

BRIEFS



FAZIO PLANS DRAMA IN TEXAS

FRISCO, Texas — Many specimen trees will be planted and an environment will be created "that is very dramatic and exciting," said Tom Fazio of the 18-hole Stonebriar Country Club he will design in this Dallas suburb. "Stonebriar gives us a great opportunity to produce an outstanding golf course." The 7,045-yard, par-72 course, which will be Stonebriar's second 18-hole layout, will cover approximately 160 acres and include a practice range, chipping area and putting green. It is expected to be completed by fall 2000. It will be accessible to club members and their guests and guests of the planned Westin Stonebriar Resort Hotel. Stonebriar's original course, designed by Ken Dye, will remain private.

PHELPS LANDS VAIL JOB

VAIL, Colo. — The Eagle Vail Metro District has received \$3.5 million of bond financing for improvements to the Eagle-Vail golf course. Architect Richard Phelps has been asked to plan significant improvements throughout the entire course, including new tees, greens, sand and grass bunkers and irrigation. The goal is to make the course stand out in Vail valley's increasingly competitive market. It is anticipated that it will take approximately three to four years to complete the work, not including the work currently underway at the practice range. The remodeled practice range includes a new 10,000-square-foot putting green, 5,000-square-foot chipping green, 30-station tee line; two new grass tees and target greens.

TIDEWATER RECEIVES FACELIFT

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Tidewater Golf Club here will be renovated by year's end, to help celebrate its 10th anniversary. Tidewater, designed by owner Ken Tomlinson and named best new course of the year when it opened, will replace the turf on the greens with an improved variety of bentgrass, rebuild the bunkers and make other cosmetic improvements.

SMITH TRACK OPENS IN NY

VERONA, N.Y. — Sandstone Hollow Golf Club, a par-3 nine-hole track at Turning Stone Casino Resort in Verona, N.Y., has opened. The dramatic course was designed by Rick Smith and Warren Henderson. Former Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President Joseph Baidy is the superintendent.

Coore, Crenshaw make Island music



Ben Crenshaw

By MARK LESLIE

EAST HAMPTON, Long Island — The 40-year dream of the three-generation Bistrian family to build East Hampton Golf Club here has come true, and with one improbable improvement: Ben Crenshaw, with partner Bill Coore, designed it.

"I never dreamed of involvement from someone [with Ben's fame]," said Barry Bistrian, son of Bistrian family patriarch Pete. "People here on the island want a high-end golf course. We wanted it the best it could possibly be. But it's a lot more golf course than I ever imagined."

The entire Bistrian family has been heavily involved in the project, including Pete and his wife Mary, both in their 80s, their children Bonnie Krupinski and Barry, president of Bistrian Gravel Corp., and Barry's sons, BJ and Patrick (a zero handicapper).

"Some of the nicest people," Coore said about the Bistrians. "We were so fortunate to get this job."

Pete Bistrian, whose contracting business had worked on some golf courses, first envisioned a course on the property in the mid-1940s. He cleared the "links" part of the land to raise potatoes in 1946-47, farmed it until the mid-1960s, then received approvals for the golf course in 1978.

But, because of the demands of their wide-ranging businesses and various environmental and water permitting problems, the Bistrians got only as far as laying out some holes. But when Crenshaw and Coore were on Long Island's north

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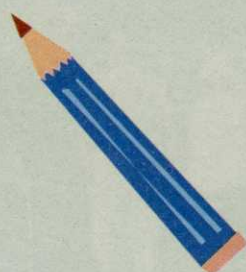
RTJ II designs private golf club in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Golf course designer Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s newest Las Vegas creation, Southern Highlands Golf Club, is expected to open in December.

"Now we are creating the golf course's personality," Jones said as he fine-tuned it in September.

"You can only do so much at the drafting table or computer terminal. Unless you visit the course while it's being built, you can't really get a sense of how it will relate to its surroundings and the various natural conditions that exist, like prevailing winds, mountain views, etc. In many ways this is the most exciting and

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Dorset Field Club

America's oldest course adds nine

DORSET, Vt. — Like many private golf clubs with a strong sense of history and tradition, change does not come quickly at Dorset Field Club here. Therefore, it's big news that after 113 years of operating as a nine-hole course, the southern Vermont club has added another nine holes.

Dorset's move to 18 became official in mid-July, when the new holes opened for play. But why did it take so long for Dorset to make the move? Dorset Field had just bought an adjoining plot of land when course architect Steve Durkee approached the club in 1995 with his plans for expansion. The members were convinced that the move to 18 holes was needed, and that Durkee was the right man for the job.

"Steve came to us with several exciting alternative, and was our architect of choice because of his excellent presentation," said Dorset President Tom Barnet.

The nine new holes evoke a links-style feel and are interspersed seamlessly into the historic course. Although the original architect is unknown, many historians point to the Dorset Field Club as the oldest continually operating course in the United States. Members have played over the same golfing grounds since 1886.

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The par-3, 17th "Peninsula," sets against the city backdrop. The tee takes a commanding view of the valley below. At 251 yards from the back tee, many rounds may be saved or lost here.

Harbottle, Zoeller team up in Reno

RENO, Nev. — Designed by John Harbottle with assistance from PGA Tour star Fuzzy Zoeller, The Challenge at ArrowCreek Golf Club has opened as the city's newest private course.

The Challenge is part of a 36-hole development by Jeff Dingman. ArrowCreek's other course, The Legend, which is open to the public, was designed by Arnold Palmer.

"What makes The Challenge unique," said Harbottle, "is the character of its bunkering and the deep canyon which plays along and across several holes on the back nine."

The course lays out on more than 200

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N'east Golf busy in New England

CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. — The Northeast Golf Co. has been retained to provide master planning and design services for the Putterham Meadows Golf Club here. Improvements to the drainage system, irrigation, tees, greens and bunkers will be considered within the master plan.

Putterham Meadows is located adjacent to The Country Club, host

of the 1999 Ryder Cup matches. Construction of the proposed improvements will begin following the Ryder Cup in October.

Meanwhile, Northeast Golf has completed the routing phase for the Housatonic Rapids golf course project in Sherman, Conn.; has begun construction at Stryker's Pass, a new 27-hole daily-fee facility in Lopatcong,

N.J.; and the shaping of Skyview Golf and Country Club in Sparta, N.J., is nearly complete.

At Housatonic Rapids the owners are considering a semi-private operating structure. The site is approximately 15 miles north of Danbury. Development is pending zoning approval from the town.

At Stryker's Pass, the 18-hole championship and 9-hole pitch-and-putt courses, designed by

Robert McNeil of Northeast Golf, will be built by Turco Golf Course Construction.

At Skyview, seeding is scheduled this fall. Mike Candeloro has joined the development team as the golf course superintendent, handling grown-in and ongoing maintenance thereafter. Candeloro served as the assistant superintendent at White Beeches Golf & Country Club in Haworth, N.J.

Harbottle

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acres. Naturally rolling fairways are wide with a links touch. The Challenge measures 7,425 yards from the back tees and 5,703 yards from the forward. Playing at about 6,000 feet above sea level, the test is not as long as it seems.

Noting that the wind comes into play from a variety of directions, Harbottle said, "Wind is an important element of design. Great early American golf course designer C.B. McDonald wrote: 'You can have a good golf course without wind, but you can't have a great one.'"

RTJ II

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crucial stage of Southern Highlands' development because what we do now will have a profound impact on the drama and beauty of the golf course."

While at Southern Highlands, Jones made several adjustments, primarily concerning the placement and shape of the bunkers and water features on the course as well as the positioning of the tee boxes.

These adjustments served to improve the playing strategy and enhance the aesthetic nature of the golf course.

"You design a golf course like an artist paints a painting — first come the broad strokes, then the fine detail," Jones said. "I fell in love with the original design, and now I am working on the more subtle aspects that will lend a richness to the course's character. After every visit, I am more and more certain Southern Highlands will be a truly spectacular golf course."

Dorset Field

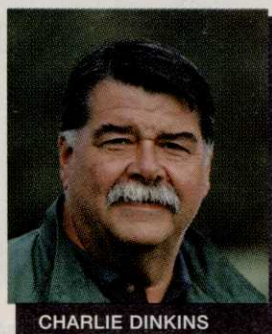
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One standout hole is the new 10th. As members make the turn, they'll be greeted by a dramatic par-3 that is reminiscent of another great short hole — The Dell at Lahinch, Ireland. Standing on the tee to survey the partially hidden, punchbowl green below, golfers will have views of mountains that were hidden for more than 100 years.

Durkee's first golf course design Green Mountain National Golf Course, which opened in 1997 in Sherburne — was done in partnership with Gene Bates. It was recently named the best public course in the state by *Golf Digest*. Since that time, he has made nine-hole additions to Neshobe Golf Course and Brattleboro Country Club; and has begun work on a project at Okemo Mountain Resort.

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Here's what Golf Course Manager Charlie Dinkins of Binder Park Golf Course in Battle Creek, Michigan, has to say about Eagle turf fungicide:



CHARLIE DINKINS

"I used Eagle this year to control dollar spot and brown patch on greens and fairways. I got 15 to 18 days of control on greens and even longer on fairways. Like a lot of municipal courses, we are on a very limited budget. I have to have a product I can count on to give me longevity. I'll definitely use Eagle again next year."

Adds Jeff Frontz, greens superintendent, CGCS, of Royal American Links in Galena, Ohio:

"For dollar spot control, I want a product that will be effective for 14 to 21 days. Other products are cost-prohibitive at that interval. Eagle is the best choice. I got three weeks of control. That was good with all the disease pressure we had. You could see exactly where we left off spraying. It's hard to keep the course spotless, but Eagle came pretty close."

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