-opened course designed by Rees Jones has brought a fresh sense of excitement in golf circles on the Outer Banks. The course, which winds through maritime forests and over sand dunes along Currituck Sound, took 14 months to build after more than five years of planning.

The land where the

Currituck Club course now sits has long been treasured real estate. The Currituck Shooting Club had headquarters there going back to the mid-1800s. The hunt club was a stomping ground for steel and railroad magnates who liked to entertain clients on duck hunting excursions. The hunt club's cedar-shaked clubhouse is visible from the seventh tee, as are a dozen or so duck blinds on Currituck Sound.

New life for Ross bunkers in N.C.

WILMINGTON, N.C. — The city is renovating bunkers at the popular Wilmington Municipal Golf Course, restoring them to the way they looked in the 1920s, when Donald Ross designed the course. The municipal layout has survived mostly intact. But, as has happened at hundreds of courses, bunkers have shrunk, been altered and, in some cases, moved.

The Donald Ross Society of Bloomfield, Conn., is supplying an architect who is planning the restoration project.

The city will provide the equip-

ment and manpower to dig and reshape the bunkers. The work started in August.

Copies of course drawings done by Ross showing bunker placements were obtained through the Tufts Archives at Given Memorial Library in Pinehurst, N.C.

One aspect of the course's early days that won't be restored are sand greens. Sand greens, which were sprayed with oil to keep them firm, were a common surface on golf courses in the 1920s, especially in the south.

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