



## BRIEFS

### PALMER ANNOUNCES NEW DESIGN NORTH OF DES MOINES

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Arnold Palmer's latest project for the Palmer Course Design Company is called Big Creek located just north of Des Moines in Polk City, Iowa. The 18-hole golf course is to be developed and constructed by the Enebak Construction Co. based in Northfield, Minn. The company has previously worked with the Palmer design firm in Minnesota at the Tournament Players Club of the Twin Cities in Blaine, and at the Deacon's Lodge Golf Course in Breezy Point.

### ROUTING STARTS AT SOMERSETT GOLF CLUB IN NEVADA

RENO, Nev. — The canyons, creeks and rocky outcroppings of the Sierra Nevada foothills will be the future site for the Somerset Golf Club. The design team includes U.S. Open champion Tom Kite and architects Roy Bechtol and Randy Russell. The routing for the 18-hole course, scheduled to open in 2003, was staked out in August to compliment the master-planned community located at the foot of Peavine Mountain. Plans call for approximately 2,200 residences on 2,076 acres with more than half of the property set aside for open space.

### MILLER TO BUILD TWO IN UTAH

HURRICANE, Utah — SUN Realty and Johnny Miller are teaming up here in southern Utah to build the first of two Miller-designed courses at Outlaw Ridge Resort and Golf Community. The community will be designed as a destination resort with a hotel, spa, tennis center and a Johnny Miller Golf Academy. One of the Miller courses will be a private layout and the other will be a high-end daily-fee track. The project is located 40 minutes from Zion National Park and 90 minutes from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Construction on Outlaw Ridge is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2002.

### FREAM OPENS FIRST NJ COURSE

CAPE MAY COUNTY, N.J. — Fream & Dale Golfplan has finished its first golf course in New Jersey. The Shoregate Golf Club at Ocean View will join south Jersey's golf market next summer. The layout, which was built for less than \$5 million, is just three miles from the ocean and features undulating fairways and challenging bunker placements.

## 2001 Newsmakers

# Pascuzzo tackles technology, affordability issues

EL DORADO HILLS, Calif. — *The American Society of Golf Course Architects* has taken a stand this year, issuing position papers on golf club and ball technology and affordable golf. *Golf Course News* recently caught up with ASGCA president Damian Pascuzzo to discuss how these two interrelated issues are impacting the game of golf.



*Golf Course News*: Why has the ASGCA tackled these weighty issues this year?

**Damian Pascuzzo**: When I became president I sat down with my next two successors, Jay Morrish and Clyde Johnston, and came up with an agenda. We prioritized them and narrowed it down to the impact of golf club and ball technology on golf course design and the need for affordable golf. This allows the association to focus its efforts for the next three years.

*GCN*: Why is golf club and ball technology at the top of your list?

**Pascuzzo**: We don't make the rules and we don't make the equipment, but we certainly see the ramifications of the clubs and balls on today's golf courses. We can also see what it is going to do to tomorrow's golf courses if some checks are not put in place.

We are seeing a direct linkage between the ball flying farther and the increased acreage required to contain the ball not only in length but also in width. When the ball is hit badly it is now going farther left and right. As a result, the corridors that we create for golf have to get wider and that requires more acres which means that development and maintenance costs increase.

*GCN*: Is the art of the long iron dead?

**Pascuzzo**: I wonder: are we really seeing shot-making at its highest level today in professional golf? How do you design a par-4 where a pro has to play a driver, long iron? Part of the skill of the game is certainly gone.

*GCN*: What is the best solution to the problem?

**Pascuzzo**: Jack Nicklaus has talked about the idea of a tournament ball. As an organization I don't think we would support that. We don't want to see a stratifica-

tion of the game because one of the cool things about golf is the level playing field. We don't care if something is done to limit the clubs or the balls. Our point is that something needs to be done. We



ASGCA president Damian Pascuzzo

are bearing the brunt of this and we need to get people talking about this issue.

*GCN*: How does technology impact affordability?

**Pascuzzo**: Cost is the other part of the equation. We have had flat participation rates for the last four years and in the

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## 2001 Newsmakers



Pete Dye's Lost Canyons Golf Club outside of Los Angeles is one of the 19 new public tracks to open in California this year. The 17th hole is pictured above.

# Public golf boom continues despite construction slow down

By DOUG SAUNDERS

Although golf course construction slowed in 2001, the trend towards public golf remained constant. According to the National Golf Foundation 72.5 percent of all facilities opened last year were daily-fee courses.

The continued popularity in the game, and the severe lack of quality public courses in many major population regions accounts for this steady figure. Large states such as California, Florida and Texas lead the way with new openings, and the trend towards public courses shows in the statistics. In Texas, all but three of the 37 courses

opening in 2001 were public facilities, in Florida, 32 of 40 openings were public, and in California, 19 of 26 new openings were geared towards public play.

This trend has given golfers who aren't members of private clubs the enjoyment of playing on courses just as good as the ones behind the hedges and gates. It has also forced a distinct shift in the trends among golf course architects.

"Fifteen years ago 90 percent of the golf courses that I designed were for private golf clubs and today 70 percent

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## 2001 Newsmakers

# Boston's Quarry Hills nears its decade-long goal

QUINCY, Mass. — Seeding was completed this fall on the first nine holes of Quarry Hills, the 27-hole course being built atop the Quincy and Milton landfills a mere six miles from downtown Boston. The course is using fill material from the capital city's massive "Big Dig" highway



Nine holes at Quarry Hills will open in spring

project. The first nine holes of the John Sanford-designed layout are scheduled to open in June 2002, with the remaining 18 ready for play in 2003.

"We've got seven holes seeded and may

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## Kintyre Course adds to Turnberry's splendor

AYRSHIRE, Scotland — This summer, renovation work was completed at the Troon Golf-managed Arran Course at the Westin Turnberry Resort. The new layout, now called the Kintyre Course, was designed by Donald Steel and incorporates portions of the old Arran course as well as a new stretch of land on Bains Hill.

The upgrade was undertaken to bring the course up to the standards of Turnberry's more famous Ailsa Course which has hosted three British Opens.

While the Kintyre Course has less of a links feel than the predominately seaside Ailsa Course, it offers a stern test of golf. The fairways are less forgiving as is

the thicker gorse that swallows up errant tee shots. The new track features 11 completely new holes, including the eighth and ninth holes that criss cross each other.

In addition to the new layout, the resort has also added a Colin Montgomery Learning Center and the nine hole Arran Academy Course.

— Andrew Overbeck



The 18th hole at the new Kintyre Course at the Westin Turnberry Resort



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## Pascuzzo Q&A

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meantime the equipment is getting more expensive, the green fees are getting more expensive and it is taking longer to play. There are a lot of people competing for our recreation dollars and potential golfers and some existing golfers are making other choices. There is a direct connection between technology and the lack of affordable golf.

**GCN:** Where is the ASGCA going with its affordable golf initiative?

**Pascuzzo:** We are actually calling it practical golf. We are in the process of developing a book that talks about practical golf—meaning what is practical for your budget and for the site. In some cases this might be a par-3 course, a six-hole layout, or an executive track. The book will have case studies on practical golf and should be ready by the GCSAA show in Orlando.

This is a personal issue for me because I grew up in Los Angeles playing these small par-3 courses on 30 acres that had push up greens. It cost \$1.50 to play and the facilities are still around. I went back last year and it costs \$5 to play nine holes and they do 50,000 rounds a year.

**GCN:** Who are you trying to reach with this message?

**Pascuzzo:** We feel that there are a lot of people out there in the public sector, park and recreation directors, public works directors, that may have 20 or 50 acres that they could build a golf facility on. Many don't think they could have golf because there is not room for 18 holes, but we want to make them aware that there are alternatives.

If we can educate the public sector and get some of these courses in the ground then all of a sudden you have an inexpensive place for people to learn the game. We don't have enough entry level facilities. This might not make sense for the private sector, but it makes sense for park and rec. departments because they can build a par-3 course with push up greens for \$300,000 and break even.

If we don't get more people into the game and get them to a comfort level to play 18-hole, resort courses then the game will continue to suffer. ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS