

*By Golf Digest Magazine*

# Classic at Madden's Ranked No. 3 Best Upscale Course

Scott Hoffmann, CGCS, head golf course superintendent at Madden's Resort on Gull Lake north of Brainerd, has good reason to be smiling broadly these days.

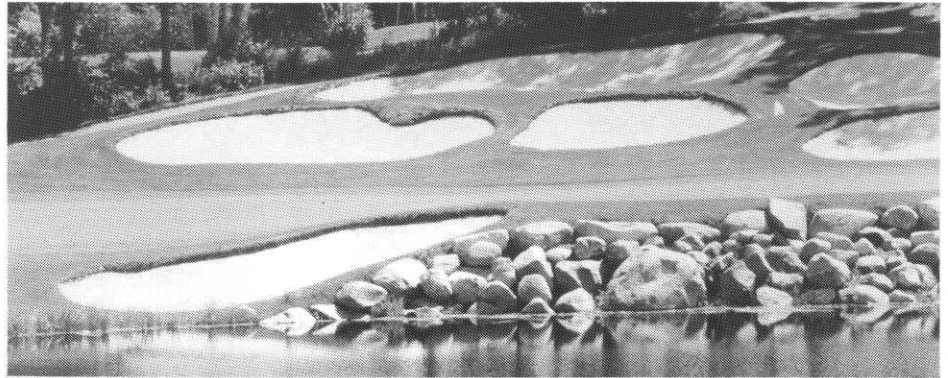
The Classic at Madden's, the new 18-hole course he designed, has been ranked by *Golf Digest* magazine as the "Third Best New Upscale Course in the United States and Canada.

Conceived in 1982, the *Golf Digest* Best New Course ranking is conducted annually to recognize the best among new courses in the United States and Canada. The magazine's panel of judges evaluated the courses over a six-month period. Candidates were judged on the basis of five criteria: shot values, playability, design variety, memorability and aesthetics. In addition, bonus points were awarded to courses that allow walking.

"The Classic integrates all three major golf course design styles of heroic, strategic and penal," said Hoffmann. "I think The Classic leans mostly toward heroic with a great number of risk/reward shots. Because we are a resort and our guests come here to be in the Northwoods, we paid a great deal of attention to aesthetics and protecting the existing environment. We tried to create each hole with some degree of solitude to give golfers the feeling they are the only ones there."

"I believe one of the great attractions of golf is to bring out the character of the player, whether it is a tolerance for risk, dependence on physical ability versus strategy, reaction to both adversity and success, or for the sheer enjoyment of participating in a friendly match in beautiful surroundings."

Brian Thuringer, owner and gen-



eral manager of Madden's Resort, is beaming, too.

"This is not only a tremendous honor for Madden's Resort and Brainerd, this is an endorsement for the state of Minnesota," he said. "This ranking comes from one of the highest authorities in golf and says that Minnesota, which is home to the second highest number of golfers per capita in the nation, is an exceptional golf vacation destination."

Lending credence to Thuringer's comments about this area being an "exceptional golf vacation destination" is the number of outstanding new courses like The Pines and The Preserve at Grand View Lodge, which also have received several honors in recent years; the announcement of the new course being built at nearby Cragun's Lodge and the sever-

al other excellent course in the Lakes Region.

Thuringer gives much of the credit to his predecessors for the recent success of Madden's.

"It is the vision and hard work of Jim Madden, John Arnold and others like them that have given us a great foundation to work from," he said. "Madden's Resort is continually growing and adding more amenities for our guests like The Classic and it is our guests who give us our direction and drive."

Established in the 1930s, Madden's now has 63 holes of golf. The resort is located on 1,000 acres and has more than one mile of sandy shoreline.

Other amenities include tennis, croquet, a fully-equipped marina, five pools, three gourmet dining rooms and several casual dining areas.

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