

## Yavapai Nation opens Miller's We-Ko-Pa

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Ariz. — The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation has opened We-Ko-Pa Golf Club here just east of Scottsdale. Designed by Scott Miller, the 7,225-yard public course plays through desert vegetation, arroyos and canyons and features dramatic views of the surrounding mountain ranges.

We-Ko-Pa is the Yavapai pronunciation for Four Peaks Mountain, which dominates the scenery on the course. The McDowell Mountains, Red Mountain and the Superstitions are also visible from the layout. The course, which is limited by law to 90-acres of turf, has multiple sets of tees to accommodate players of

all calibers. As part of a growing trend in golf course development, We-Ko-Pa is a golf-only facility — no homes will be developed on the course.

Staying true to its roots, the course also features a 21,000-square-foot clubhouse designed to resemble ancient Yavapai communal grounds with a large fire

pit and water centerpiece and an expansive outdoor patio.

OB Sports, which oversaw the development and construction of We-Ko-Pa, will also handle ongoing operations at the club. The upscale public course will charge green fees of \$80 for Arizona residents and \$130 for out-of-state visitors.



The eighth hole at the Scott Miller-designed We-Ko-Pa Golf Club

## Lohmann supports Rockford juniors

ROCKFORD, Ill. — Lohmann Golf Designs has partnered with the Junior Golf Association of Greater Rockford (JGAGR) to create an innovative practice facility and short course with an eye toward First Tee affiliation.

LGD has donated its schematic work and will handle design of a three-phase project here at Ingersoll Golf Course. Phase I, to begin this year, will see the transformation of Ingersoll's existing range into a "Wee Course," a four-hole, mini-layout which caters to kids and includes real tees and greens. This phase also includes creation of a 9,000-square-foot putting green and a 6,000-square-foot short-game station complete with green and bunkers.

According to Jim Keeling, board member and finance committee chair of the JGAGR, the association is currently in the process of applying to affiliate with The First Tee. "We're the Junior Golf Association of Greater Rockford, but we'd like to operate as The First Tee of Rockford," he said. "We're in the fundraising process right now, and we've set a \$600,000 budget which should cover the program's first two years, including maintenance. We're confident we can break ground this summer and open for play on July 4, 2003."

Phase II will take shape just south of Ingersoll GC on city parkland, with additional property donated by Rockford Blacktop. LGD will design nine more holes allowing kids to play a four-hole, six-hole, or nine-hole course depending on their skill level.

"Beginners will practice their putting and chipping and play the Wee Course and then graduate to the four-hole course," said LGD's Todd Quinto. "Once they've conquered the four-holer, they'll move on to the six- and nine-hole courses."

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