

PGA champ Brooks designs Texas links

FORT WORTH, Texas — Construction has started on Southern Oaks Golf Club, an upscale daily-fee course designed by Mark Brooks Golf and located 15 miles south of downtown Fort Worth.

Southern Oaks will feature an 18-hole layout designed by Brooks, the 1996 PGA Champion, and also an expansive 15-acre practice and teaching area, an 8,400-square-foot clubhouse and an indoor/outdoor pavilion with seating for more than 200 people that will be used for tournaments and corporate outings.

Brooks, a seven-time Tour winner and 14-year member of the PGA Tour, has taken advantage of the site's natural landscape and wooded areas. The 300-acre course and 350-home residential community is being developed by Timberchase Development Co. Southern Oaks is the second project for Brooks and developer Peter Thomas, president of Timberchase.

"The routing is the heartbeat of any course, and in many cases, is the only permanent feature of a golf course," said Brooks in announcing the project. "The Southern Oaks project will benefit tremendously from its natural environment, and I look forward to creating the centerpiece of this unique community."

NationBank of Texas, Fort Worth Division, and a group of private investors are financing the project. Wadsworth Golf

Construction of Plainfield, Ill., is building the course and Southern Irrigation Consultants of San Antonio is designing the irrigation system. Ken Schaumburg Architects of Fort Worth is designing the clubhouse. Southern Oaks will be managed by Mark Brooks Golf and is scheduled to open in October 1998.

Notre Dame layout on schedule for 1999 opening

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Work has progressed on Notre Dame's new 18-hole Warren Golf Course far more smoothly and quickly than designers Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore had anticipated.

All but two or three of the 18 holes had been shaped by early December. Crenshaw and Coore said the sandy soil at the site northeast of the famous campus is one key reason why

construction has gone so well.

Coore has said the sand-based soil discovered by construction crews under a clay layer has qualities consistent with the United States Golf Association greens mix. The site itself features gently rolling land with mature trees.

Grass will be planted in late spring or summer and the course is expected to be ready for play by spring 1999.

Performing daily both on and off the course.

Work begins on 7th RTJ Trail site

PRATTVILLE, Ala. — The latest stop in Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is unfolding here with preliminary clearing work.

The suburban Montgomery site is scheduled to include at least three, and possibly four, 18-hole courses. Developer Bobby Vaughn of Sun Belt Golf Corp. is guiding the project in conjunction with the state's Retirement Systems of Alabama, which is building the complex.

The first 18-hole course, which will be built above a bluff, is scheduled to open by fall 1998. The second course includes routing on the bluff. A third course is planned around the lower lands and would play around water. A fourth course, which is in the proposal stages, would be built on the opposite side of Interstate 65.

The other Robert Trent Jones Trail sites in Alabama are in Huntsville, Anniston-Gadsden, Birmingham, Auburn-Opelika, Dothan and Mobile.



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