

Still awaiting renovation, Ross course may reopen

BEDFORD, Pa. — Officials here at the Bedford Springs golf course are expected to open at least a portion of the historic but dormant layout this month.

"We're anxious to get the thing going," said Sidney Reese, executive director for the Dauphin County General Authority, which owns the golf course.

The original plans called for renovations of the Donald Ross-designed course to be finished last year, with a grand reopening this year. But those plans were scrapped when the Bedford County Developmental Authority failed to perform environmental remediation on the 169-acre property.

Course architect Rees Jones, retained to handle the redesign in 1996, has since left the project. Course officials are now studying proposals from two other golf course architects.

Touched-up Tallahassee nine to reopen this fall

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The city has closed the Jake Gaither Golf Course here for major renovations and redesign of the popular facility. The 41-year-old, nine-hole golf course will be closed for about six months, with a grand re-opening scheduled for late fall.

The renovated Jake Gaither Golf Course will feature enlarged greens built to United States Golf Association specifications, new tee areas accommodating a wide variety of golfers, and a new irrigation system. The planned improvements also include new cart paths, new Bermudagrass fairways and a new 7th hole lengthened to a par-4, making the nine-hole course a par-36 layout.

The redesign was handled by Burandt Golf Course Planning and Design of Salt Lake City, while the irrigation was designed by Gulf Coast Irrigation Consultants of Pensacola, Fla. Construction will be done by FourSome, Inc., of Vestal, N.Y.

Virginia Beach TPC may host Nike event

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The planned TPC of Virginia Beach could be home to a Nike Tour event as early as spring 1999, according to *The Virginian-Pilot*.

When city officials announced plans to build the new Tournament Players Club here in the Lake Ridge section, they also announced the PGA Tour also has an option to host a Nike Tour event at the course.

Keith Tomlinson, vice president of development of golf course properties for the PGA Tour, told the *Virginian-Pilot*, "We think there's a good opportunity for a Nike Tour event there. Obviously, the PGA Tour has a long-standing relationship with The Michelob Championship [held annually at the Kingsmill Golf Club in Williamsburg] and would not do anything that would present a conflict."

If the PGA Tour exercised an option for a Nike event, the city would be asked to sponsor it for not less than five years. The Nike tournament would likely be held in the spring prior to Memorial Day. Beginning this year, The Michelob Championship will be held annually in the fall.

Plans now call for remediation and upgrades at Bedford Springs this spring and early summer, with a late spring opening for some of the golf course. It's also possible there will be a late-summer opening of more holes, but the course may also be closed for play to accommodate renovations.

The clubhouse will be redecorated this year at its present site. Plans eventually call for relocating the clubhouse from a flood plain to a higher elevation, where tennis courts were previously located.

Operator purchases another Pa. facility

SHOEMAKERSVILLE, Pa. — Reading, Pa. businessman James S. Froelich has purchased the Perry Golf Course for an undisclosed amount and plans to recondition the 150-acre, par-70 layout along Route 61 north of Shoemakersville.

Froelich, who also operates the May Apple Golf Links near Carlisle, Pa., which he bought in 1994, purchased the Perry layout from six owners who

had operated it over the past two decades. Many of the regular golfers at the Perry Golf Course are senior citizens and Froelich has pledged to keep green fees the same or lower while improving course conditions.

Froelich's plans for the Perry Golf Course include enlarging the tee areas, replacing carts, installing cart paths that will lengthen the playing season, and improving maintenance practices.



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