

Schmidt-Curley on a roll in China

By ANDREW OVERBECK

ZHONG SHAN, China — Schmidt-Curley Design is continuing to forge ahead in China with the completion of the “B” course at Agile Golf & Country Club here. The firm is also working on Ernie Els and Vijay Singh designs at Mission Hills Golf Club in Shenzhen.

The Schmidt-Curley course at Agile opened to its 400 members in October and the new clubhouse and 35-room hotel will open early next year. This brings the hole total at Agile to 36 — the “A” course designed by JMP Design Group opened in 1998.

“The course has a good variety of holes,” said principal Lee

Schmidt. “There are long views of the surrounding countryside, good elevation change and two holes play along a lake.”

Both the second and third holes play over the lake, offering up a stern test for golfers at the start of the round. The tee shot on the 189-yard par-3 second hole requires a solid carry over the



The 12th hole on the Schmidt-Curley-designed ‘B’ course at Agile G&CC

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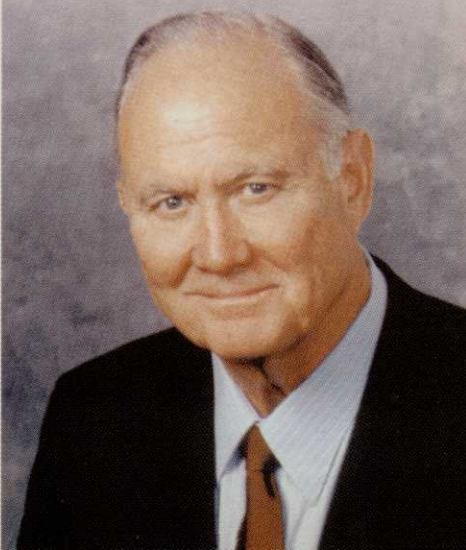


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This year’s GCSAA Opening Session speaker, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, is the definition of a leader. He garnered fame for his decisive command of the Desert Storm troops during the Gulf War and has continued leading several philanthropic and conservation efforts since his retirement.

We invite you to be inspired by his views on people, motivation and leadership during the Opening Session and plan on being our guests at the reception immediately following.



lake, and the tiger line on the 396-yard par-4 third hole again features a tee shot that must cross water.

One and a half million cubic meters of earth were moved to build the course, and construction took a little over a year to complete, said Schmidt. The course features 419 Bermudagrass on the tees and fairways and Tifdwarf on the greens.



The view from the 4th tee at the Schmidt-Curley/Ernie Els course at Mission Hills

MISSION HILLS

Construction at Mission Hills is also well underway with nine holes already grassed. The new Els and Singh courses are actually an amalgamation of the second Jack Nicklaus course that was built at Mission Hills.

“It is part redesign, part new design,” said Schmidt. “The second Nicklaus course had returning nines to the clubhouse. The owners had more property and they wanted to add more golf without building another clubhouse. We came up with a new routing and added new holes to the existing 18-hole layout to form two new courses that are out-and-back layouts.”

According to Schmidt, the location of tees, greens and bunkers will be changed and each new 18-hole layout will have distinct styles. The Els course features commanding views of the entire golf complex, especially from the tees on the par-5 fourth hole which are 50 meters above the fairway.

When finished this spring, the Singh and Els layouts will join the existing Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo and Jumbo Ozaki courses, making Mission Hills the largest golf facility in the country. Both of the new courses will have 419 Bermudagrass on the fairways and tees and Tifdwarf on the greens.