



BRIEFS

MARRIOTT'S REDESIGNED CAMELBACK GC NOW OPEN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Marriott's Camelback Inn has announced the opening of the newly redesigned Camelback Golf Club. The \$16-million course and club represent Marriott's largest single golf course investment. The project features a complete redesign of the Resort Course (formerly called the Padre Course) by architect Arthur Hills. Instead of the desert setting found at most courses in the area, Camelback features a parkland setting with large mature trees. The finished product is a classic course, with strategic bunkering, traditional square tees and subtle land forms. Every hole features a new green and tee, as well as new bunkers. While some holes maintain their original routing, other have been re-routed to increase overall playability, competitiveness and appeal. Besides lengthening the course from 6,500 yards to 6,868, three new lakes have been added to enhance the course's challenge.

Camelback also has a new 36,000-square-foot, pueblo-style clubhouse, designed by Douglas Frederick Design, with flagstone patios and an outdoor fireplace. Silent beepers call golfers to their first tees, eliminating the public address system.

BOBBY WEED ENTERS MINNESOTA

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — StoneRidge Golf Club, near the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area, opened July 1. It is the first Weed design course in Minnesota. StoneRidge was built on an abandoned sand quarry and an Arabian horse farm. According to architect Bobby Weed, the layout should require players to use every club in their bags. "The golf course has a variety of one-, two- and three-shot holes that set up risk-reward situations," he said. "The more chance you take, the bigger the payoff or risk. But there are also options to play the course along a safer route." Rolling fairways are suited to playing shots on the ground, favoring a golfer who is comfortable with the style of the game played in the British Isles.

EASTWOOD DROPS COURSE PLAN

CARMEL, Calif. — Actor Clint Eastwood has decided to spare a California forest from the bulldozers, by halting a controversial golf course development. The move ends a year-long campaign to protect the 500-acre site at Pebble Beach, near Monterey.

Washington National opens University Course

AUBURN, Wash. — Washington National Golf Club (WNGC) has unveiled the first of a two-phase development with the opening of the University Course, which will serve as home to the University of Washington's men's and women's golf teams.

The public, 18-hole, par-72 layout, designed by golf architect John Fought, is owned and managed by Kirkland-based OB Sports.

The head coach of the Washington Huskies golf team, O.D. Vincent, is the son of Orrin Vincent, owner of OB Sports and a native of the Pacific Northwest. "It's been a dream of mine to build a course worthy of hosting a major championship, and Washington National is that course," said Orrin Vincent. "It is all the more meaningful having been afforded the opportunity to do it in my hometown."

The University Course features five sets of strategically placed ryegrass tees, allowing golfers of all skill levels to play the course, which ranges from 7,304 yards from the back pegs down to 5,117 yards from the shortest markers. A large club-



The 8th hole at the newly opened Washington National Golf Club

house deck overlooks the 18th hole and offers expansive views.

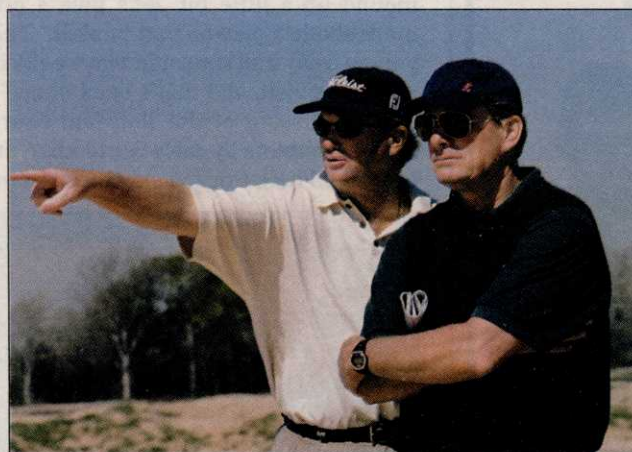
The most dramatic holes, perhaps, are the par-5 14th and the par-4 15th. Vincent modeled the 14th — a 635-yarder — after Pine Valley's sixth, a hole so tough it's often called "Hell's Half Acre." Vincent's version skirts several bunkers and requires a downhill third shot that can send balls bouncing sharply off the back of the green.

The 15th hole, 342 yards long, plays to an island green against a backdrop of boulders, flowers and a waterfall. Preci-

sion is required to reach the green safely. "This," said Vincent, "is an Augusta hole."

Various details at the course expand on the college theme. The golf carts, for example, are gold with purple trim, the Huskies' team colors. Each cart is custom named for a Husky athlete, and inside the cart is a description of that "Husky Legend." For instance, the Warren Moon cart features a rundown of his collegiate and pro football careers. There's also one custom colored cart for each of the other Pac-10 Conference schools, complete with

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Peter Jacobsen (left) and Jim Hardy (right) on site at BlackHorse GC

Jacobsen/Hardy's BlackHorse Golf Club set to debut in fall

HOUSTON — The Redstone Co.'s newest golf project, BlackHorse Golf Club, is on schedule to open here this fall. Designed to be one of the premier daily-fee golf facilities in the Houston area, BlackHorse GC follows Redstone's successful development of The Houstonian Golf Club and the ShadowHawk Golf Club, both of which opened last year in Richmond, Texas.

BlackHorse includes the first of two 18-hole golf courses in Texas to be crafted by Jacobsen/Hardy Golf Design. The facility, located in northwest Houston, will feature a north course and a south course, a driving range, a clubhouse, a restaurant, a golf academy, an instruction center and a 2,000-square-foot pro shop.

In addition, it will include a teaching center that offers group clinics, private lessons, one-on-one video golf lessons, junior clinics and an indoor video classroom.

The club recently hired Roger Goettsch, formerly with Golf Services Group, of Cypress as course superintendent. Goettsch, who holds a B.S. in turf management from Iowa State University, has worked on a number of projects from the ground up, in Texas, Thailand and Indonesia, with such golf architects as Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Desmond

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Ernie Els Enterprises joins forces with Nicklaus Design

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Nicklaus Design has entered into a joint venture with Ernie Els Enterprises to pursue golf course design opportunities. The parties intend to develop, implement and market a golf course design business supported by the infrastructure of Nicklaus Design, and featuring the design work, strategies and endorsement of Ernie Els.

Nicklaus Design, a division of Golden Bear International, Inc., the privately held company of golfer Jack Nicklaus and the Nicklaus family, will provide Ernie Els Design, Ltd. with the staff and technical support required to complete the conceptual and planning documents necessary to design a golf course. Support will include all computer-aided design work related to routings, strategy

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Oneida Nation's Shenendoah Golf Club ready for play

ONEIDA, N.Y. — The Oneida Indian Nation recently opened its 18-hole championship Shenendoah Golf Club adjacent to the Turning Stone Casino Resort in central New York. Playing to a par of 72 and ranging up to 7,129 yards from the back tees, the course provides a challenge for everyone from the high handicapper to the most accomplished shooters.

Designed, constructed and maintained to tournament standards, golfers at Shenendoah will experience conditions normally reserved for tour professionals. "The

Shenendoah Golf Club is a great tour-caliber course that is as fine a course as you will find anywhere in the United States," says Bob O'Brien, director of golf at Turning Stone Casino Resort.

The Oneida group chose course designer Rick Smith for his attention to detail and commitment to maintaining the integrity of the existing landscape. Recognized by Audubon International for his efforts in designing courses that preserve and enhance the environment, Smith has blended this 18-hole layout into its natural surroundings.

BlackHorse

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Muirhead and Ken Dye.

"I'm very excited about the BlackHorse project," he said. "The Jacobsen/Hardy group has designed a challenging and traditional, yet very aesthetically pleasing, layout that has enhanced the surrounding areas. BlackHorse creates an environmental sanctuary for wildlife and

golfers alike." Matt Swanson, former director of golf at Raveneaux CC in Houston, has been appointed head golf professional.

Committed to protecting the environmental integrity of the site Jacobsen and Hardy went to great lengths to protect the trees, to minimize the effects of the land and to maximize environmental stewardship. The course feature several

wetlands and oxbows with palmetto and other native plant species that attract birds such as ducks, egrets, and sand hill cranes. The fairways use TifSport grass, while the greens feature TifEagle. Both Bermuda species are new to Houston-area daily-fee courses.

"We've taken advantage of the natural terrain and features of the area in order to challenge all

golfers," said Peter Jacobsen, a 22-year veteran of the PGA Tour and former golf commentator. "The use of the creek, lakes and wetlands, as well as the sand quarry and trees make this course unique among daily fee courses here. The course details, layout and environmental use of the land make it a special course for Houstonians."

The developer and owner of BlackHorse, Redstone Golf

Properties, serves as the holding company for additional golf properties to be purchased, developed or managed by The Redstone Companies. The company provides management for two Rees Jones-designed golf clubs in Richmond; the private ShadowHawk GC, and the resort-style Houstonian GC, an amenity to The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa in Houston. ■

WHAT A FAIRWAY MOWER SHOULD BE.

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E EFFICIENT **B** PRECISE
E EASY **B** POWERFUL
E EFFICIENT **B** PRECISE
B COMFORTABLE
E EFFICIENT **B** PRECISE
S SHARP **B** STRONG
E EFFICIENT **B** PRECISE



Excellence has a new letter. The new John Deere 3215B Turf System I and the 3235B Turf System II take lightweight fairway mowers to new heights of efficiency, cut quality, and grass collecting. Both machines boast new 22-inch bed-knife-to-reel cutting units. These units have larger reel motors than the previous generation for improved power. (The 3235B can be equipped with ESP cutting units for use in lush, warm-season grasses.) A new yoke and ball joint design on the cutting units improves grass collecting. And the cutting units can be easily removed for servicing. A more efficient new triple pump has 12-tooth gears for a lower internal pressure drop and improved flow dynamics. A standard electric fan drive improves engine cooling performance while reducing sound levels to an all-time low. And to cap it all off, both the 3215B and 3235B sport new streamlined, fiberglass hoods. To see the new John Deere Lightweight Fairway Mowers in action, call 1-800-537-8233 for your free video today. Then call your local John Deere golf & turf distributor.

Nicklaus/Els

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plans, layouts and feature details, and technical specifications. The venture's designs will be branded, marketed and promoted independently of Nicklaus Design, using the name, image and endorsement of Ernie Els.

Els' manager, Nic Frangos, approached Nicklaus Design last year to discuss opportunities for Els to work with the Golden Bear and his firm to learn the business of golf course design.

"Jack Nicklaus is the most highly regarded Tour professional designing golf courses today," Frangos said. "His firm has an established reputation of being one of the most talented, comprehensive, full-service design companies worldwide. Ernie wants to do more than simply lend his name to a golf course; he wants to be involved in the design business for years to come. It made sense for us to approach the Nicklaus organization to propose the joint venture."

Just as Nicklaus began his design career over 30 years ago working with such noted architects as Dick Wilson, Pete Dye and Desmond Muirhead, Els aspires to follow a similar pattern, Frangos said, learning from the best and eventually evolving into his own design company. Currently, the group is looking at several opportunities for Els' first design project.

"My staff and I are looking forward to working with Ernie," Nicklaus said. "I have long admired Ernie as a player. At the same time, I have admired him as a person. I am certain that if we are able to provide him the support and guidance he needs, once that is combined with his desire to excel, Ernie will become as talented a golf course designer as he is a player." ■

