

## Nicklaus' finishing touches ready Four Seasons track

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, Mo. — Jack Nicklaus has made final adjustments to his first design in Missouri, the 18-hole track at Four Seasons Resort here.

Expected to open in summer 2000, the course will be the showpiece of Four Seasons' new waterfront golf community, Porto Cima.

Nicklaus' vision is to create a course that enhances the natural landscape and is chal-

lenging and enjoyable to all levels of players. Multiple tee boxes, generous landings and dramatic vistas will contribute to the course's distinctiveness.

"The golf course has a lot of variety. It's a great piece of property, and we're having a lot of fun with it," Nicklaus said. "If you had to rate this property on a scale of one to 10, it certainly would rank close to a 10."

## Doc O'Neal's Golf World

By ANDREW OVERBECK

WESTFIELD, Ind. — When John "Doc" O'Neal hatched his plan for a premier multi-faceted golf training facility he knew exactly who to call on—longtime friend Pete Dye.

The two have collaborated with golf architect Tim Liddy to create "Doc O'Neal's Golf World"

an 80-acre site that will include a 22-acre driving range, an eight-acre short game range, an indoor training center and a 9-hole bentgrass course designed by Dye. "The primary intent of this facility is to provide a top-notch instructional facility dedicated to quality and service," said O'Neal, who conceived the project.

The planning for the facility was exhaustive. O'Neal visited over 50 driving and practice ranges across the country observing layouts and service. "This practice range will have good targets and visuals—actual fairways to hit onto, bunkers to cross, greens to hit—you just won't be out there on the range hitting airballs," said O'Neal. "When you hit a ball you will see it land every time, it will actually mean something to them."

The driving range will be 500 yards deep, double sided and have two separate fairways with four target greens each. The short game range will be a separate facility with a 15,000 sq.ft. putting green, a 6,500 sq.ft. chipping green, and an 8,000 sq.ft. bunker green.

The greens will have varied undulations, the chipping green will have different heights of grass, and there will be several different bunker depths.

"You will be able to practice almost every shot," said O'Neal.

There will also be a 70 yd long half-wedge area to practice short approach shots. Unlike the conventional driving range, golfers will pay by the hour instead of paying by the bucket. "They'll just walk out and see balls stacked up waiting for them," explained O'Neal.

O'Neal decided that a short 9-hole golf course would complement the training facilities. "I wanted Tim and Pete to design a traditional looking golf course, one that was scenic but approachable, one that juniors and women golfers could feel comfortable playing," said O'Neal. "After all, to a kid, a 280 yd par 4 is quite a monster."

The course will have five par four's and four par-3s and will be all bentgrass.

However, the training facility doesn't end outdoors. The club house will feature a video instruction area, an indoor bunker and chipping green, a golf fitness center run by Methodist Sports Medicine, and a repair and merchandise center.

O'Neal plans to spend the winter recruiting at least eight golf pro's to staff the facility. The club house and indoor facilities are due to open in June of 1999 and the outdoor ranges in August of 1999.

The 9-hole course is slated to open in spring of 2000.



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