

## Azinger Q&A

Continued from page 43

**GCN:** Architects get a lot of credit for what they do. The superintendents' association has hired a public relations firm to help elevate its members' professional image. Now builders want golfers to realize the importance of what they do. Do builders deserve more credit for their contribution to a new course?

**JA:** Yes. We [architects] provide a palette for the builders. They are the true artists. They are the ones who do the shaping and the sculpting.

**GCN:** How does your relationship work with Gordon Lewis?

**JA:** We work on the plans together and split the fee. Gordie is my mentor. He's the one I leaned on to learn how to become a golf course architect. He has more than 30 years experience and has been involved with more than 300 golf courses. His office is in Naples and mine is in Sarasota.

**GCN:** Is there a course you've done that put you on the map as a golf course designer?

**JA:** I have four that have put me on the map.

Heritage Palms in Fort Myers is a spectacular course. It has beautiful scenery and is just a fun course to play.

Stoneybrook of Estero is 7,350 yards. That's a long course.

Heritage Isles has 16 acres of upland restoration and was built by Barbaron, the same guys who did the shaping for Black Diamond Ranch.

And then Shadow Ridge. That's one of those cases where the site makes the course. We surveyed the site, found the best places for greens, staked them, had those shot and surveyed, and then laid out the course from those points. The grand opening is this year.

**GCN:** The United States opened more than 500 new courses last year and more than 400 almost every year during the 1990s. Do you see new course development slowing soon?

**JA:** I don't see it slowing down at all, at least not in the near future. People are looking at golf as a way to make money. Golf courses are profitable, a good business venture.

What Tiger Woods is doing is wonderful. He's bringing everyone to the game of golf. Golf should not be looked at as a rich man's sport being played at the expense of the environment anymore. It's a game that builds character and is available to everyone.

My niche in this game should bring me a lot of business. The strongest niche in this golf market for the next five to 10 years will be building affordable golf courses. That's what I design. My courses are not only affordable for the owner, but also for the guy who wants to bring his children

out and teach them the game.

**GCN:** Being a husband and father, does it bother you being away from home as much as you are?

**JA:** It gets to you, being on the road all the time. But the thing that keeps it in perspective is that my dad was in Vietnam for a year. And we didn't know if he was coming back or not. It's a part of making a living. We all have to play the cards we're dealt. ▶

## Ryan Golf, Fazio team up in Florida

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — Ryan Golf is building two golf courses in Florida designed by Tom Fazio — Mediterra in this community and Olde Collier Golf Club in Naples.

Construction of the first 18 holes at Mediterra will be the centerpiece of a new residential community developed by Bonita Bay Properties. Ryan Golf will excavate more than 2 million cubic yards of rock and sand, installation a

drainage system, and built the course. Work will be completed during the summer.

Meanwhile, Ryan Golf has broken ground on Olde Collier Golf Club, an exclusive golf property being developed by Collier Enterprises, developer of Collier's Reserve.

The course is a members-only 18-hole facility enhanced with preserve areas and bird sanctuaries.



## SPOT REMOVER.



Nothing hits the spot for dollar spot control

and other diseases of turf and ornamentals, like

SysTec 1998®. It is the most effective broad spectrum

systemic fungicide for curative and preventative control.

It also affords the best protection for the money. Use it

as a foliar spray or drench treatment,

SysTec 1998 gets the job done.

Tank mix it with any other fungicide for

comprehensive control. SysTec 1998 controls

dollar spot, fusarium blight, brown patch, anthracnose and

others and provides on the spot systemic protection that

keeps working for weeks after application. SysTec 1998 —

its spot remover packaged in a handy

flowable and WDG formulations.

**SysTec 1998®**

800.621.5208

THE BROAD SPECTRUM SYSTEMIC FUNGICIDE FOR HEALTHIER PLANTS.