

## 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.

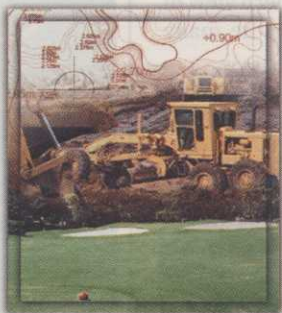
### WETLANDS IMPACT

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

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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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