

Total Sports, NBC join forces

RALEIGH, N.C. — Total Sports, a privately held sports information company, has agreed to acquire an equity position in golf.com, one of the Internet's leading golf Web sites. As part of this agreement, Total Sports becomes a key operational partner in golf.com, which is composed of a consortium that includes NBC Sports, NBC Interactive Media, MediaOne, Interactive Services (formerly U.S. West Media Group,) Golf Digest and The New York Times Magazine Group and GolfData Corporation.

The announcement was made by Alex Miceli, the founder and president of golf.com, and Frank Daniels III, the chief executive officer of Total Sports.

Total Sports, which has created and maintains 37 sports web sites, including the sports section for The Wall Street Journal On-Line and

finalfour.net at the recent NCAA Men's and Women's basketball tournaments, will be charged with technology, sales, business development and the hosting of golf.com.

Total Sports will also assist in a redesign of golf.com as well as integrating its proprietary cybercast technology into the site, particularly as it relates to NBC-televised golf events.

The golf.com site includes extensive coverage, stories and statistics on all the professional golf tournaments, players and courses. It also contains golf-related sections on travel, real estate, golf course architecture, golf instruction, a classified section and an e-commerce site called The Pro Shop.

The site, which was launched in 1994 by Alex Miceli, contains almost 100,000 pages of golf information.

UWis. hopes to add a second course

MADISON, Wis. — University Ridge will begin the first phase of its expansion plan this fall with a \$500,000 addition of the clubhouse at the University of Wisconsin course, according to the Capital Times.

University officials hope to gain approval from the state for the rest of the project in two years and have it completed by 2004 or 2005. The total cost is expected to reach \$7 million.

As part of the deal to get the project approved, UW officials have set aside 12 to 15 acres of land along the entrance road that could be used for a university office park that will include low-rise buildings.

UW says its expansion plans should make University Ridge at least the equal of other Big Ten Conference golf facilities. Currently, the Ridge is one of the top Big Ten courses. But it has one of the worst practice facilities.

The expansion would take place in three phases over a period of six to eight years: The first component begins this fall when the clubhouse will be expanded so it will seat 90 for dining and increase the size of the retail and pro shop area.

Another expansion will take place in the later phases at a cost of \$1 million so that the clubhouse will have an additional 160-seat banquet room, locker room and new

parking lot. The clubhouse eventually will include more office space, too. A new 300-stall parking lot will be located much closer to the clubhouse than it is now.

The second component in the Ridge's master plan is the instructional area that will include a nine-hole executive course and a three-sided driving range with a chipping facility. A building also will be included with classrooms that will allow golfers to hit from under cover in inclement and cold weather. The cost will be approximately \$1.5 million.

The final component will be construction of a second 18-hole course to complement the Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed layout, which is ranked among the top five courses in the state.

Dick Nugent was contracted to develop the master plan for the expansion, but the UW staff will look at many architects.

The university hopes the Wisconsin Professional Golf Association, the Wisconsin State Golf Association and other golf organizations will eventually relocate to the University Ridge site.

If all goes as planned, construction would begin in 2001 and conclude the following year. After a one-year grow-in period, golfers will tee it up on the new 18-hole course in 2004.

Indianapolis track hits financial skids

CICERO, Ind. — The developer of Bear Slide Golf Club, Indianapolis insurance executive James K. Culley, poured millions of dollars into the exclusive course here in the early '90s, hoping to create one of the nation's top courses.

Culley had financial problems and had to sell the course. The new owner now is also in a bind.

Bear Slide Golf Club, a partnership affiliated with Indianapolis-based Heritage Golf Management Inc., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy court protection recently, according to the *Indianapolis*

Star. In court papers, Bear Slide said it was in default under its loan agreements and needed to line up financing in bankruptcy court to pay operating expenses.

Michael Hile, an Indianapolis attorney representing Bear Slide, downplayed the filing, expressing confidence the company will succeed in reorganizing its debt, according to the paper. He said Heritage will ask the bankruptcy court to approve \$250,000 in financing that it has lined up from Rapp Properties of Hamilton County and Hamilton County businessman Gary Light.

Granite State to debut 3 new tracks

MANCHESTER, N.H. — The 1990's will rank as one of the busiest in New Hampshire history for golf course development. More than a dozen new layouts have debuted while nearly as many courses have added holes to existing layouts, according to *The Manchester Union Leader*.

Three new Granite State courses are scheduled to open this year — Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown, Owl's Nest Golf Club in Campton, and Ridgewood Country Club in Moultonborough.

Phil Wogan-designed Stonebridge will become the first new course to open in the Manchester area since Litchfield's Passaconaway Country Club in 1989. Plans are to have Stonebridge's front nine ready by early May and back nine for July.

Cornish, Silva, Mungeam-designed Owl's Nest Golf Club is in the northern part of the state, just a few miles from Waterville Valley and should open July 1.

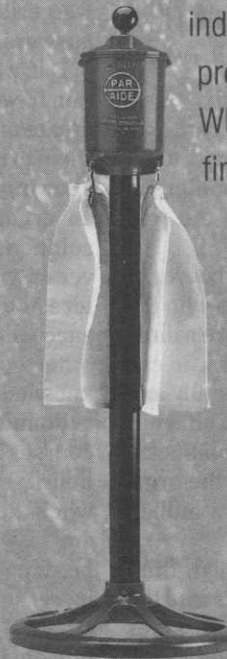
Phil Wogan and George Sargent designed Ridgewood in New Hampshire's Lakes Region.

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