

BRIEFS



KEMPER TO REVAMP NAVAL BASE

NORTHBROOK, Ill.—The Village of Glenview selected Kemper Sports Management to build and operate a daily-fee facility at the former Glenview Naval Air Station, a 1,121-acre former military base being converted to a mixed-use development. Glenview trustees approved the sale of 180 acres of land at the air base to Kemper Sports for use in building a course and clubhouse that will include a golf museum, restaurant and banquet facilities. Kemper Sports' vision for the planned \$20 million project is to create a world-class course and practice facility. As part of its bid, Kemper formed an alliance with the Illinois Section of the PGA (IPGA) enabling the IPGA to move its headquarters to the Glenview site. Upon opening, the new facility will also house the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame, an interactive museum celebrating the history of golf in Illinois and those who have made contributions to the game. Plans are to start construction this fall and open the course by spring 2001.

MOUNTAIN COURSE ADDED IN WIS.

MERRIMAC, Wis.—Offering "some of the best mountain golf in the Midwest" on 800 acres of glacier-formed bluff in Wisconsin's Baraboo Hills, Devil's Head Resort & Convention Center at Merrimac enters the 1999 season starting work on nine new holes to add to its 18-hole championship course. Some 45 minutes north of Madison, Devil's Head is located between Portage and the Wisconsin Dells.

IRWIN DESIGNS NEVADA COURSE

SPARKS, Nev.—Red Hawk Golf Club is adding an 18-hole course and 18-hole putting course designed by Hale Irwin. Winding along the cottonwoods and marshes at Wingfield Springs Village Center, the putting course is scheduled to open in the fall and feature 18 challenging bentgrass holes put together by the three-time U.S. Open champion. The Hills Course will wind through the Pah Rah Range, complementing the 18-hole Springs Course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr.

VERMONT'S OKEMO GC READIES FOR SPRING 2000 OPENING

OKEMA VALLEY, Vt.—Okemo Valley Golf Club, an 18-hole facility here, is scheduled to make its debut in the spring of 2000. The course will be home to the Okemo Valley Golf Academy, an 18-acre golf learning center. Okemo is also planning an expansion, called Jackson Gore, which will include a nine-hole executive golf course.

Doak's Apache Stronghold 'new-fangled' for desert

By MARK LESLIE

GLOBE, Ariz.—The San Carlos Apache Nation had The Apache Golf Casino, a couple thousand square miles of Apache land and plenty of Apache labor. What were they missing? A golf course.

But that will be remedied in May or June when the Tom Doak-designed 18-hole Apache Stronghold opens to public play here.

It will be a new-fangled type of course for the desert: wide (200-foot) landing areas, a lot (100 acres) of turfgrass, plentiful water supply, immense length (7,500 yards from the back tees), and cooler weather than most desert tracks (leading to a choice of dwarf bluegrass fairways and Dominant bentgrass greens because Bermudagrass would die at this 3,200-foot altitude in the mountains above Phoenix).

"The Apache Nation wanted to build a golf course that was good enough to make



The 2nd hole at Tom Doak-designed Apache Stronghold, built by the San Carlos Apache Nation, sits on the edge of the mountains above Phoenix.

people want to stay," said Doak who, with Apache Stronghold, has his first design west of the Mississippi River. "We think we've done that."

Given a couple thousand acres to choose from in building his course, Doak said he found "a terrific piece of land." So

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Native grasses play a key part, visually, around Chisholm Trail Golf Course, including this par-3 3rd hole located in the Sand Hills of Kansas.

A DREAM REALIZED

Affordable golf in Kansas' sand hills

By MARK LESLIE

ABILENE, Kan.—The sand hills of Nebraska produced one of the best golf courses of the last couple of decades in Sand Hills Golf Course. The sand hills of Kansas produced Perry Maxwell's top 25-rated Prairie Dunes in nearby Hutchinson in 1937. Dr. Jon Thayer hopes the same magic has been woven through the sand hills of Abilene—specifically on his Chisholm Trail Golf Course, which opened for public play here April 1 to far less fanfare than his famous neighbors.

Chisholm Trail was "laid gently on the land," Thayer said, "a rolling piece of

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Architects honor Palmer, elect president and new members

An 'icon of golf,' life given Ross Award

By MARK LESLIE

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Hailed as an icon in both golf and life who receives "grand and profound respect from all ages," Arnold Palmer received the Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) at the group's 53rd annual meeting at Country Club of Charleston here March 22.

Citing Ross as a man who designed hundreds of golf courses which are "still the best in the world," Palmer said it was a pleasure and privilege to be there and accept the award. The man whose Ed Seay-led design company has laid out scores of courses over the last 35 years, made an appeal for golf course architects to maintain the traditions and integrity of the game of golf.

Palmer pointed to Jack Nicklaus, another designer/PGA Tour great who was in the room as an ASGCA mem-

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Tim Liddy at work on the draftboard.

Eight elected to ASGCA

By MARK LESLIE

CHARLESTON, S.C.—There are two keen ways to make it to the big time in golf course architecture: learn the craft from your father, or understudy to Pete and Alice Dye.

That is what Rick Phelps (son of Dick) and Tim Liddy (understudy to the Dyes)

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LaFoy named president of Architects Society

CHARLESTON, S.C.—John LaFoy of Greenville, S.C., who has built a national reputation with his new course designs and remodeling projects, was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at the group's recent annual meeting here.

"This is a great honor for me," LaFoy said. "I am proud to be president of the society, whose members are the most experienced, creative and professional practitioners of golf course architecture in the world."

As head of his own golf course design firm and a former partner with prominent golf course architect George Cobb, LaFoy has designed, renovated or master planned more than 100 courses.

Among his designs and remodels are: Linville Ridge Country Club in Linville, N.C., Neuse Golf Club in Raleigh, N.C., Country Club of Charles-

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Chisholm Trail

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unbroken sod with wild grasses as tall as a horse. The golf and the terrain are perfect."

"I always had the ambition to have my own golf course," said the 75-year-old Thayer, a semi-retired optometrist and 10-handicapper who has played the game since he was 23. "When I found this perfect piece of ground, that did it."

Occupying 140 of the property's 320 acres, the 18 golf holes simply "were there," said Bruce Dixon, a course de-

signer with Grant Golf in Winnipeg, Manitoba, who was a graduate student in landscape architecture specializing in course design at Kansas State University when planning began in spring 1997. "We didn't have to move too much earth."

"It had some topographic changes," Dixon added. "We found good green sites, then worked backwards to the tees, came up with a dozen layouts and went from there."

The layout includes four double tees: for holes 2 and 11; 1 and 10; 13 and 15; and 7 and 9.

Dixon said he and Thayer, a design aficionado who tinkered with most all the holes once Dixon had taken the job in Canada, "tried to aspire to Sand Hills and Prairie Dunes. The course has the same strengths as Sand Hills. And with 320 acres we had to ability to choose where to put the features."

Prairie Dunes, Thayer said, "was an inspiration. I knew we had land like that around here if I could ever find the right piece. I moved here in 1991 and started looking, and found this property three years ago."

The property has good soils as well as natural drainage and surface runoff, he said.

Indeed, the "soils" are 70-percent sand, a major reason Chisholm Trail could be built for less than \$1 million — despite a double-row irrigation system — and fulfill another of Thayer's dreams: "I wanted to build an affordable course for the people of Dickinson County."

Affordable? How does \$13 weekday and \$15 weekend green fees sound? Annual membership is \$400, plus \$100 for each additional family member.

And while Chisholm Trail plays from 4,746 to 6,568 yards, "Don't let the yardage mislead you," Thayer said. "You'd better bring your 'straight' game."

Only 34 acres of the property were touched once construction started in July 1997, Thayer said, including digging two irrigation ponds.

The greens were seeded with L-93 bentgrass and the fairways with an 80-20 bluegrass-ryegrass mix. The first rough is fine-leaf fescue and the second native bluestem grass that grows 6 feet high.

Thayer hired the husband-wife superintendent team of John and Mary Haun, who had been operating Palo Duro Creek in Canyon City, Texas, and the municipal course in Hereford, Texas, respectively. But the Hauns wanted to return to their native Kansas.

Mary Haun, who grew up 3 miles from where Chisholm Trail now sits, said: "I thought, growing up, that we needed an 18-hole golf course."

Little did she know that later in life she would be working on one.

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LaFoy elected

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ton, Country Club of Birmingham in Birmingham, Ala., and Glenmore Country Club in Charlottesville, Va.

As ASGCA president, LaFoy will focus on informing golf course developers, golfers and the public about golf course architecture. He will work to highlight the professionalism, talent and code of ethics that distinguish the members of the society. He also will promote the continued development of affordable and accessible golf facilities.

Raised in Greenville, LaFoy received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Clemson University in 1968 and began to work for Cobb. After a three-year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps, he became a full partner in the business. LaFoy assumed much of the design responsibilities when illness slowed Cobb in the early 1980s and he took over the design business after Cobb's death in 1986.

LaFoy is joined on the ASGCA Executive Committee by Vice President Brian Ault of Kensington, Md., Treasurer Damian Pascuzzo of Walnut Creek, Calif., and Secretary Jay Morrish of Flower Mound, Texas. Bob Lohmann of Marengo, Ill., is immediate past president.