



The 18th green at Des Moines Golf and Country Club is one of those renovated.

## Jacobson renovating Dye's Des Moines club

DES MOINES, Iowa — Rick Jacobson remained true to Pete Dye's 1968 vision when he renovated Dye's Des Moines Golf and Country Club in advance of the 1999 U.S. Senior Open.

"We respected Pete's original plan and actually were able to implement some of the features that were left out during the original construction," said Jacobson, owner of Jacobson Golf Course Design, Inc. of Libertyville, Ill.

The 36-hole Des Moines complex will

host its first U.S. Golf Association (USGA) championship when Hale Irwin defends his title July 8-11. It is only the third time the state of Iowa has hosted a USGA championship.

"I think Rick Jacobson has done an excellent job of giving us a top-notch golf course to host the U.S. Senior Open championship," said Tom Meeks, director of rules and competitions for the USGA. "I've worked with some architects who let their egos get in the way during a renovation project. I didn't find that at all with Rick. He's very easy to work with."

Unlike some of Dye's later courses — which feature his characteristic railroad ties, island greens, gargantuan mounds and vast waste areas — Des Moines is a traditional course in the style of Crooked Stick (1964) in Carmel, Ind., and Harbour Town (1969) in Hilton Head, S.C., both earlier Dye designs. Yet Des Moines reflects some of the Scottish and Irish influences that have recurred throughout Dye's work over the years.

Meeks said the most significant change at Des Moines is recontouring and reconstruction of the 18th green. USGA officials, with the concurrence of the club, requested that Jacobson soften the angles of the original green — which was unusually convex — to provide more pin placements.

Dye originally had sketched in two bunkers in front of hole No. 15, but the builders left them out during construction. Jacobson made sure they were included this time around.

At the request of the USGA and the club Jacobson also:

- reduced the width of 11 fairways to between 26 and 34 yards from about 38 yards;
- replaced putting surfaces with A-4 bentgrass;
- added chipping areas on holes 5, 13 and 16;
- restored a signature Dye sod wall bunker on No. 16;
- restored and reshaped all 41 bunkers;
- added a new fairway bunker on No. 16 to punish errant tee shots;
- expanded several greens to increase the number of potential pin placements;
- upgraded tee boxes; and
- installed native grasses in out-of-play areas to add character.

Jacobson believes the most difficult hole on the course will be No. 5, a 461-yard dogleg par-4, which the members normally play as a par-5.

The most diabolical hole is No. 3, where Dye placed a bunker between the lower and upper tiers of the green. The USGA did not ask Jacobson to alter the design even though some players might hit lob wedges over the sand from the lower tier to the upper tier of the green.

Unlike many older courses now under renovation for championship play, Des Moines did not require added length. At 6,904 yards from the championship tees, it is expected to present a stern challenge to the world's best seniors.

The back nine of the north (Blue) course will be used as the front nine of the championship course. The championship back nine will be comprised of the first seven holes of the south (Red) course's front nine along with the south's original 17th and 18th holes.

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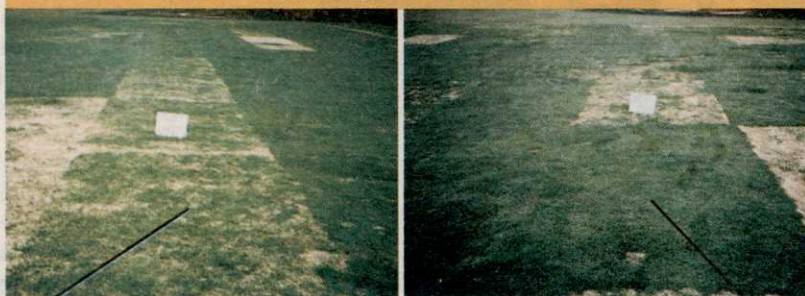
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