

IN BRIEF

LIGONIER, Pa. — The picturesque, exclusive and acclaimed Rolling Rock Club will celebrate its expansion to a full 18-hole layout with opening ceremonies in early May. Architect Brian Silva designed the new nine. A change of administrative guard is also underway. John Goettlicher, head golf professional at the club the past 14 years, retired earlier this year. He will be replaced by Charles "Chip" Swanson, a longtime assistant at the Fox Chapel Club in Pittsburgh.

♦♦♦

SIMSBURY, Conn. — The Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co. of Orlando, Fla., has signed a 10-year agreement to manage the Tower Ridge Country Club here. Palmer plans to upgrade the 18-hole course and improve services at the 350-member private facility. Kyle Kinney was named Tower Ridge's new general manager. The agreement is the second recent venture by Palmer's group in Connecticut. In December, Palmer purchased the Oronoque Country Club in Stratford for \$4.5 million.

**SMITH FOLLOWS TOUGH ACT WITH WUSKOWHAN**

Teaching-pro-turned-course-designer Rick Smith has followed up his acclaimed Signature course at the Treetops Sylvan Resort with the Wuskowhan Players Club in Holland, Mich., on the shores of Lake Michigan. Built on sandy, heavily wooded land adjacent to the Pigeon River, Wuskowhan is a private course layout around 84 acres of undisturbed wetlands.

Pinehurst reopens No. 2 after extensive greens restoration

By J. BARRY MOTHES

PINEHURST, N.C. — Pinehurst No. 2, the crown jewel of the Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, reopened here on March 1, following a 9-month hiatus for greens restoration.

The putting surfaces on the Donald Ross-designed layout have new greens mix and drain tile, new grass and expanded putting surfaces. Green shapes were restored to their earlier, larger perimeters. The refurbishing effort was designed to improve playing conditions for Pinehurst guests and in preparation for the 1999 U.S. Open, the first to be held here.

Pinehurst officials worked with the United States Golf Association (USGA) and golf course architect Rees Jones, who has helped restore many of the country's older, classic courses.

"Pinehurst No. 2 is sacred ground in golf," said Jones, who grew up playing on a Donald Ross course. "This is where Donald Ross lived and worked. It is his ultimate design because it is his

most hands-on creation. Ross kept nurturing No. 2 and tweaking it throughout his life. Therefore, his design intent had to be preserved. That was our mission."

Contours on the putting surface and slopes of each green were documented on a 3-foot-by-3-foot grid, accurate to 1/8 of an inch. The greens were cored out, which removed old mix and drain tile. Bottom contours were graded to mirror the top contours, insuring consistency throughout each layer of the green. Steel and concrete markers were installed underground adjacent to each green as permanent reference points for the future.

The new greens on No. 2 have been seeded with Penn G-2, a dense and heat-resistant strain of bentgrass used on the new Pinehurst No. 8 greens. "They're firm and fast but very fair," said Brad Kocher, Pinehurst's director of course maintenance. "Donald Ross designed the greens on No. 2 to be firm and fast and we feel this is the best means to

Continued on page 7

Falcon Spray In The Wind



Falcon spray booms provide the best drift control in the world

- Protect yourself and the environment from chemical exposure.
- Be efficient, spray when you need to, not when the wind lets you.
- Government tests show less drift in a 24 mph wind than an open boom in a 6 mph wind.
- Public complaints are eliminated by enclosing the spray.

Falcon spray booms are available for every requirement, from 40 inch self contained to 20 foot booms.

For more information contact your local John Deere Golf & Turf Dealer or fax (306) 975-0499.