

Red Hawk Ridge

Continued from page 63

tions, which are aimed at preserving natural ridge lines.

While working in Colorado's foothills, detailed documentation in extreme areas is essential. And the Red Hawk Ridge contractor, RBI Golf Inc. of Littleton, made sure not to stray from Engh's plans in the field.

"We knew Jim expected us to

build to exactly what he had on the plan, particularly the elevations," RBI Golf President Rich Maher said. "On most courses it isn't as critical. But with Jim's documentation, and on a site like Red Hawk, the elevations need to be precise. Knowing exactly how much dirt to move takes the guesswork out of the process."

After moving 810,000 cubic yards of soil, laying \$300,000 in sod and installing USGA greens,

concrete cart paths and the \$900,000 irrigation system, the project came in under the town's \$3.2 million budget.

The construction period of March through September 1997, however, was not without snag. Record rainfall in July and August stymied construction crews, and RBI Golf workers spent a good portion of the summer battling continual erosion problems.

"RBI did an exceptional job

working in the difficult conditions," Engh said, praising project supervisor Craig Robbins.

And then in March, the project's lead shaper, Dave Breckheimer, was killed in a car accident. One of the top shapers in the industry, Breckheimer had played a key role in building the nearby Sanctuary. A memorial for Breckheimer will be placed near the No. 8 green.

The course's modified double-loop layout allowed U.S. Home more frontage for its development, and drainage and other design features were incorporated into the design plan to accommodate the development's future construction.

"I think Jim really understands how to balance the economic constraints and needs of a development with the aesthetic and design considerations that go into building a golf course," U.S. Home Colorado Division President Jeff Whiton said.

Western Golf Properties has been chosen to manage the course. Although the fee structure has not been set, Hugh Edgman of Western Golf said he thinks the town will have no problem meeting its objective of providing a premiere, affordable golf experience to its residents.

"The design is far superior to what one normally thinks of in a municipal course," said Edgman, whose firm manages more than 90 courses. "It feels more like a private or high-end daily-fee course. The views are outstanding, and I think it will avail itself to all caliber of players."

South Hadley picks Maurer

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — A team headed by the Howard Maurer Design Group has been selected to provide golf course design and permitting services for a new 18-hole golf facility to be built by the town of South Hadley.

Construction on the course is scheduled to begin in the spring on a 240-acre town-owned property off Alvord Street.

Members of the design team include Maurer; Mike Toohill of ENSR of Northboro (environmental and permitting services); Pat Sheridan of Tighe & Bond of Westfield (project engineers and surveyors); Brian Vincenzi of Irrigation Consulting and Engineering of Pepperell (irrigation system design); and Dr. William Torello, director of the Turf Program at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

The Maurer design team is in the process of permitting the golf course. According to Maurer, "The course will be around 6,700 yards and will include full practice facilities. We are trying to use the natural features of the land to their fullest extent. There is a fantastic mix of uphill and downhill holes. Some holes will have spectacular views of Mt. Tom."

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In addition to the South Hadley Golf Course, Maurer has the first nine of 18 holes under construction at Templewood (Mass.) Golf Course. Templewood's opening is slated for late summer.



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