

## BRIEFS

**JUPITER, Fla.** — The 427 golf courses built in the United States in 1997 have had a positive impact on the economy, according to Richard Norton, a National Golf Foundation vice president. Construction projects completed last year represented a total investment of roughly \$1 billion, added nearly 8,000 new jobs and \$400 million in gross sales/output to the U.S. economy. Norton estimates these facilities contribute from \$14 million to \$20 million in taxes.

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**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** — Greg Norman is designing an 18-hole track that will be the centerpiece of a 1,200-acre development called The Point. This is Norman's first project in North Carolina. It will feature 13 holes that play along Lake Norman. The private course is being developed by Crescent Resources and will open fall 1999.

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**PHOENIX** — Del Webb Corp., a leading builder of active-adult communities for people 55 and older, has closed the sale of its course and country club facilities at its Terravita community in north Scottsdale. The property was sold to an equity membership group comprised of community residents. The purchase price was not disclosed.

## Best golf cities by size

(Number in parentheses indicates position in overall rank)

## BIG CITIES

Population more than 1 million

## Top 10

1. Salt Lake City (59)
2. Greensboro, N.C. (84)
3. Minneapolis (103)
4. Cleveland (112)
5. Oklahoma City (113)
6. Austin, Texas (124)
7. Nassau, N.Y. (128)
8. San Antonio, Texas (134)
9. Milwaukee (151)
10. Denver (164)

## Bottom 10 (Worst first)

1. New York City (308)
2. Bergen, N.J. (307)
3. Charlotte, N.C. (306)
4. Philadelphia (305)
5. San Francisco (304)
6. Orange County, Calif. (302)
7. Oakland, Calif. (301)
8. Raleigh, N.C. (300)
9. Washington, D.C. (294)
10. San Jose, Calif. (293)

## MEDIUM CITIES

Population 250,000 to 1 million

## Top 10

1. Rockford, Ill. (12)
2. Davenport, Iowa (23)
3. Dutchess County, N.Y. (25)
4. Ann Arbor, Mich. (27)
5. Mobile, Ala. (31)
6. Spokane, Wash. (33)
7. Boise, Idaho (34)
8. Provo, Utah (35)
9. Peoria, Ill. (36)
10. Springfield, Mass. (40)

## MEDIUM CITIES (cont.)

Population 250,000 to 1 million

## Bottom 10 (Worst first)

1. Richmond, Va. (309)
2. Wilmington, Del. (303)
3. Fayetteville, Ark. (294)
4. Modesto, Calif. (290)
5. York, Pa. (284)
6. Honolulu (272)
7. El Paso (266)
8. Birmingham, Ala. (265)
9. Stockton, Calif. (262)
10. Beaumont, Texas (260)

## SMALL CITIES

Population less than 250,000

## Top 10

1. Duluth, Minn. (1)
2. Rapid City, S.D. (2)
3. Fargo, N.D. (3)
4. Waterloo, Iowa (4)
5. Terre Haute, Ind. (5)
6. Bismarck, N.D. (6)
7. Yuma, Ariz. (7)
8. Cheyenne, Wyo. (8)
9. Fort Collins, Colo. (9)
10. Barnstable, Mass. (10)

## Bottom 10 (Worst first)

1. Las Cruces, N.M. (299)
2. Dover, Del. (298)
3. Texarkana, Texas (297)
4. Hourma, La. (296)
5. Vineland, N.J. (292)
6. Rocky Mount, N.C. (291)
7. Odessa, Texas (285)
8. Laredo, Texas (283)
9. Naples, Fla. (281)
10. Longview, Texas (280)

## Smaller is usually better when it comes to golf availability in U.S. cities

NEW YORK—Duluth, Minn. and Rapid City, S.D., rank first and second, respectively, while Richmond, Va., and New York City are dead last when it comes to access to good, affordable public and municipal golf among America's cities, according to a recent Golf Digest survey.

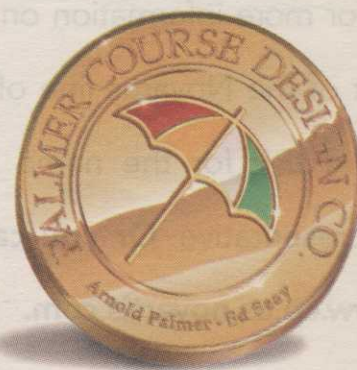
While golf is a game that is notoriously urban-unfriendly, many cities have much to offer the urban-dwelling duffer. In its upcoming July issue, *Golf Digest* lists America's 309 cities and identifies which are the best and worst for golfers.

A joint effort between the Golf Digest Research Resource Center and the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University, the ranking was based on six criteria: number of public courses per capita; number of municipal courses per capita; number of public courses per population of golfers; number of municipal courses per population of golfers; average star rating of the courses listed in *Golf Digest's* biennial "Places To Play" guide; and the value rating of the courses listed in "Places To Play."

After every city was ranked in each criteria, the rankings were totaled and divided by six to determine an overall

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## Palm Springs site gets environmental nod



**PALM SPRINGS, Calif.** — An environmental impact report for a proposed 18-hole track here at The Preserve at Mountain Falls says noise, traffic,

and the impact on plant and animals with the construction of a course is manageable.

The report is scheduled to be voted on by the City Council this fall, according to the city planning office.

Both state and federal environmental officials have concerns about the impact a course would have on the endangered peninsular bighorn sheep. About 25 bighorns live in the San Jacinto Mountains. The animals are listed as endangered by the federal government, and as threatened and fully protected by the state.

## City rankings

Continued from page 3

ranking average. The final overall ranking for a city was realized by this overall ranking average.

According to the National Golf Foundation, 80 percent of all U.S. golfers play more than half of their golf on public courses. Therefore, the *Golf Digest* ranking focuses exclusively on public golf. All of the cities are defined by their Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and include the central city, the entire county in which it is located, and in some instances, neighboring counties that are socially and economically integral to the city (i.e., commuting zones). There are 309 MSAs with an estimated 1996 population of 50,000 or more.

The analysis revealed some surprising results. While one might assume that popular golf destinations such as San Diego and Orlando would top the list, they all ranked poorly compared to the nation's other cities in terms of the availability of high-quality, affordable public golf. Cities in the golf-mad Northern states fared best. The No. 1 position in the ranking was earned by Duluth, Minn., followed by Rapid City, S.D., Fargo, N.D., Waterloo, Iowa, and Terre Haute, Ind.

While smaller cities led the ranking, Richmond, Va., hometown of PGA Tour veteran Lanny Wadkins, finished at 309-dead last. New York City, which can boast of having the best in theater, restaurants and culture, needs help in regard to public golf and finished second to last at 308.

The proposed Arnold Palmer signature championship course would also include a clubhouse, putting area and 20 condominiums.

According to Preserve officials, the project would: handle up to 140 golfers per day; include only one entrance; use electronic golf carts and electronic pagers.

## Refurbished Errol Estate CC turning heads

**APOPKA, Fla.** — Members who banded together to buy the former Errol Country Club here for \$4.9 million from Club Corp. of America, have put more than \$1 million into renovations.

Errol Estate Country Club, as it's now called, has been spruced up by architects Clifton, Ezell and Clifton. The company has recontoured, reshaped and returned the bunkers as best they could to the way course

architect Joe Lee designed them 25 years ago.

Ezell, who lives on the course and once ran it for six years, says the renovations are a testament of how grass can recover.

Errol is a throwback to the old days that offers three nine-hole layouts, built upon rolling hills and swales uncommon to the usual, flat Florida landscape. Nearly every hole winds up or down a hillside and offers three different course rotations.

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