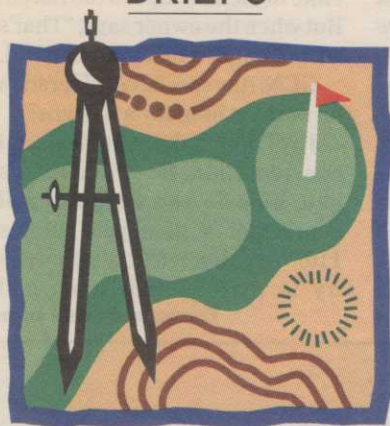


BRIEFS



**COST ESTIMATE BOOK UPDATED**

CHAPEL HILL N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) has updated its Guide to Estimating Cost for Golf Course Construction, originally published in 1996 as a tool for prospective golf course owners and developers. The guide contains descriptions of 25 line items in the construction of a golf course, with charts showing their average costs in the regions of the continental United States, and directions for estimating the cost of a given project. Contact information for the GCBA's Builder Members and a bibliography of additional resources are also included. *Guide to Estimating Cost for Golf Course Construction* is available for \$50 from the GCBA office, 920 Airport Rd., Suite 210, Chapel Hill N.C. 27514; phone 919-942-8922.

**NASHVILLE GETTING FIRST TEE**

KINGSTON SPRINGS, Tenn. — Nashville's Metropolitan Parks and Recreation and the Tennessee Golf Foundation's Vinny Pro-Celebrity Invitational are bringing to Nashville a First Tee golf course and ongoing programs for minority and at-risk youth through an new agreement. The Riverview Course, a nine-hole short course at Shelby Park in East Nashville, will be extensively renovated as a par-3 First Tee course. A new clubhouse will also be built to serve as home for a broad range of instructional, educational and vocational golf programs for juniors, officials said.

**THREE BY FOSTER NEAR COMPLETION**

LAS VEGAS — Golf course architect Keith Foster is putting the finishing touches on his three designs that are under construction., including Anthem here in Las Vegas on which he collaborated with Hale Irwin. Anthem is an upscale Del Webb private community, boasting the par-72, 7,100-yard course that has been grassed. A December opening is expected. Shepherd's Crook in North Chicago is six months ahead of schedule and will be completed by late September. The par-71, 6,900-yard daily-fee course will open next summer. The Tennessean at Kentucky Lake is a daily-fee course that is being grassed and will open in late summer of 1999. The Tennessean is located near Kentucky Lake in Paris.

# It's a 'softer, gentler' Nicklaus in design

By TED JOHNSON

*He is an icon of golf. Perhaps the greatest golfer ever, his face recognizable the world over. He has rung up scores of PGA Tour and Senior Tour victories, was named Athlete of the Decade for the 1970s and, in 1988, was selected Player of the Century. He has a closet full of green jackets from Augusta National for his Masters victories.*



Jack Nicklaus

*Yet, the 58-year-old Columbus, Ohio native's work as an architect may be more lasting than his playing records.*

*"Of the early courses I did, more than half were for tournament golf," he said during the ceremonial first round at Grand Haven Golf Course in Palm Coast, Fla. "So I got a reputation for doing difficult courses because I had to build them that way. I have opened 164 courses. Of those at least 100 you probably won't hear of. The pros won't hear of [Grand Haven]. Yet more than 60 of my courses have held more than 300 professional tour events. We're very proud of it."*

*After the round, Nicklaus sat down for an interview.*

**Golf Course News:** Is there anything on this property that shows how you have evolved as an architect?

**Jack Nicklaus:** Twenty-five years ago, **Continued on page 22**



## Nicklaus opens 164th course: Grand Haven

PALM COAST, Fla. — Grand Haven is "a good member's course," designer Jack Nicklaus said at the opening of this new layout that winds through marsh and woods. Although Grand Haven won't host a U.S. Open, it is memorable, enjoyable, even picturesque.

Nicklaus' work at Grand Haven features the varied flora and fauna, live oaks, saw palmettos, cord grass and marshes. Though it is located about two hours northeast of Orlando, it has some South Carolina low country in it. The oaks and

sandy waste areas on the 13th and 14th holes, particularly, seem uncharacteristic for the area but are pretty just the same.

The layout measures from 6,350 to 7,069 yards. Landing areas are wide and well defined. The sight lines to the hole on the par-4s and par-5s, with the exception being the 18th, are obvious.

For all the forgiveness that Nicklaus allows on the tee shot, he's much more demanding on the approaches to the

**Continued on page 25**

## CEC Properties purchases First Golf

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — CEC Properties, Inc. of Newport Beach has bought substantially all of the assets of First Golf Corp. of Tempe, Ariz.

First Golf manages the construction of golf courses nationwide and has built more than 25 courses since 1987. Its newest course, Harbor Links in Nassau County, Long Island, N.Y., recently had its grand opening and had a very strong first month. First Golf Acquisition Corp. becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of CEC Properties.

"CEC Properties, a golf services company, has now acquired both a golf course construction management and golf course facility management company as wholly owned subsidiaries," said Paul Balalis, CEC Properties president, chairman and chief executive officer. "This gives us a tremendous advantage in being able to provide excellent and expanded services to the golfing industry."

First Golf currently has contracts for the development and

**Continued on page 24**



PGA Tour great David Stockton, left, and new golf course design partner Gary Roger Baird.

## Stockton, Baird link up

SANTA ANA, Calif.—Gary Roger Baird, whose golf course design career dates back to the late 1960s, and Dave Stockton, a golf professional for three decades, have formed a design alliance. Stockton's PGA Tour victories include three major championships, two PGA Championships and the 1996 U.S. Senior Open Championship. Twice, Stockton was selected as a member of the Ryder Cup Team, and captained the U.S. team in 1991. With 14 Senior PGA Tour victories, including the 1992 and 1994 Senior Players Championships, Stockton is near the top of the Senior Players Tour in winnings again this year.

"Gary Baird has been a top designer for nearly 30 years, dating back to his days with the Robert Trent Jones organization in the 1960s. Gary has created great courses on several continents, many of which have held major tournaments, both

**Continued on page 26**

## Ex-Paragon employee starts fresh

By MICHAEL LEVANS

ATLANTA, Ga. — Terry Bohannon — a 20-year veteran in the golf development business — believes that you learn from the mistakes of others.

As a matter of fact, he's so certain that this lesson applies to the golf course construction business that he's gone off on his own to form Live Oak Golf Construction Co., based here.

"Being in this business for so long I was able to see that there's a lot of work out there right now," said Bohannon. "And with the right management and the right people it's a great time to be in this business and do it right."

For the last four years he worked with Paragon Construction International as project manager and director of field operations. In that capacity he managed the construction operations of 13 golf courses in the Pacific Rim, including Shanghai Links in China, New Capital in Japan and Borneo Golf Club in Malaysia.

**Continued on page 24**



## McCumber's GreyStone opens in Tenn.

DICKSON, Tenn. — Saying the course will be "a classic, long-lasting beauty," golf course architect and PGA Tour player Mark McCumber saw his GreyStone layout opened for play here Sept. 12.

Set among rolling hills, the public GreyStone is a 6,848-yard, par-72 course designed around the natural beauty and lay of the land. It features natural deep rough, flowing creeks and placid lakes. Aside from the trees surrounding the course, natural stone walls and boulders enhance nearly every hole.

McCumber designed Grey-



The 11th hole at Mark McCumber-designed GreyStone in Dickson, Tenn., is a 177-yard par-3 over water.

Stone to showcase Middle Tennessee's natural beauty. "Our school of thought in course design is to study the land and design a course that is natural, looks like it belongs, create interest and surprise where pos-

sible, without making something foreign to what nature has already given us," he said.

The course is the vision of Dickson resident John Duke. McCumber Golf Facility Management will operate it.

## Burns-designed Legion Memorial opens

EVERETT, Wash. — The municipally owned Legion Memorial Golf Course officially reopened Sept. 1, after a major remodeling.

Although all of the greens were seeded last fall, some fairway work remained for 1998. This work was completed in June, and nine holes re-opened on July 1. The remaining holes were given time to grow in while the concurrent major remodeling of the clubhouse was finishing up.

Daylen, Inc. of Fresno, Calif.,

was the construction contractor. Burns Golf Design of Fernandina Beach, Fla., was responsible for the golf course design.

Prior to the remodeling, Legion Memorial, which plays approximately 70,000 rounds a year, was plagued by extremely muddy conditions much of the time. It reportedly is now one of the driest courses in the Seattle area, with 70 acres of the course capped by a 6-inch sand layer over drainage lines installed on 50-foot center. More than \$1.3 million of the \$5 million project

was spent on drainage.

The old course dates back to the 1930s, and had very basic greens, only a couple of sand traps, and no water, except for a few drainage ditches. The remodeling work includes several re-routed holes, all new greens, more than double the existing tee space, and the addition of four new lakes, a waterfall and recirculating stream, and more than 50 sand bunkers. The new course plays to a par of 72 from five sets of tees, ranging from 4,804 to 6,900 yards.

## Stockton, Baird team in design

Continued from page 21

professional, as well as amateur." With offices in Nashville, Tenn., and Santa Ana, the team expects to bring a "new era of design and construction expertise" to golf course developers throughout the world.

Baird noted that "spiraling costs, fluctuating economies, and appropriately strict environmental issues have required additional sensitivities, a new awareness from us as architects. We must once again rise to a more contemporary challenge. In our ef-

fort together, Dave and I intend to design memorable courses for the entire golfing spectrum...while focusing on brining together these diverse considerations into a manageable and maintainable design.

"Dave is an extremely knowledgeable individual, and is keenly sensitive to the needs of the golfing world, which is ever changing. Despite these transitions, we want our designs to stand the test of time, not just be compatible with popular, current trends."

Each is excited about this new team effort. Previously, Baird has resisted forming other potential partnerships, as has Stockton. The "marriage" goes beyond the typical marquee, say both men. "We are saying to people, 'Here is a team with over 60 years of worldwide golfing recognition and experience...two men whose personal strivings for excellence are second to none,'" Baird said. "Together, they typify the kind of individuals the game of golf, and profession of golf course design deserve. Their commitment at this station in life is second to none."

## Nicklaus' Grand Haven opens

Continued from page 21

greens. Grand Haven is a "positional" golf course: Just because the ball is in the fairway doesn't mean an easy shot to the green. In fact, to have the easiest chances at the pins, daring tee shots must flirt with trouble in the form of bunkers or marshes. The bailouts to the wider sides of the fairways invariably call for a second shot or with great skill to get close to the greens.

The 440-yard dogleg left 3rd hole is the best on the property. A long carry over a grassy marsh is required, and the longer the carry the easier the approach to the green.

It's very intimidating from the back tees, but it's probably a better hole from the blue or gold tees, if only because the green can be seen, and thus all of the hole's challenges, beauty and power can be taken in.

Nicklaus loves the 186-yard 5th, a par-3 whose tee shot must carry a marsh. The back edge of the green flirts with the trees on the right, and when the flag is set there it requires a carry of about 175 yards over tall grass and Florida wasteland to find safe ground.

It's a hole that makes the golfer pause and look, to take in the surroundings, for it is here the true nature of Grand Haven comes out.

## Del Webb working with Lohmann

HUNTLEY, Ill. — Golf Creations has been retained by the nation's leading developer of golf retirement communities to provide feature construction and grow-in services here at Whisper Creek Golf Course, the centerpiece of Del Webb's first master-planned community in the Midwest market.

Ground was broken in May and the course should be ready for play by the autumn of 1999,

according to Bob Lohmann, president of Lohmann Golf Designs and its sister construction firm, Golf Creations.

Del Webb has brought its Sun City formula to Huntley, located some 30 miles northwest of O'Hare International Airport.

The 1,800-acre community includes an 18-hole golf course designed by Casper/Nash and Associates.



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