

Weiskopf eyes '99 opening for Cedar River

By PETER BLAIS

BELLAIRE, Mich. — Tom Weiskopf expects to make a big splash near the shore of Lake Bellaire when his new Cedar River Golf Club opens at Shanty Creek/Schuss Mountain here in June 1999.

Planting and sodding should be completed by late this summer at Cedar River, the fourth championship-length layout at the northwest Michigan resort, joining Summit Golf Club (designed by Bill Diddel), Schuss Mountain Golf Club (Warner Bowen/Bill Newcomb) and The Legend Golf Club (Arnold Palmer).

Shanty Creek President and Chief Executive Officer Terry Schieber believes Cedar River will rival The Legend — which has been rated one of the top resort courses in the Midwest — as Shanty Creek's main attraction. Green fees will be a comparable \$125.

"Cedar River is Tom Weiskopf's first design in Michigan and he's going all out to make it a top-flight course," Schieber



The 7th hole of the new, Tom Weiskopf-designed Cedar River Golf Club.

said. Schieber believes the layout itself is at least the equal of Boyne USA's Bay Harbor Golf Club, the Art Hills' design in Petoskey overlooking Lake Michigan that is receiving rave reviews.

"This [Cedar River] may be a better layout, but it's tough to compete with the lakeside setting of Bay Harbor," Schieber said.

Cedar River, which affords views and

occasionally plays along its namesake, is a wooded layout with generous landing areas and greens averaging 6,500 square feet.

Greens, tees and fairways are planted with Providence bentgrass. The roughs are Kentucky bluegrass.

The course sits within 580 acres, with housing lots along parts of it. Pittman, Poe & Associates is the landscape plan-

ner and H&D (Hodgkiss & Douma) Inc. of Petoskey the course builder.

Shanty Creek selected Weiskopf, who has been designing courses since 1983, because of his design ability and to differentiate the Cedar River track from others in golf-rich Northern Michigan. Michigan led the country in new course openings for four consecutive years between 1993 and 1996.

"Just about every major designer in the country has a course in this area," Schieber noted. "The Weiskopf name will help us stand out."

Among Weiskopf's award-winning courses (designed in cooperation with Jay Morrish) are Loch Lomond Golf Club, Luss, Scotland; Troon Golf & Country Club, Scottsdale, Ariz.; Forest Highlands, Flagstaff, Ariz.; Double Eagle Golf Club, Galena, Ohio; and Troon North Golf Club, Scottsdale.

The construction superintendent is David Faucher, a 1998 winner of the GCSAA's Environmental Steward Award while overseeing The Legends. Faucher plans to stay on as head superintendent once Cedar River opens.

"Making Dave the superintendent at Cedar River was one way for us to keep him around a little longer," Schieber said.

Prince Edward Island government partners with resort for course

By MARK LESLIE

BRUDENELL, Prince Edward Island, Canada — The second course at Brudenell River Resort is being built in this oceanside resort community.

Developed by PEI Golf in partnership with the Prince Edward Island provincial government, the course sits on 200 acres of Brudenell River Provincial Park.

Jason Straka of Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design said in July that all the

holes were cleared, nine were shaped and construction was on target for an opening early next August.

"We have the best of both worlds," he said. "On several holes you feel like you're on top of the world, playing along the Brudenell River with panoramic views. The other holes are in dense woods, giving an extremely secluded feeling where you can't see from one hole to another."

The designers had so much land to

route "that we didn't have to disturb much, other than tree clearing," said Straka, who is working with architect Dana Fry on the project. "Boundaries for the wetlands were established and we avoided them as much as possible."

The terrain, Straka said, is surprisingly rolling for this island. Several tee shots drop more than 20 or 30 feet.

The layout carries over a few deep ravines, a finger of the river and several wetlands. Yet, the layout shrinks from

7,200 to 4,900 yards over five sets of tees, the forward ones allowing for play around the hazards.

The facility will contain a learning center consisting of three practice holes, a short-game area, practice range and putting course.

Kings County Construction, which remodeled the adjacent course working with course architect Graham Cooke, is building the new track. Shapers are Ernie and Mike Overary.

Colorado boom

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Woolery, who left Austin, Texas, three years ago, reports golfing in the Vail and Aspen areas is second to none, "and I've played all the prominent places in the country. With the name Vail attached to it, there's an expectation of quality."

The Vail area is unique in the national golfing boom because of high prices combined with scarce tee times, Steiner said. "Look at us as being one of the nation's hottest markets as far as used tee times."

That scarcity has ski and resort company executive Thompson pondering new ways to give tee times to client hotels. Instead of allocating blocks of time, he said, hotel guests may have to reserve times seven days in advance. Unbooked times could then be used in other ways.

How soon will this boom end?

The hunch in Vail and Aspen seems to be that private land will be gone before the last of vigorous and affluent baby boomers.

That has some developers eyeing the federal tracts that compose 80 percent of the land.

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