

IN BRIEF

HOUSTON — Keith Foster has broken ground on three new courses. Cypresswood, an existing 36-hole complex north of Houston, is under construction. In the suburbs of St. Louis, Foster is under construction with a private course. Persimmon Woods gets its name from the large stands of persimmon trees scattered throughout the 190-acre property. The Bandit in New Braunfels, Texas, is the third Foster project under construction.

BEDFORD TWP., Mich. — The firm of Don Childs Associates has completed design of a nine-hole golf course at the Fire Creek Golf Club here in this northern suburb of Toledo, Ohio. The 145-acre site includes a par-36, 3,200-yard course, a 52-lot home community, and some acreage for commercial development.

LANSING, Mich. — Russ Mitchell, former special products manager for United Horticultural Supply (UHS), has been promoted to manage the UHS Great Lakes Division. Among Mitchell's first duties was moving the Division administrative offices here from Avon, Ind. The Great Lakes Division encompasses Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

ESPN founder proposes stadium facility for Naples

By PETER BLAIS

NAPLES, Fla. — Naples resident and ESPN founder Bill Rasmussen plans to build a \$100 million, 54-hole corporate entertainment retreat that includes a 12,000-seat stadium overlooking the final four holes of the championship layout.

"We hope to have the facility ready for play by 1999," said Mark Kizziar of West-

ern Golf Properties, a project consultant. "To meet that goal we would have to start construction in 1997 and plant in 1998."

Regulatory and environmental permitting have been put on hold while Rasmussen concentrates his efforts as an organizer of the LG Championship, a Senior PGA Tour event scheduled for Feb. 7-9.

"We'll begin the permitting process as soon as the tournament is over," said a Rasmussen spokesperson.

Kizziar said participants expect little problem obtaining regulatory approvals since most of the 1,339-acre area is zoned residential. "A golf course makes much more environmental sense," he said.

John Norris, chairman of the Collier County Board of Commissioners, noted: "This project is attractive to us because of the positive tourism and business aspects. It is environmentally sensitive as well, since approximately 1,300 acres will be set aside essentially for green space forever and nearly 5,000 potential residential units are eliminated. This is exactly what the County Commission is trying to accomplish."

Plans call for the championship course to be the permanent home of the LG Championship. The second course would be a members-only facility; the third a resort track open to the public. No architects have been selected.

In addition to Rasmussen and Western Golf, other participants in Stadium Naples include Maricopa/Hardy Development of Naples and Tournament Services, Inc. of Tacoma, Wash.

According to developer David Mobley, chairman of Maricopa/Hardy: "This will

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JONES MAKES OUTER BANK DEPOSIT

Architect Rees Jones has completed the first golf community located on the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina. Located in Corolla, The Currituck Club is a daily-fee resort course that meanders through "dense vegetation along the sound," said Jones, who noted that "several spectacular dunes dominate the landscape." The facility is managed by Carolinas Golf Group, which also operates nearby Nags Head Golf Links. Landscapes Unlimited built the course. Wayne May is the superintendent.

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Galyean: Dr. Spa

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or Sausalito or some other sexy place. A lot of this has to do with electronics, faxes, FedEx packages, modems. It doesn't matter where you are if you have the reputation to produce."

Galyean left the big-city architecture and design world in the mid-1980s to become a freelance design consultant. A graduate of the Pratt Institute, he also serves as a thesis advisor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and lectures on resort master planning at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. Galyean said the resort work fits his personality and standards.

"Number one, the client understands that good design is essential to their success," he said. "There is, going in, a value placed by the owner and management on good design and there aren't a whole lot of building types that you can say that about.

"Two, the success is immediately readable. There's so much about this that's like theater. You're creating an environment for people to have a three or four-day experience. It's got a bit of fantasy about it. It's about making people happy, romantic, calm. It's a mission. You open the doors to a place and the guests comment in the first 48 hours like theater critics. I like that.

"The work is challenging. There's always disruptions, weather issues, seasonal issues — I like that, too. The need to integrate all these different disciplines in a symphonic way is essential to success. But it's not as if I'm the only one. I work with teams of great, talented people — hundreds of them."

Naples stadium

Continued from page 3

be an elegant and visually distinctive facility which combines in one building a clubhouse, built-in exterior sponsor display booths, permanent grandstand seating for up to 12,000 spectators and a limited number of Stadium Suites. Combined with spectator flow around the base of the structure [below the front of the grandstand], upward of 25,000 spectators will witness the final four holes of each round."

In addition to the three courses, the golf complex will include a hotel/resort featuring a major national hotel with corporate meeting facilities and several hundred golf cottages.

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