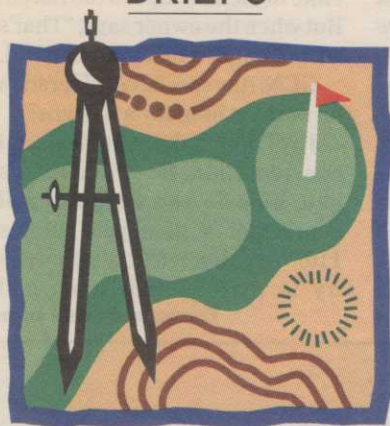


BRIEFS



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

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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

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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

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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.

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CSM christens first course in Titleist Township

ACUSHNET, Mass. — As home to Titleist and Footjoy Worldwide for the past 80 years, the town of Acushnet has become synonymous with golf's biggest company. Amazingly, while this tiny New England hamlet could boast its own line of eponymous golf balls — who could ever forget the Club Special? — the town of Acushnet has never been home to a single golf course. Until now.

Acushnet River Valley Golf Course, a layout designed by Cornish, Silva and Mungeam (CSM), opened for play in August. CSM partner Brian Silva has fashioned an interesting assortment of golf holes here, on a parcel of land that features three distinct environments: a rolling meadow, a dense New England forest, and an abandoned gravel pit.

"All architects say this, but Acushnet River

Valley will truly feature a unique degree of variety," said Silva.

Once municipal funding was secured in November 1996, the town and CSM didn't waste much time. Ground was broken in April 1997, with International Golf of Arlington, Mass., handling course construction.

Acushnet River Valley GC plays more than 6,800 yards from the tips and 4,800 from the front, with three sets of tees in between.

Bohannon starts fresh

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Prior to Paragon, Bohannon was a design associate for Nicklaus Design from 1988-94, working as a liaison between the design and construction functions for courses in Taiwan and Thailand. A previous association with Holmes & Co. had him building such regarded courses as Pinehurst National and Grand Cypress golf clubs.

With the experience of the Asian projects under his belt, said Bohannon, the standard U.S. jobs appear to be fairly cut and dry.

"If you can build a golf course in Asia you can surely do it here," he said. "The complications you run into there are too numerous to mention, nothing is easy. There're equipment and manpower problems, language barriers. It's a nice surprise when you come back and realize just how easy it is to get materials."

Getting the venture like Live Oak off the ground is a series of small steps, he said. In past few months, he's taken time to spread the name and talk to course architects and developers in order to stress the company's mission.

"You have to explain to the client up front what they're going to get. It's simple. You have to be honest with them. You have to tell them what it's going to cost and when it's going to be done. I've seen it too many times where too many people come in and low ball and the client doesn't get what he wants. Completing the job on time is a real stickler in this industry."

For starters, Live Oak will concentrate on renovation work as it gears up to take on some full-service, turnkey work. The company is currently doing some renovation work at Meadowbrook Golf Course in Rutherfordton, N.C. "I'd like to stay in the Southeast, but we've recently bid jobs up in Michigan and Pennsylvania. So, we'll see what happens."

CEC Properties

Continued from page 21

construction of nine new golf courses, three of which are already under construction. It will transfer all of its existing golf course facility management contracts to Classic Golf Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of CEC Properties.

Sam Gunderson will become the president of First Golf Acquisition Corporation, Balalis said.

CEC Properties began operations in 1994 and is focusing on becoming a major provider of services to the golfing industry.

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Bob Miller —
The Golf Club of Purchase • Purchase, NY



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