

BRIEFS



DOSCHER JOINS NORTHEAST GOLF

FAIR HAVEN, N.J. — Chris Doscher, a landscape architecture graduate from the University of Massachusetts, has joined the firm of The Northeast Golf Co. At UMass, he received the Honor Award for the American Society of Landscape Architects for Outstanding Achievement in Design. As a design associate he will assist design development and construction documentation for new golf course and renovation projects.



Chris Doscher

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VAIL PLANS BEAVER CREEK COURSE

VAIL, Colo. — Vail Resorts, Inc. has announced plans to invest approximately \$59 million for the upcoming winter season in resort improvements for its Vail, Breckenridge, Keystone and Beaver Creek mountain resorts. Included are a new golf course and high-speed four passenger chairlift at Beaver Creek. Approximately \$9 million is planned to be invested at the Beaver Creek resort. Preliminary planning for the golf course development near Beaver Creek is awaiting local government approval.

PRIMM VALLEY OPENS 2ND FAZIO

NEVADA — Primm Valley Golf Club, home of the Tom Fazio-designed Lakes Course, has opened its Desert Course off Interstate 15, four miles south of Primadonna Casino Resorts' properties at the Southern Nevada/California border.

In contrast to the lush landscaping and water features of the Lakes Course, Fazio created a more challenging playing option at the arid Desert Course, with narrower fairways melding into natural desert landscape with many varieties of cacti and palm.

ASGCA DONATES TO 3 PROJECTS

CHICAGO — As part of its second annual President's Grant Program, the American Society of Golf Course Architects Foundation has presented grants to the Indiana Golf Foundation (IGF), Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Tufts Archives. IGF will use its grant to help launch its new golf camp for at-risk children. The GCSAA grant is for its "Investing in the Beauty of Golf Campaign." Tufts Archives in Pinehurst, N.C., houses many drawings and works from Donald Ross and others.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Colorado golf boom keeps on ticking

By ALLEN BEST

In 1992 Fred Green wanted to build a membership-driven golf course about 15 miles west of Vail, Colo., the nation's largest ski area. As a hedge, he drafted plans to first excavate the rich gravel deposits.

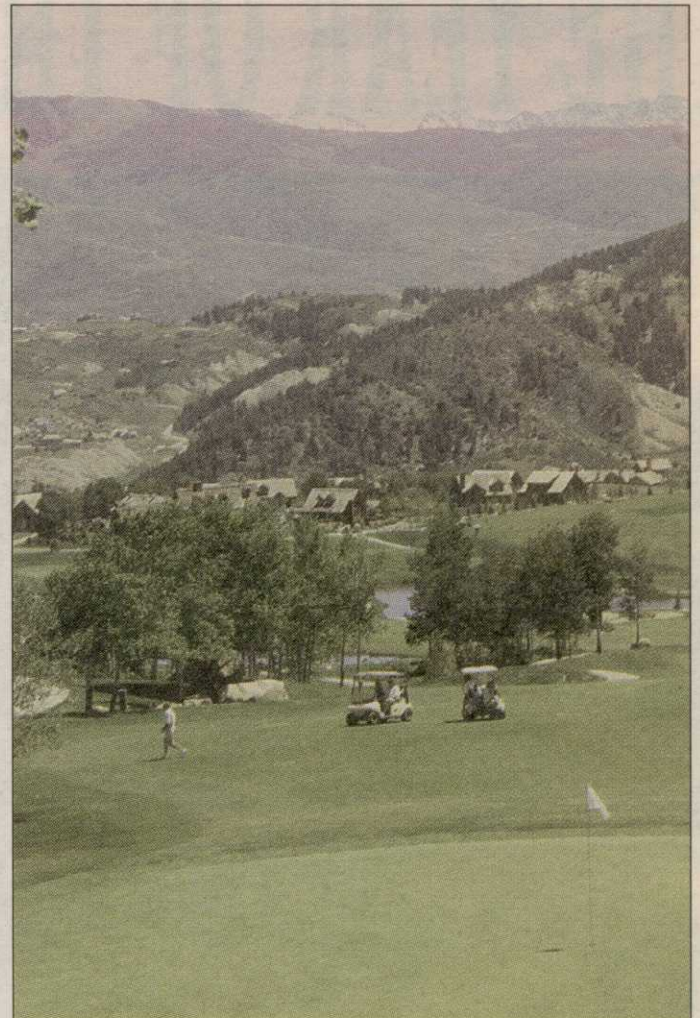
Green started selling memberships at \$50,000, quickly upped it to \$80,000 and, soon, greens overlaid the gravel. The membership roster is full at 250, with invitation-only membership fees now believed to cost well in excess of \$100,000. Presence of a railroad track bisecting the course never hampered sales. There is no associated housing nor hotel.

That course, Eagle Springs, is among the most startling success stories in a valley exploding with golf courses. Five courses were built in the first 30 years after the Vail Ski Area opened in 1962. Five more (including a short course) have opened in just the last four years. But at least 10 others are planned, or double the number already built, in this valley of 30,000 people where it has snowed twice on the Fourth of July during the 1990s.

A parallel boom is occurring nearby in the 42-mile-long Roaring Fork Valley, home to the Aspen and Snowmass ski areas. The first two courses opened in the 1970s, and weren't followed until the Maroon Creek Club opened in 1994; memberships cost \$150,000. Today's 117 holes of golf in that valley could grow to 176 by the next millennium.

Summit County, another enclave of ski resorts along the Interstate 70 corridor, has three courses that will be supplemented by two and possibly more. Elevation there is 8,000 to 9,000 feet, frosty in all months save for July.

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Cordillera Resort outside Vail.



The 17th hole at the Pete Dye-designed Whistling Straits outside Kohler, Wis.

Whistling Straits even stuns Dye

KOHLER, Wis. — "In my lifetime I've never seen anything like this. Anyplace. Period." Speaking "with some degree of modesty," architect Pete Dye was describing his Whistling Straits, a links-type course on the shores of Lake Michigan which opened for public play on July 7.

Stretching along two miles of Great Lakes shoreline, the 18-hole facility pays homage to the origins of golf by stressing that it is a walking course only and will have caddies. The PGA of America has already selected Whistling Straits as host site for the 1999 Club Pro Championship, a national title tournament.

Whistling Straits is the latest addition to the resort complex owned by Kohler Co. and centered in the Village of Kohler that already includes Dye's Blackwolf Run, and the AAA Five Diamond resort

hotel The American Club. Blackwolf Run hosted the U.S. Women's Open Championship in July.

Offering a view of the Great Lake from each of its 18 holes, Whistling Straits has fescue fairways and massive sand bunkers. It weaves 14 holes in nearly uninterrupted sequence along the two miles of lakefront. Eight holes hug the shoreline where the Straits Course plays from just above beach level, then rises nearly 80 feet to bluffs and elevated berms that provide panoramic views of the watery horizon.

The par-72 Straits Course plays to 7,288 yards from the championship tees. Each hole has five tee placements. Occupying a 560-acre site, Whistling Straits will eventually offer two 18-hole courses. Joining

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Player: Keeping busy in Asia & busier in U.S.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — After scaling back his group office in Singapore as a result of the economic downturn, Gary Player remains bullish on Asia as well as the growth of the public golf market around the world. GCN recently caught up with the living legend to discuss the Asian situation and the current project in his own backyard.



Gary Player

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Golf Course News: Now that you've scaled back the group office in Singapore, where do you see your position in the Asian market?

Gary Player: "We're still very positive about Singapore. It's a very important part of our presence in Asia. As things come back to normal there's no doubt that we'll return in full force. I continue to make my visits and I refuse to disregard the market just because they're having a few problems. As far as the market stands now, we still have projects going and we're optimistic. But that's life, isn't it, trials and errors."

GCN: How will the Asian golf market get back on its feet?

GP: I think public golf for every market, not just Asia, is going to be key. A man like Tiger Woods has had a great influence. It's so terribly important that a young man like Tiger, who's in such an important role, visit Asia as well as South Africa and other re-

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