

## Lehman collaborates with Fought at Gallery

MARANA, Ariz. — Tom Lehman, the 1996 PGA Tour Player of the Year and British Open champ, has signed a golf course design agreement in collaboration with John Fought. The project, named The Gallery, is located in here in the foothills of the Tortolita Mountains, 20 miles north of downtown Tucson.

This Lehman/Fought alliance is in keeping with other recent collaborations which feature a prominent "name" player along with a more experienced architect. In this

case, Fought is a former PGA Tour player himself. Fought's playing highlights include winning the 1977 U.S. Amateur and two PGA Tour victories in 1979. When injuries halted Fought's playing career, he redirected his passion for the game into golf course design.

"Working on this project with Tom [Lehman] is a real pleasure for me," said Fought. "He has a terrific feel for the design business and brings a very fresh perspective to the strategic elements. He is also such a

first-class person, that he elevates any project he's associated with. We hope to do more projects together in the future."

Lehman doesn't plan to cut back his playing schedule to pursue golf course design projects. He will, however, significantly reduce his appearances in corporate outings and other outside events to make time for this new endeavor.

"I am very excited to be working with John, and I think The Gallery will quickly become known as one of the finest courses in the Southwest," said Lehman.

## Applegate

Continued from page 35

many women playing today, it's appropriate for an LPGA player to consult on the ladies' side. The only one who has come close to that has been Alice Dye, and rightfully so: a good player who understands the game."

A legacy of nearly three dozen designs since 1986 with Player, Applegate said, is "the thing I'm most proud of. Gary has his name on some good golf courses."

He particularly pointed out The Floridian in Stuart, designed for entrepreneur Wayne Hui-zenga, the just-opened Raspberry Falls in Leesburg, Va., and Mission Hills North in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Phil Jacobs, a senior designer based in Player's native South Africa, will relocate to Florida and work with Signature Design during the transition period. Jacobs has overseen all Player design projects outside the Americas.

When working with Player, the U.S. staff was restricted to North and South America. "Now, we will seek work elsewhere," Applegate said. The courses that his firm designs, he said, will be "playable, enjoyable and visually exciting, but ones that are not too difficult to play.

"That means, don't create artificial forced carries, and don't build greens that are so undulating that Tour pros and others can't handle them. With the equipment we have today, these greens are kept at 9 or 10 [Stimp-meter readings]. It's craziness. The average golfer doesn't hit seven or eight greens in a round, and architects penalize him when he does get there. We've [Player Design] been criticized for being too easy on the putting greens; but golfers agree with us."

Regarding the contributions of Touring pros to designs, Applegate said: "They understand shot value and degree of difficulty, and if they pay attention during those pro-ams, they see how regular golfers play.

"To the extent that a really good Tour player can give input, everybody wins. You don't expect them to know about permitting, grading, drainage, grassing — those types of technical issues that you have to deal with. But they can sure help a design."

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While Applegate is its president and sole shareholder, Signature Course Design's senior designer is Tim Freeland and its design associate is J. Scott Applegate, Jim's son who is in charge of CADD system. Freeland was with Player Design for 7 years. Larry Mancour, who owns and operates his own golf course in Michigan, is the firm's construction and design supervisor. Bill Deitsch is its traveling construction supervisor.



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