

Reaching Out



This package of stories is one of an ongoing series covering initiatives and projects developed to bring new golfers into the game, particularly youths and minorities. People wishing to submit projects should contact the editorial department of Golf Course News at 106 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096; tel. 207-846-0600.

# Ault, Clark & others aid Arkansas' first First Tee-endorsed project

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The state's first First Tee facility is drawing support from the likes of public officials like Gov. Mike Huckabee and donated help from such golf industry firms as architects Ault, Clark & Associates.

"We feel it is our obligation to the sport for our firm to support this important program that al-

lows all children and beginners the opportunity to learn the great game of golf," said Tom Clark of Ault, Clark. Working with First Tee Executive Director Tod Leiweke, Park Director Bill Bunten and city officials, Ault, Clark has completed a master plan. Construction is planned to start early fall, with opening in

late winter or the spring of 1999.

Huckabee said of the project: "It not only creates additional recreational opportunities for our youth, but it will do so through a sport that instills honesty, integrity and character."

The existing nine-hole Rock Creek Golf Course will be the site for the renovation project.

Plans call for a sheltered 60-station practice range; three practice holes that will play through woodlands including a par-3, -4, and -5; one-half-acre multi-tiered putting course; and chipping complex that includes subtle mounding and multiple sand and grass bunkers as well as a 10,000-square-foot bentgrass putting green.



## Whistling Straits raises \$500K for The First Tee

KOHLER, Wis. (AP) — Former President George Bush said The First Tee program will teach young people valuable lessons in life as well as how to play golf.

"The First Tee program has to do with life," Bush said before teeing off in a fund-raiser to open Whistling Straits, a new Pete Dye-designed course near Kohler. "By giving a kid a shot at the American dream, it has to do with what sports means in a person's makeup.

"It has a lot to do with the real business of living. It's about giving some kid a shot not just at playing this marvelous game of golf that we all love, but to give them a shot at the true meaning of life. And I mean that seriously."

The First Tee was started last year by the World Golf Foundation to create new facilities and programs to make golf more affordable and accessible for youths. Foursomes paid \$30,000 to play July 6 in the grand opening of the new course, raising \$500,000 for First Tee in Wisconsin.

## Whistling Straits

Continued from page 31

the Straits Course in the year 2000 will be another Dye design to be called the Creeks Course.

Adding another authentic touch to the Straits golf experience, a flock of Scottish black face sheep is planned to wander the property.

Construction of Whistling Straits began in 1995 after Kohler Co. completed a complicated land acquisition from Wisconsin Electric Power Co. (WEPCO), which had held the property for many years as a potential nuclear power plant location. During the 1950s, the site was operated by the U.S. Army as an anti-aircraft training facility, Camp Haven. Kohler Co. invested considerable initial resources in the environmental clean-up of waste left behind by the abandoned military base, as well as years of phantom illegal dumping on the site.



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