

BRIEFS



GRAHAM, PANKS SPLIT

Player consultant David Graham and architect Gary Panks are terminating their 10-year association in golf course design. Graham is concentrating on a full PGA Senior Tour schedule, while Panks will continue to focus on course design and share more of the credit with his staff, including senior designers Gary Stephenson and Michael Rhoads. The firm will continue to operate its Phoenix and Dallas offices under the name of Gary Panks Associates.

DOAK HIRES PLACEK

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Renaissance Golf Design has named Don Placek as a design associate. With a degree in environmental design from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Placek has joined the firm to assist primarily to develop concept drawings, construction documents and other graphic-related areas. He has been in the golf course design and construction field for nearly eight years, spending six years at Dye Designs in Denver. His responsibilities will include various levels of involvement with new construction, restoration and consulting.

PUTTING CHALLENGES GO FORWARD

ORLANDO, Fla. — Classic Golf Group, Inc. has been hired by Golf Challenge Corp. to design a "putting challenge course" along International Drive here. Len deBoer, president of Classic Golf, said the course will feature challenging Tifdwarf greens and will give golfers an opportunity to win prize packages, including a \$25,000 cash grand prize. Construction is underway. A spokesman for Golf Challenge Corp. said the Orlando Putting Challenge Course could be the first of many such projects to be located in high-traffic, resort destination areas.

OSU HONORS ALUMNUS HURDZAN

COLUMBUS, OHIO — Golf course architect Dr. Michael Hurdzan was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Alumni Society in November at Ohio State University. This award recognizes alumni who have brought distinction to themselves, their college and OSU through participation, commitment, and leadership in their profession and community.



Mike Hurdzan



Rolling Rock Club's new 15th hole, with the new nine-hole addition designed by Brian Silva.

One of nation's best 9, Rolling Rock Club, goes 18

LEWISBURG, Pa. — After 76 years as perhaps the best nine-hole course in America, Rolling Rock Club has expanded to 18 holes.

The original Donald Ross-designed loop was joined last year by nine new holes from the hand of architect Brian Silva.

A partner with Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish, Silva and Mungeam, Silva worked to match the unique architectural style embodied in the original

nine. While Silva is an experienced interpreter of vintage design — he just finished the restoration of 185 bunkers at Ross' Seminole Golf Club in North Palm Beach, Fla. — the original holes at Rolling Rock Club (RRC) proved a tough act to follow.

"Donald Ross was no fool. He used all the good land back in 1917," Silva explained. "The site we worked with was very difficult; it was essentially the side of a mountain. It took us close to a dozen

route plans to make it work. While Ross was able to gently lay his golf holes onto design-friendly terrain, we were forced to stair-step the holes up and down the side of this mountain. In doing that, we knew right from the start there would be hard edges to the new holes, unlike the comfortable edges of the original nine.

"Our greatest efforts in matching design styles can be found in the green and bunker designs. We consciously set out

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Augustine Golf Club's 1st hole, a 417-yard par-4. The high-end daily-fee facility designed by Rick Jacobson in Stafford, Va., opened in 1996, to rave reviews, earning 5th place in Golf Digest's Best New Upscale Public Golf Course rating.

Jacobson, a Chicago guy, goes global

An internship with the Madison (Wis.) Park Planning Department, under Art Johnson, who dabbled in golf course design, plus a chance reception at the golf course architectural offices of Ken Killian and Dick Nugent, led to Rick Jacobson entering the field of course design. Now, after years of working with Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. and then alongside Jack Nicklaus, Jacobson is making inroads of his own in the golf world. In 1991 the University of Wisconsin landscape architecture graduate started Jacobson Golf Course Design, and later earned acceptance into the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Nowadays, he is working on projects from East to West Coast and as far away as Japan, including renovating Des Moines (Iowa) Golf and Country Club in preparation for the 1999 U.S. Senior Open, and designing Michael Jordan Family Golf Centers in Chicago and elsewhere. We caught up with him in his Libertyville, Ill., offices.

Q & A

Golf Course News: You worked briefly with architect Roger Packard but, beforehand, you worked for Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. How did that experience help you?

Rick Jacobson: Wadsworth made arrangements with Roger for me to work for them on one project, Riverside Club in Dallas. That evolved into a full-time job and was an exceptional introduction to the golf course architecture field. I was exposed to one of the best contractors in the world and their construction materials and techniques, then got the technical background and plan production in Packard's office.

Spending time on site with a contractor is literally a prerequisite for anybody pursuing a career in golf course architecture. You've got to be cognizant of the processes involved during construction of a project, so that when you're making

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Palmer to get Rossi Award

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Golfing legend Arnold Palmer will receive the 1998 Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award here during the annual Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) banquet, Feb. 6.

"The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the game of golf and its growth, and who have inspired others by their example," said GCBA President Paul Eldredge. "I don't know who we could possibly give the award to who fits that description any better than Arnold Palmer."

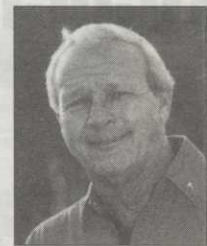
The award is named for Don Rossi, who served as executive director of the National Golf Foundation from 1970 to 1983 and of the GCBA from 1984 until his death in 1990.

"I am very pleased to receive this award," said the 68-year-old Palmer. "I knew Don Rossi and appreciate the role he played in building the industry around our game. To receive an award named for him from the golf course builders — who are the backbone of our industry — is indeed an honor."

Palmer will, however, be unable to attend the GCBA banquet. Ed Seay, his partner in Palmer Course Design, will accept the award on his behalf.

The son of a golf course superintendent in Latrobe, Pa., Palmer

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Arnold Palmer