

## Nelson on board for new course at Cajun country casino resort

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — Golf course architect Robin Nelson has been selected to design an 18-hole championship course at Delta Downs Equestrian & Golf Country Club, a key component of the Delta Downs resort community, which also will feature a racetrack, casino and residential component.

The complex is under development in Vinton, in the far southwest corner of Louisiana, near the Texas line. Groundbreaking is slated for mid-2001.

“Robin Nelson has a wealth of experience designing internationally renowned golf courses,” said Hoolae Paoa, managing director of Delta Downs. “His portfolio of

more than 100 courses is filled with designs that please the golfers who play them and provide impressive returns for owners.”

“We plan on building the best course at the best resort in the region,” said Nelson, who operates from here in Mill Valley, near San Francisco. “The course will feature lots of water and a

variety of playing areas over rolling terrain when we’re done.”

### CASPER GOLF IN CONSULTING ROLE

Delta Downs is in the midst of a \$25-million capital investment program that includes the grand opening of its new casino, tentatively scheduled for February, and the return of live racing,

which started in January.

“The golf course is just one of the many amenities we’re adding to ensure the resort is the leading entertainment destination site in Louisiana and Texas,” said Shawn Scott, Delta Downs’ CEO. “Robin Nelson’s vast experience building such courses, including many of the top resort courses in Hawaii, was the reason we chose him to design the course at Delta Downs.”

Delta Downs has retained Billy Casper Golf Management (BCGM) in a multi-year agreement to consult on the planning, development, construction, grow-in, and other pre-opening activities of the 18-hole layout. Headquartered in Vienna, Va., BCGM is involved in ownership, management and consultation for more than 20 golf properties.

Nelson, 49, has designed more than 100 new or remodeled golf courses over the past 20 years. His design of Mauna Lani South Golf Course on the Big Island of Hawaii was the longtime home for the annual Senior Skins Game.

### NELSON ON A HOT STREAK

An internationally seasoned golf architect, Nelson’s portfolio includes a stunningly diverse collection of designs ranging from Bali, France and The Philippines to China, Malaysia and Australia.

Nelson is also accomplished in the United States for his work here, which prompted *Golf Digest* magazine architecture editor Ron Whitten to label him one of the industry’s “hottest architects” in 2000.

His recent U.S. projects include Dragon at Gold Mountain in Graeagle, Calif., an 18-hole championship course in the High Sierras, which opened last summer and is being considered for “best-of” lists. Nelson also designed an 18-hole course in Alaska named Creek Course at Moose Run. That course, which opened in July, is Alaska’s longest at 7,324 yards, and many say it’s best.

Soon to open is his Ravenwood Golf Club, an 18-hole, 7,100-yard layout in Victor, N.Y., just outside Rochester. Ravenwood lies near Oak Hill Country Club, host of the 1995 Ryder Cup matches and three U.S. Open championships.

Nelson compares the Ravenwood site to Shinnecock Hills Golf Club (Southampton, N.Y.), host of the 1995 U.S. Open.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

“When golfers leave the 18th green, I want them to say, ‘Let’s go play it again.’ Good architecture is a combination of things: variety, fairness, presentation and challenge,” said Nelson, describing his overall design philosophy. “A good architect is one who knows when to leave well enough alone, who doesn’t overdo things.”

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