

BRIEFS

MCCUMBER REHABBING COURSE AT HUNTER'S RUN

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. — The South Course of Hunter's Run, part of a 54-hole golf complex here on the Atlantic coast south of Palm Beach, is getting a facelift from 10-time PGA Tour champion Mark McCumber. Renovation of the course, built in the late 1970s, got under way in May. "The project was initiated by the club to incorporate improvements in construction technology and to implement several new design enhancements," said McCumber. A member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, McCumber is based in Jacksonville, Fla.

LONGABERGER DELAYS SECOND COURSE

NEWARK, Ohio — Longaberger, a basket-making company, has delayed work on its second 18-hole course, citing a slowing economy. In April, the firm laid off 400 of its 2,600 workers. Tom Weiskopf had roughed out a design for the course, next to an Arthur Hills-designed Longaberger layout that opened in 1999 to rave reviews. *Golf Digest* rated it the best new upscale course in the country last year. Work may resume on the second course next spring. Postponing the scheduled work on irrigation and shaping "seemed like the right thing to do," said Mike Kaido, Longaberger's director of golf operations. Weiskopf said he was working with a generous schedule to begin with and should be able to finish the course in time to open in 2003.

WEED RESTORING ROSS LAYOUT

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Weed Design has begun renovation on the Linville Golf Club (N.C.), designed in 1924 by Donald Ross. Architect Bobby Weed said initial work will involve bunker restoration and customized irrigation. The first adjustment will be to enlarge greens by changing mowing patterns back to those from the 1920s. Weed Design has renovated several Ross courses, including Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville, Fla., site of the 2002 Senior Amateur, and Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, N.C. Weed Design also will create a course for Washington National Golf Club in the Celebrate Virginia North golf complex, a 640-acre project being developed by Deane Beman, former PGA Tour commissioner, and Gary Schaal, former president of the PGA of America. Construction of the public course will begin this summer.

New Nicklaus course in Sonoma for walkers only

By DOUG SAUNDERS

HEALDSBURG, Calif. — Mayacama Golf Club, the newest Jack Nicklaus signature course, opens this summer in the wine country near Healdsburg, and it promises to be one of the more distinctive private golf courses of 2001.

The 6,759-yard track features an intriguing blend of five par-5s and five par-3s that fit the landscape like a glove. Only 150,000 cubic yards of dirt had to be moved to bring the layout to life. The course has no yardage markers except at the tees, and golfers will learn to rely on caddies and their own judgment to play the correct shots.

The 650-acre property is a blend of three rolling hillsides dotted with mature oaks, madrones, redwoods and firs — the terrain lends itself perfectly to golf. On monthly visits to the site, Nicklaus saw the opportunity to design a traditional golf course that relies on early design concepts to create a top-level experience.

"This was an exciting piece of property to work on, and I think it will be a great experience for the members of the club," he said.

WALK, DON'T RIDE

Designed for walking only, members will use carts solely to travel to the private "casitas" being constructed for overnight stays. In contrast to most private golf developments, only 31 homes will be sited at Mayacama; even these will be hidden away from the course to preserve the secluded atmosphere.

The property was formerly owned by a partnership that included the late Charles Schultz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip and an avid golfer. But after struggling for 11 years to obtain permits, the group sold the property to the new ownership that has created Mayacama Golf Club. Schultz, unfortunately, passed away before completion of the course, but his widow has been given an honorary membership.

Final permit approvals were secured when the new plans toned down the development aspects for the site. Steering the project towards a private club — with little addition of roads and



The fifth hole at Mayacama Golf Club, north of San Francisco

infrastructure — helped to move Mayacama towards reality.

"Our desire was to create the finest private club imaginable," said general manager Phillip Norfleet. "The combination of Jack Nicklaus as our architect and this wonderful site has

Continued on page 16



The 18th hole at Ocean Trails after the big slide. Repairs cost \$35 million.

Disaster-struck Ocean Trails Golf Club nearing full play

By JAY FINEGAN

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. — One of the most unfortunate golf development adventures ever seen in Southern California will draw to a close in December, when all 18 holes at the dazzling Ocean Trails Golf Club are expected to open for play.

The original opening was scheduled for July 1999. But on June 2 of that year, at 10:30 a.m., some 3.5 million cubic yards of earth — much of the 18th hole — suddenly broke free from the rest of the course and slid toward the

ocean. Owner Ken Zuckerman remembers it as "the day the earth moved."

It was a nasty break for Zuckerman and his brother, Bob Zuckerman, Woodland Hills-based developers, who had been working on the project since 1991. This was their first golf course, and it was to be a gem — a Pete Dye design running cliffside along the crashing Pacific surf.

"The property itself is every bit as dramatic as Pebble Beach," Dye said. "It was a Scottish links course, just

Continued on page 18

Frontier, Love break ground on municipal track near Pittsburgh

By PHILIP HALL

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, Pa. — Construction is well underway here at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, an 18-hole collaboration between Frontier Construction Co. and course architect Bill Love.

The first spade of dirt was turned March 1. A grand opening for this upscale, municipal facility has been scheduled for the fall of 2002, according to Frontier president Nick Scigliano.

"We're really looking forward to working with Bill Love on this project," said Scigliano. "His design here is very strong. When it's finished, Cranberry Highlands is going to be one of those courses that looks as if it's always been there."

MUNICIPAL COURSE

Cranberry Township lies about 25 miles north of Pittsburgh. In 1999, the municipality floated the idea of building a golf course, a portion of which would sit on a former sludge-disposal site. A feasibility study conducted by the National Golf Foundation in 2000 confirmed the project's viability.

The site is gently rolling and not heavily wooded. Indeed, Frontier is clearing only 19 acres to accommodate Love's design. "We're moving only about 175,000 cubic yards of dirt," Scigliano added, "and just an acre of wetlands will be impacted."

Continued on page 17

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Brauer set to break ground on Minnesota reservation

TOWER, Minn. — The Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council has given final approval to move forward with construction of a \$7.5-million, 18-hole championship golf course at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, located here on the banks of picturesque Lake Vermillion.

Gary Donald, chairman of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, said the planning for the Jeff Brauer-designed course began many years ago with the original master plan for Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

"This project is another step in our efforts to regain economic self-sufficiency for our people," he said. "The golf course will complement the resort at Fortune Bay and allow us to attract visitors from a wider region, benefitting the Bois Forte Reservation and our neighboring communities and businesses. It will help complete our vision of becoming the premier resort in northeastern Minnesota."

Construction is expected to begin this summer, with the course opening in the summer of 2003 as a daily-fee, public facility.

'WILD NORTH GOLF ALLIANCE'

The course will be situated on approximately 250 acres adjacent to Fortune Bay, much of it on a rocky ridge with views of Lake Vermillion. It will have several sets of tee boxes, allowing players of all skill levels an opportunity for a challenging round of golf. It also will be walkable, making it eligible for sanctioned tournament play.

Lake Vermillion is considered one of the most scenic lakes in North America,

and supports a vibrant and growing tourism economy. Tens of thousands of tourists from throughout the country and the world visit the area each year.

This project will compliment and benefit from this strong tourism market. Fortune Bay plans to participate in the "Wild North Golf Alliance," a cooperative marketing organization that includes 12 golf courses in northeastern Minnesota and the Minnesota Office of Tourism. The alliance promotes this region as a golf destination, helping to bring more tourism dollars into the area.

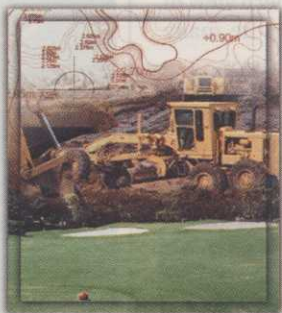
WETLANDS IMPACT

Donald, chairman of the tribal group, said that substantial planning went into assuring the golf course is designed and operated in an environmentally friendly manner.

The Band is working with the Army Corp of Engineers on a wetland permit, because approximately 14 acres of wetlands will be affected. Those impacts are addressed through an environmental assessment and wetlands mitigation plan prepared by the Band's environmental specialists.

The Band also plans to apply for status in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, which requires that the course be designed with environmental considerations receiving high priority, and that it be managed with best management practices to preserve and protect the environment.

Brauer, of Arlington, Texas, is best known in Minnesota for his Giants Ridge Golf & Ski Resort in Biwabik.



Nicklaus' Mayacama

Continued from page 14

generated unprecedented interest. In fact, 200 members joined the club even before it was finished."

A TOUCH OF TRADITION

The design work hewed to many of the aspects of early golf course design.

Tees and greens are in close proximity to each other, for example, and the course features only 47 bunkers. The bunkers themselves are small, especially compared to some of the grand bunkers that Nicklaus has created elsewhere. Wooden bunker rakes are being used to provide a touch of tradition.

"The lay of the land was such that the routing was literally there before us," said Ken Bowman, a design associate with Nicklaus Design who was on the project throughout construction. "Jack worked hard to set tees in areas that also captured the excellent views of the region."

"It is impressive to find a site just an hour from San Francisco where views of snow-capped mountains capture your eye in the winter while you play golf," Bowman added. "Your first impression of this track is that it was built 80 years ago. Few would guess that it's a Jack Nicklaus design."

SIX-INCH SANDCAP

Course construction and shaping were performed by Wadsworth Golf Construction, with plenty of input from head superintendent Marc Logan.

An Australian native who spent three years working at Royal Melbourne Golf Club, Logan has an expertise in nurturing bentgrass that has brought him some notoriety among his peers. He strives to create the finest bentgrass putting surfaces possible and is flattered to have been chosen to nurture Mayacama Golf Club.

The greens feature G-2 bent, and the fairways were sodded with three million square feet of blended ryegrass.

"This golf course is fantastic in terms of style, architecture and modern construction technology," Logan said. "The final product is like nothing I've ever been involved with."

While very little earth was moved to create the layout, the designers did add a six-inch sandcap to the course to ensure adequate drainage during the winter months. Twenty-five live oaks were transplanted at a cost of \$25,000 per tree, and special care was taken to protect the creeks and natural wetlands on the site.

CLUBHOUSE WINE CAVE

Mayacama Golf Club is named after the Mayacama mountains that join Sonoma and Napa counties, the heart of California's wine country. Not surprisingly, wine will be prominently featured at Mayacama.

A private wine cave will be constructed under the clubhouse, providing members with lockers for their personal wine collections. Mayacama also is bringing the premier wine producers of the region into the fold as members and associates to help formulate a superior collection of vintages.

Plans call for the club to have 275 members and 95 national members. Already 35 national memberships have been secured.

"We feel that all of the aspects of Mayacama Golf Club come together to create one of the most unique private clubs in the nation," said Norfleet, the general manager. "I doubt that anything of this type will be created again in this region, and the excitement of our members about the completion of the course is a testimony to the special job that Nicklaus and the entire team put into this project." ■

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