

Huntley goes Scottish with Continental Ranch

MARANA, Ariz. — Construction is underway on The Links at Continental Ranch Golf Club, a new Scottish-style course being built as the focal point of Southwest Value Partners' 1,800-acre master-plans community north-west of Tucson.

Designed by Brian Huntley, the 6,950-yard, par-72 layout will be unique among Arizona courses in that it will closely

mirror the traditional links style of Scottish courses.

"We wanted to create something that would give our players a golf experience they can't get anywhere else in Arizona," said David Dolgen, managing director of Southwest Value Partners.

The course will be managed by Pacific Golf Management L.L.C., an Arizona-based golf

company whose principals were involved in the development of the Raven Golf Club at Sabino Springs in Tucson.

The Links at Continental Ranch will feature wide, undulating fairways accented by tall stands of native grasses like *Hilaria Belangeri* and Purple Three-Awn, generous green complexes and forbidding pot bunkers.



Hale Irwin, second from right, looks over the site for the new Grand Southern Golf Course, under construction in Tunica, Miss. With Irwin are, from left, Bryce Swanson of Hale Irwin Golf Services, Russell Durbin of Landscapes Unlimited (the builder), and Stan Gentry of Irwin Golf Services.

Grand Casinos, Irwin team up

TUNICA, Miss. — Grand Casinos, Inc. is correlating golf with casinos — and involving Jack Nicklaus and Hale Irwin — in two major developments.

Irwin is designing one of two courses here associated with Grand Casino Tunica, while Nicklaus is designing one of two courses at a project in Gulfport for Grand Casino Gulfport and Grand Casino Biloxi.

Work has begun on Irwin's Grand Southern Golf Course and the 18-hole track is expected to open next March because it will be sodded. "Lots of water, contours and sand" describes the design.

Laid out over gentle, rolling hills and with half the holes bordering lakes, the course will measure 7,000 yards. Landmarks will be an island green and a 600-yard hole. Each hole will be themed with different flowers or trees.

Part of a \$27 million project, it will be a private facility for hotel and casino guests only.

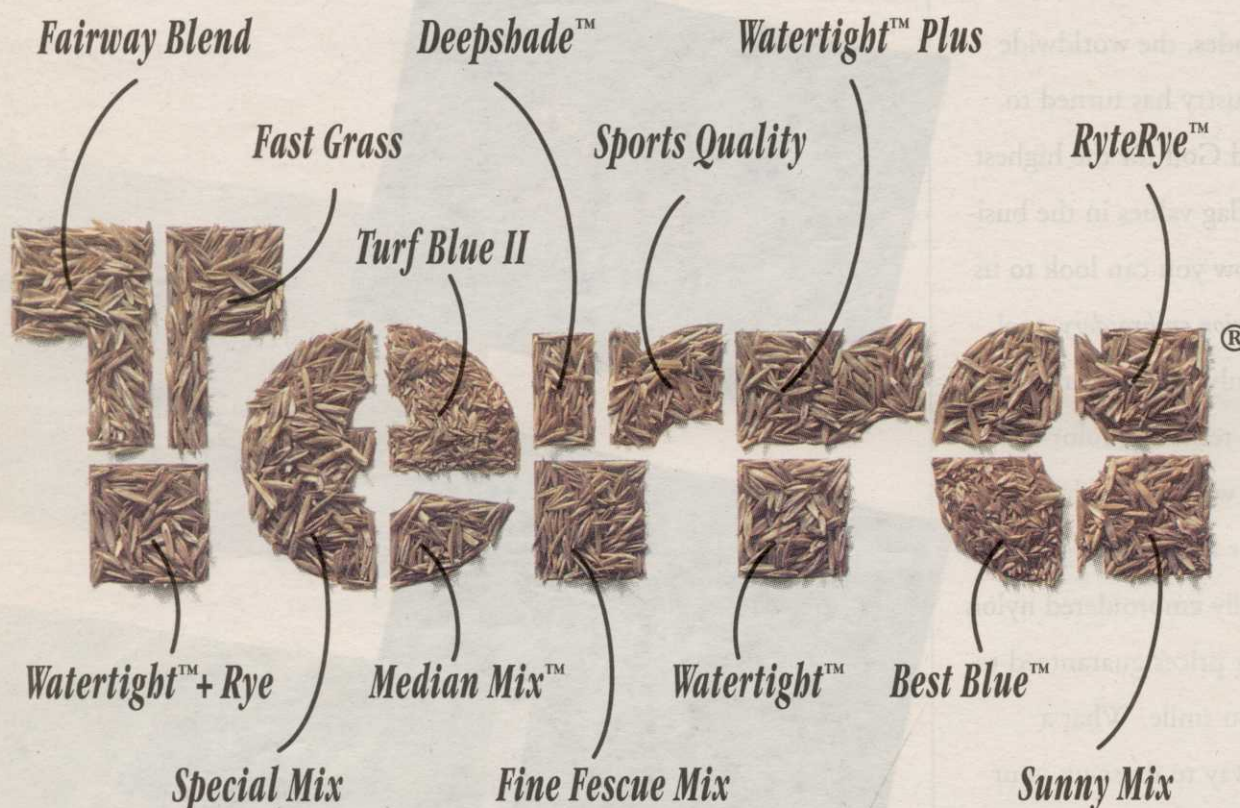
No date is set for the start of construction of the Nicklaus design. But it will be 18 holes and accessible to guests of the Grand Casinos. It is part of a project encompassing 1,750 acres.

Belfair building second course

BEAUFORT, S.C. — The developers of Belfair are breaking ground on their second golf course. As with the original Belfair course, Tom Fazio is designing this latest addition to the 1,100-acre private club community located here, five miles west of the Hilton Head Island Bridge.

The East Course at Belfair will be a par-71 layout measuring approximately 6,850 yards from the championship tees. Construction of the East Course began in January, with plans calling for nine holes to be completed this year and opened for play in the spring of 1998.

"We're really a year ahead of schedule," said J. David Everett, a principal in the Belfair development. "Originally, we had planned to start construction of the second course in early 1998. But we've decided to go ahead with nine holes now because of the accelerated real estate activity we've experienced."



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