

## Jim Madden Took A Chance on Hiring Scott Hoffmann — And Won

Ever since Scott Hoffmann was a teen-ager at Fergus Falls High School, where he was graduated in 1972, he has had a keen interest in golf courses. He enjoyed one summer of work at Balmoral, a Fergus Falls area course owned by Arnie Hemquist, and two summers at Pebble Lake Golf Club.

Hemquist's son, Mike, was a student at Michigan State University majoring in turf management, and the elder Hemquist suggested Scott chat with Mike about this type of career and consider going to MSU.

Scott did go to Michigan State, where he was graduated in 1975. His on-site training during his college days was with Ted Woehrl, past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and former head superintendent at Oakland Hills in Bloomfield, Mich., site of the 1996 U.S. Open.



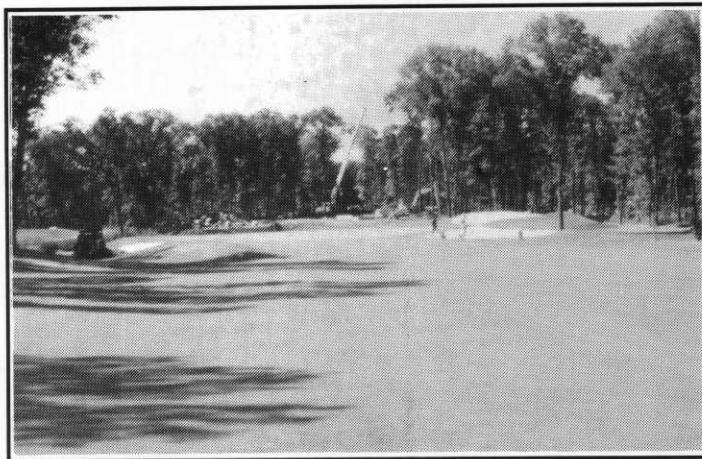
Scott Hoffmann

Scott's first job was at Mitchell Country Club in Mitchell, S.D. during the summer of 1975. Both Scott, now 42, and his wife, the former Jewell Jacobson and his high school sweetheart at Fergus Falls, both yearned to get back to Minnesota. When they learned of an opening at Madden's on Gull Lake, they naturally were anxious to apply.

At first owner Jim Madden thought Scott, then 21, was too-young for the job but he became much more interested after reviewing Scott's resume. "And it didn't hurt that John Arnold (a partner at Madden's) went to high school with my dad," Hoffman said.

Following Scott's interview in August, 1975, he was hired and has been at Madden's ever since, overseeing the work on the resort's 45 holes — the East course with its 18 holes built approximately 70 years ago, the par 3 nine holes constructed in the 1950s and Pine Beach West, designed and developed by Jim Madden in the 1960s. And now comes The Classic, the new championship par 72 course which opened for limited play in late August.

Scott and Jewell are the parents of daughter Brandy, 22, and son Nick, 15. They're all happy to be in the Brainerd Lakes area, and obviously pleased that Jim Madden took a chance on Scott 21 years ago.



**CLUBHOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION** — Work will proceed throughout the winter to prepare the Classic's clubhouse for its official opening next year. That's the 18th fairway leading toward the clubhouse in the background.

## The Classic—

(Continued from Page 9)

(yellow and red), 4,800 yards. The fourth hole plays up to 640 yards.

### Is 63 holes too much?

Madden's obviously doesn't believe it is with its 600-bed resort, another 600 at next door neighbor Cragun's and another 100 at nearby Kavanaugh's. In addition, with 27 holes of championship golf at The Pines at Grand View Lodge, also on Gull Lake; an appealing 18-hole course at The Preserve, two miles south of Pequot Lakes; Breezy Point with its 36 quality golf holes on Pelican Lake; Whitefish, about nine miles east, and the 27 holes at The Lakes at Ruttger's, the Brainerd Lakes area has become, in fact, a golf destination. Pine Meadows, formerly Brainerd Country Club about 12 miles south, also has been refurbished, as have other smaller courses in the area.

Work will continue through the winter on The Classic's clubhouse, scheduled to open next April 15.

**Hoffmann also praises the assistance and support** of Pat Morstad, a Michigan State graduate like Hoffmann, who is head superintendent on the Classic, and Mike Kosmak, who oversees the resort courses. Scott has five full-time employees and three full-time mechanics as well as 45 seasonably returning employees.

"Obviously I am most appreciative of the fact that Brian Thuringer gave the go-ahead to design and build the Classic," Hoffmann said, "and it was a real pleasure to get ideas from John Harris, Warren Rebholz and Geoffrey Cornish. In addition, we have a great staff of employees, all of them necessary — not only for building the course but also to keep it in tip-top shape."

Scott Hoffmann smiles modestly when hearing kind words about The Classic, quickly shares the plaudits "with so many others who helped" but no doubt feels most happy inside knowing that his "field of dreams" indeed became a fascinating reality...a reality that has encouraged him to investigate possible opportunities to design other courses.