

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

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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

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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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