

## IRISH EYES SMILING ON O'MEARA DESIGN

DUBLIN, Ireland — Mark O'Meara has announced that he will be designing his first course in Europe at Carton Demesne outside Dublin. The project will consist of two courses, the other designed by Colin Montgomerie, and a hotel and convention center. The course will be located at Carton Demesne, a 17th-century estate that was the ancestral home to the Fitzgerald's Earls of Kildare. "The property offers a host of options and is absolutely perfect for the development of a world class golf course," said O'Meara. O'Meara Design plans to use much of the existing woodland for the routing of the course and three holes will lead down to the River Rye which meanders through the project. Work on the course began in September and is scheduled to be completed in 2001.

## Dundarave added to PEI pool

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muddy clay, like that red Georgia soil."

"We turned the first shovel of dirt on May 4 [1998] and the owners played the course in late October. The last date of seeding was Sept. 15. They wanted to get it done quickly so they could have it up and running this year.

The person most responsible

for getting the job done on time and on budget was project manager Robbie Hellstrom, who had worked with Hurdzan at Le Diable at Mt. Tremblant [Quebec], Straka said.

"When we started talking to Eugene about this project," Straka recalled, "he was looking for a project manager. We told him we had just finished

with Robbie and what a terrific job he'd done for us. He built it [Tremblant] very quickly and it's gotten great reviews. We put Eugene in touch with Robbie and they worked out an agreement."

The need for quick cash flow was the reason for opening the course in one year rather than the two it usually takes to build a course in this region, said Rossiter.

"We worked 20 hours a day, seven days a week," Rossiter said. "We built the course in loops. There were holes 1-2-17-18 in one loop, 3-13-14-15-16 in another loop, 4-5-6-12 in a third loop and 7-8-9-10-11 in the final loop. We might have been 80 percent complete in the first loop, 60 percent in the second, and 30 percent in the others. If the weather was too inclement to work in one loop, we could go work in another. So we kept the men and equipment going all the time. And we had fantastic weather just about the whole time... We understood the time line was very aggressive and knew the risks, but we met it."

The only problem has been the roughs, which suffered from this spring's prolonged drought. "It was late growing in, but that could have happened anywhere," Rossiter said.

"The speed to get it open and the vastness of the grading were the biggest challenges," Straka said. "We used experienced shapers. The builder was a local person, Harry Annear of Kings County Construction. He had never built anything of that magnitude before, but did a great job."

The practice facility was originally envisioned as a three-hole loop with sand greens, driving range and short-game center. But with the increasing number of top-quality courses on the island, Hurdzan convinced the developers to expand the practice facility to a nine-hole track with push-up greens and bunkers.

"That was a testament to Mike's vision," Straka said. "They just had a Canadian Tour stop there in late August and held a pro-am pairing local kids with the pros on the practice course. That drew a lot of people. The pro tournament itself was held in Brudenell, but will be moved to Dundarave permanently next year."

Ann Chinouard, who is the coach for LPGA player Lorie Kane, is the director of the Brudenell Golf Academy.

In addition to Dundarave and Le Diable, Hurdzan's Canadian credits include Royal Woodbine, Devil's Pulpit and Devil's Paintbrush outside Toronto and Westwood Plateau near Vancouver.

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