

## BRIEFS

### 98 COURSE CONSTRUCTION STARTS REPORTED IN 1ST QUARTER

JUPITER, Fla. — According to the National Golf Foundation, 20 new courses came on line during the first three months of 2001. The first quarter also saw a total of 98 construction starts and the announcement of plans for 92 others.

### FIRST NATIONAL FUNDING TEXAS COURSE

SAN ANTONIO — First National of America, based in New Jersey, has made a construction loan of \$6.2 million to developer Imarra Ltd., which plans to build Century Oaks Golf Course. The 7,155-yard, par-72 layout will be set on 744 acres in northeast San Antonio. In addition to funding the construction, First National will provide permanent financing of the course once it opens, according to Jerry Sager, the bank's managing director.

### PALMER ADDING NEW 18 AT IRELAND'S KILDARE

STRAFFAN, Kildare, Ireland — An air of anticipation hangs over the K Club here in Ireland following the announcement that a second 18 will be added to the current Arnold Palmer-designed layout here, which opened in 1991. The K Club is soon to be a Ryder Cup venue. Palmer is again to be the designer, and a masterplan has been submitted. The K Club is 20 miles southwest of Dublin.

### FRANK JOINS GEORGE GOLF DESIGN

RICHMOND, Va. — Driven by a widening call for his work, Lester George has hired Andy Frank as a design associate with George Golf Design Inc. George cited Frank's "exceptional background," which includes



Andy Frank

a degree in landscape architecture from California State Polytechnic University at Pomona and four years as assistant superintendent at highly regarded Industry Hills Golf Course in Industry, Calif. Frank also spent two years with golf course builder Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb., and three years at Williamsburg Environmental Group, a company in Williamsburg, Va., which is heavily involved in the environmental aspects of golf projects.

## Rulewich's Saratoga National opens in Adirondacks

By JAY FINEGAN

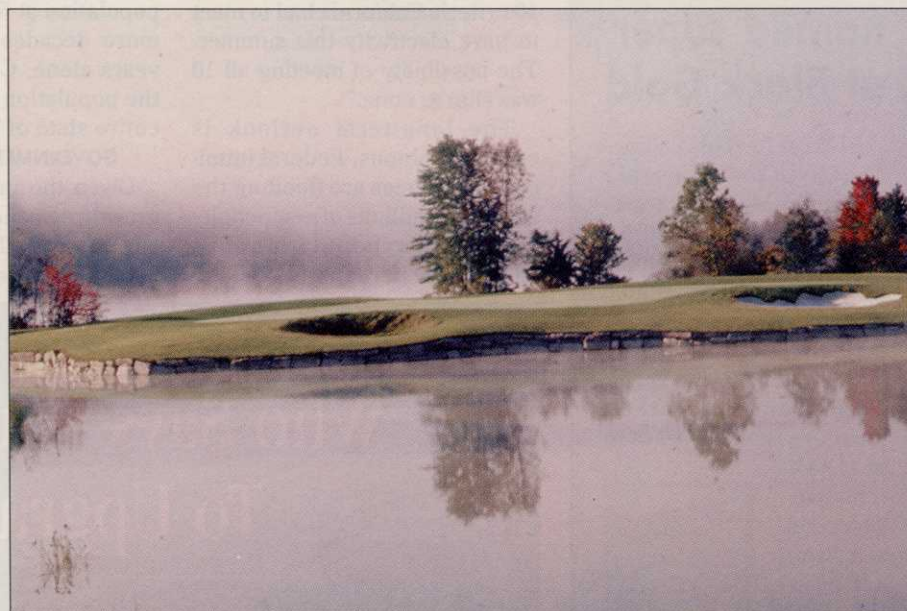
SARATOGA, N.Y. — This Adirondack resort town, best known for its thoroughbred race track and 19th century Victorian architecture, finally has a high-end daily-fee course. Saratoga National Golf Club, designed by Roger Rulewich, opened over Memorial Day weekend and should be in good trim for the affluent crowd of "summer people" who flock here for the cool mountain air.

Set by the shores of Lake Lonely, the 7,200-yard track plays through a former horse farm. Rulewich navigated the routing around a complex pattern of wetlands, traversed by 23 wooden bridges that lend the course a special charm.

Extensive stonework gives strong definition to green complexes, wetland edges and the clubhouse. Multiple tees, wide fairways and generous targets create an inviting atmosphere for each hole. A creek flows lazily through the property.

### WRITING CHECKS

All told, it's a sharp new layout with plenty of interesting features. According to Rulewich, owners and developers Tom Newkirk and Bob Howard spared no expense in building the best course possible.



The 15th hole at Saratoga National, on the shores of Lake Lonely

"They turned out to be some of the easiest clients we've ever worked with," he said. "They've been excited about this project from day one and have been out on the site a great deal, watching it happen. And when anything came up that

looked like it might help the course, they were ready to write a check. We couldn't ask for anything more."

To avoid some of the grow-in issues, for example, they agreed to sod 74 acres.

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The third green at Tullymore Golf Club

## Engh's new Tullymore Golf Club will challenge long-ball hitters

By JAY FINEGAN

STANWOOD, Mich. — The first time he saw the land for Tullymore Golf Club, Jim Engh knew he had to put on his thinking cap. The 600-acre parcel contained 350 acres of wetlands.

Tullymore opens later this month, and golfers will discover how the designer dealt with the swampy terrain that predominates across the property. He built 2,500 feet of boardwalk and set some back tee placements that require bodacious drives over the wetlands.

"The land has fingers of protruding hills coming down into the wetlands," said Engh, a golf architect based in Castle Rock, Colo. "You're playing over and around wetlands, but always into sandy hillsides with mature forest of

oak, ash and some pine. So it's the combination of the wetlands and the forest that adds an intriguing element. We carved into a lot of hills and preserved the wetlands in their natural state. It allowed us to do some unusual, dunesy holes."

Tullymore's debut will add a second daily-fee layout to a complex owned by Canadian Lakes Development Group. The other course here at Stanwood, an hour north of Grand Rapids, is St. Ives, which enjoys a five-star rating from *Golf Digest*. "They're going to have two very interesting and diverse courses," Engh observed.

### 250-YARD CARRY

The 7,000-yard Tullymore track  
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## Cupp designing Bonita Bay Group course at Verandah

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. — Golf course architect Bob Cupp has been chosen to design the first 18-hole championship golf course at Verandah. The 1,456-acre master-planned community is being developed by The Bonita Bay Group along the Orange River in northeastern Lee County, Fla.

Cupp previously designed both 18-hole championship courses at Shadow Wood Country Club in The Brooks, another



A view of Cupp's Shadow Wood CC, another course he designed for Bonita Bay Group.

Bonita Bay complex. At Verandah, he is creating what he describes as a "distinct design" that will complement the locale.

"This location is very different from most areas in south Florida," Cupp said. "I don't know of another golf course in this area that has the same look and feel of this one, with the numerous old-growth live oak trees and river frontage."

Kitty Green, general manager of Verandah,

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