

'The Big Three' designing nine apiece for new Augusta golf club

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Golf's legendary Big Three — Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus — are joining forces to build what appropriately will be called The Big Three Club here.

The 27-hole course will be located 15 minutes away from Augusta National, the home of The Masters. The design collabora-

tion of the Hall of Famers, whose rivalry and playing records in the 1960s earned them the moniker "The Big Three," is their first joint architectural venture. Each golfer will design nine holes for what is planned as the ultimate corporate club.

Seventy corporate golf lodges will be developed in conjunction

with the club. The six bedroom cottages are intended to provide corporations with entertainment, meeting and accommodation space during Masters week. Regular club memberships also will be made available.

"This is very exciting for all of us," Player said. "We've been friends and competitors for a

long time. I'm sure that it will be fun to see which one can build the best nine holes."

Player, Palmer and Nicklaus won 13 Masters tournament titles. The Big Three Club will commemorate the achievements and contributions made by the game's greatest competitive trio.

The proposed private course

will be built on 2,216 acres that run from Washington Road to the Savannah River.

The target opening date is April 2001, and tentative plans call for ground-breaking this spring. The golf course will be situated in a new real-estate development, Riverwood Plantation.

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PGA, Weiskopf rebuilding TPC's Scottsdale track

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — PGA Tour Properties has chosen Tom Weiskopf to oversee rebuilding of all 18 greens on the Stadium Course at the PGA Tour's Tournament Players Club (TPC) of Scottsdale.

As part of the Tour's "upgrading" plan, Weiskopf was involved earlier this year in overseeing the placement of over 200 specimen trees and desert vegetation, in an effort to add more landscape features and enhance the competitive nature of the Stadium Course.

According to Bill Calfee, executive vice president of competitions for the PGA Tour, "In order to provide a product that meets the requirements of the facility to resist desert heat, endure heavy play and uphold the highest standards of the PGA Tour, it was deemed necessary to completely excavate and rebuild each green accompanying green side bunkers."

Weiskopf, who designed the course and is a Scottsdale resident, visited the site regularly, working with the superintendent to approve all of the work during each step of the project.

As Weiskopf said, "I am very positive about the results of this work (greens remodeling and landscaping) and especially having the opportunity to work with the PGA Tour, to help enhance the playability of the Scottsdale TPC course and the experiences of those who have a chance to play it."

BROWNING DESIGN TO OPEN
CANMORE, ALBERTA, Canada — The Gary Browning-designed Stewart Creek Golf Club at Three Sisters Resorts here has been built and is projected to open in July, just 12 miles east of Banff National Park. Although Browning has worked on projects from Asia to Canada, his coupe de grace may be his involvement in the planning and design of the 54-hole golf course resort for Three Sisters Resorts. Scottsdale-based Western Golf Properties, Inc. is the management company for the course.

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