

By MARK LESLIE

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — The Methodist College men's and women's golf teams, dominant forces in Division III college competition for several years, will have a full 18-hole course to play this fall.

A new nine holes, to be incorporated as the 4th through 12th holes, are under construction, with a late-May or early-

Methodist College teams to get full 18

June sprigging of turfgrass planned.

"We hope for limited play in the fall," said course architect Ross Forbes, who moved his Forbes Design Group offices here to concentrate on the project.

Methodist College's men

have claimed several Division III titles in the 1990s, while the women have won national championships in the combined Divisions II and III competition. The school has a strong PGA program, with more than 200 students.

The land, Forbes said, is "a

mixture. We're at the end of the sand hills, so we have touches of Pinehurst; and we have rolling land, so we also have touches of New England.

"It's got a lot of natural character as opposed to some other Fayetteville courses which tend to be pretty flat. A couple of deep

ravines run through the site. The design plays off those natural features, moving as little earth as possible."

Methodist College Golf Club will measure 6,240 yards and play to par 70.

Forbes Design Group's new offices are located at 3771 Ramsey St., Suite 109-350, Fayetteville, N.C. 28311; tel. 910-488-4549.

Trio forms GreenScape

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Golf course designer Harry Bowers has teamed with architect Bill Farrand and landscape architect Leigh Thurston to form GreenScape Design, a new comprehensive golf course planning firm based here.

The company advertises GreenScape Design as a "ready-made team of professionals," capitalizing on the fact that most golf projects require the combined efforts of two or more firms to supply the necessary skills—course architecture, landscape design, and clubhouse and support building architecture.

Bowers is an accomplished golf architect. "I'm a classic course designer," said Bowers, who started in the profession working for Robert Trent Jones, Sr. "But I don't try to force any philosophy on the client or the site. I like to let the land's natural features guide the design."

Bowers has worked with some challenging sites, especially in Michigan, such as The Rock (the aptly-named course on Drummond Island), the urban Inkster Valley course and Pierce Lake Golf Course in the farmlands near Ann Arbor. "City and county commissions are realizing that if they provide quality golf facilities, they can generate enough revenue to help fund the rest of their recreation projects," said Bowers.

Bowers' new partners are also strong in public projects. Thurston's landscape experience includes the restoration of the Michigan State Capitol grounds in Lansing and Ann Arbor's Parker Mill Park, which won a statewide design award in 1996. She and Bowers share credit for the City of Novi Recreation and Golf Course master plan, the project that introduced Thurston, Bowers and Farrand to one another a little over a year ago.

Architect of the original clubhouse at Travis Pointe Country Club outside Ann Arbor, Farrand enjoyed national recognition last year in Better Homes & Gardens for a residential renovation that earned the magazine's "Better by Design" award.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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