

Ill. course owner buys Fla. layout

SARASOTA, Fla. — Walter Smith, a former buyer for Sears, has moved south to become owner-operator at his second golf course.

Smith, who bought and ran his first course in Crystal Lake, Ill., after becoming disenchanted with corporate life, recently bought the semi-private, 18-hole Forest Lakes Golf Club here. Smith hopes to restore Forest Lakes, once one of Sarasota's pre-eminent layouts, and help it regain its popularity in the crowded Sarasota-Manatee counties market.

Smith got into the golf business six years ago when he bought Twin Ponds golf course in Crystal Lake. For the past year, he had been searching for a course in a warmer climate. He was in negotiations to buy a golf club in Tampa, but eventually decided on Forest Lakes, which he bought for \$4 million from Senior Tour Players Development Inc. of Boston. The sale included about 100 acres of land, the clubhouse, the Fairways restaurant and Forest Lake Tennis Club.

Smith has already installed new tee markers, ball washers and flagpins. He has also ordered

a fresh supply of white sand for the traps, which haven't been upgraded in seven years. Under the new ownership, the club will also accept credit cards for green fees and merchandise, a service which wasn't available in the past. Smith said his other goals are hosting a prominent local tournament at the club and rebuilding the membership.

Cupp selected to design Georgia residential golf project

FAYETTE, Ga. — Robert Cupp has been selected as golf course architect for the 18-hole layout at the new Legacy Hills Golf and Country Club in north Fayette County.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in January, but final plans and a clubhouse design by Foley Design Associates, Inc., of East Point, Ga., will be presented this month. The course will cover 147 acres of a 237-acre development. A 90-

acre tract surrounding the course will be developed as an upscale subdivision.

The project was originally called the Heritage Golf and Racquet Club, but the name was changed to Legacy Hills Golf and Country Club. Legacy Hills will sit between Ga. 278, Ga. 314 and Helmer Road, with portions of the property backing up to Camp Creek, which forms the boundary between Fayette and Clayton counties.

Australia



NIALL LAIRD TALKS:

GREENS MOWERS

"I feel that John Deere presently has the best greens mowers on the market. I've had 2243s for nearly four years now and have just purchased three 220s so we can alternate from walking to riding a couple times a week. The quality of cut is what I like best. They mow tight and true — not like some other units we've tried. The offset cutting units on the 2243s also completely eliminated

the triplex rings that our previous mowers had left on the perimeters of our greens. Plus, after 2,000 hours, we've had no engine or hydraulic breakdowns at all — which is amazing on machines like these. For a superintendent, when you have good greens, you're worth a million dollars, and our greens have never looked better since we started mowing them with the John Deeres."

For the name of your nearest distributor, or free literature, call 800-537-8233. Or write John Deere, PO Box 12217, RTP, NC 27709-9601. We know you're going to like what you see.



Four years and 2,000 hours each on two 2243s have convinced Niall Laird that "John Deere has the best greens mowers on the market."



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®

Ex-NFL player to build 4 private golf facilities

BATON ROUGE, La. — Former New Orleans Saints wide receiver Eric Martin has announced plans to build 18-hole, private golf courses in Louisiana as well as three other states.

Martin, the chairman of Stone Creek Land & Development Co., said the first of the four planned courses will be built about 40 miles outside Baton Rouge at the Asphodel Plantation, a 200-acre estate with a circa 1820 home listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The former National Football League receiver said the first golf member will be Michael Jordan of the National Basketball Association's Chicago Bulls.

Martin said the plantation home would be restored and serve as the clubhouse for the proposed Asphodel Club.

Golf course architect Tom Fazio is reportedly evaluating the site.

Martin said the Asphodel Club, like all future clubs, will be limited to 108 members who will be invited by Martin. Only 431 members will be allowed in all four clubs and each membership will reportedly cost \$250,000. Martin said he plans to build the other three courses in Alabama, Texas and California.