

BRIEFS



**ELDRIDGE JOINING RAINMAKER**

COLUMBIA, Md. — Paul Eldredge, who retired in December as president of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., will join The Rainmaker Group, a golf course and residential development concern, as a principal. Eldredge will serve part-time as executive vice president,



Paul Eldredge

assuming business development and project management responsibilities on both golf and residential projects. He worked 37 years for Wadsworth and was involved in building more than 500 golf courses around the country. "After nearly 40 years in construction, I wanted to take a broader role in development," Eldredge said.

**SASSER JOINS WEITZ**

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Weitz Golf International has hired Warren T. "Tommy" Sasser as vice president of marketing. Sasser's primary responsibility will be to direct the company's golf course construction marketing efforts. Prior to joining Weitz Golf, Sasser was president of GolfDevelopment Consultants. Sasser is on the board of directors of the Golf Course Builders Association of America, and is a member of the National Golf Foundation, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Urban Land Institute and Society of American Foresters.

**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. The golf course design firm of Richard M. Phelps, Ltd. has been asked to plan significant improvements, including new tees, greens, sand and grass bunkers and irrigation. The goal is to make the course stand out in Vail valley's competitive market. It is expected to take three to four years to complete the job, not including the work currently under construction 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.



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The par-3 15th hole at Whispering Pines Golf Club plays with a prevailing crosswind and will stretch from a gentle 96 yards to 178 yards from the back tee.

**Texans making dream come true for kids, amateurs — themselves**

By FRANCES G. TRIMBLE

Corby Robertson and Chris Gilbert are two friends and veterans of the University of Texas football wars who, as college juniors, dreamed of opening a summer sports camp for kids. Camp Olympia, where children gain new athletic skills in a natural environment, opened in 1968 with 86 campers. The camp, which has always featured an introduction to golf, now serves over 8,000 youngsters each summer. The camp's success does not mean that Robertson and Gilbert

gave up dreaming.

Recently the two announced their latest vision:

- Whispering Pines Golf Club, 18-holes built on "a very special" 400-acre tract of land about 90 miles north of Houston, in Trinity County, Texas, next door to Camp Olympia.
- World Health & Golf Association, a not-for-profit corporation whose beneficiaries are the world-renowned Texas Medical Center Institutions and a First Tee Program for 5,000 fifth-

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**Fledgling Tillinghast Association growing**

By MARK LESLIE

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. — Their two books on A.W. Tillinghast were hits, now Bob Trebus and Richard and Stuart Wolffe have formed the Tillinghast Association, creating a web site and newsletter as well as a repository for information on the famed golf course architect.



A.W. Tillinghast

"When we published the first two books ["Course Beautiful" and "Reminiscences of the Links"], we found that there is a great interest in Tillinghast," said Trebus, who is the association's first president. "There is a Donald Ross Society. And, especially at Pinehurst during the U.S. Open, Ross was getting a lot of recognition, so we thought Tillinghast should get just as much."

The designer of such highly regarded tracks as Winged Foot's East and West Courses, San Francisco Golf Club and Quaker Ridge Golf Course, Tillinghast was a prolific writer. While researching a book for the 100th anniversary of their club — Baltusrol Golf Club — Trebus and the Wolfes discovered enough fodder on its designer, Tillinghast, to publish their two books — with a third waiting in the wings.

Tillinghast's interesting treatises will also

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**Nancy Lopez aims for name in 2nd career: design**

In her rookie season on the LPGA, in 1977-78, Nancy Lopez won nine tournaments, including five in a row and setting a standard for winning that has not been equaled since. Elected into the LPGA Hall of Fame in 1987 at the age of 30, she is still active on the Tour, but has set her sights on a new challenge: golf course design. Working with her agent, IMG, she has launched Nancy Lopez Course Design and is already awaiting contracts for two projects. In the meantime, she has been selected to receive the prestigious Old Tom Morris Award in February from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Editor Mark Leslie found her



Q & A



Nancy Lopez on a golf course site with IMG lead architect Brit Stenson.

during one of her few quiet moments at home in Albany, Ga., where she lives with her husband, former Major League player Ray Knight, three daughters, stepson Brooks, three dogs and three cats.

GCN: Part of the Old Tom Morris Award is to acknowledge your helping to "mold the welfare of the game." How do you feel you have done that?

Lopez: It's difficult for me to talk about myself, but character and sportsmanship have always been important to me. You can always be a good player, but if you're

a jerk it's not worth it; you've not accomplished what you should have because golf is a gentleman's sport. It is a game that tests you, that builds your character. I've always totally respected

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**Architects society plans remodeling seminars**

The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has created a series of golf course remodeling seminars under the title of "Remodeling University: A Short Course to a Better Course." The one-day symposiums have been created to educate golf course decision-makers about the basics of remodeling.

The inaugural event will take place in Chicago at North Shore Country Club on Jan. 28. Similar programs will be held in Atlanta (Atlanta Athletic Club, March 2); New York (Westchester Country Club,

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**PURGATORY GOLF CLUB... IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD**

Purgatory Golf Club in Noblesville, Ind., designed by Ron Kern, is nearing completion in this Indianapolis suburb, and opening day is targeted for late spring. See story, page 36.