

# National Golf Foundation Reports Record Number of Course Openings

*509 Golf Courses Opened in 1999 Across the U.S.*

The National Golf Foundation says last year's total of 509 golf course openings was a record, and the fifth consecutive year the U.S. golf industry christened more than 400 new courses. The total included 13 reconstructions.

"Based on what's currently in the development pipeline, we expect another big year in 2000," said Jim Kass, NGF research manager. There were 936 courses in some stage of construction as of Dec. 31. That's second only to the record 1,069 under way at the end of 1998 and the sixth consecutive year it has exceeded 700.

Although 790 of the 936 are scheduled to open in 2000, Kass said experience indicates 60 percent will actually make it, bringing the number to about 450. Further down the road, development remains just as strong, with a record 903 course projects in planning.

Not all of last year's activity was 18-hole facilities. There were 241 nine-hole openings, most expansions to existing facilities. The number of 18-hole equivalents is actually 375.5, compared to 327.5 in 1998, 316 in 1997 and 319.5 in 1996.

Florida and California topped the rankings by state with 36 new courses each. Texas, which ranked a distant 11th in 1998, pulled up to the number three spot with 31 new courses. And Michigan, which ushered in the most new courses in 1998, fell to fourth in 1999 with 28. According to the NGF's under-development indicators, two states to



**SECOND PLACE TEAM AT RIVER FALLS GOLF CLUB**, from left to right, Brandon Schurtz, St. Croix National, Tim Berquam, Bergerson Caswell, Inc., and Dean Wojtczak, River Falls Golf Club.

watch in 2000 will be New York with 46 new courses now under construction and Wisconsin with 40.

Daily-fee and municipal courses continue to dominate development. Of 1999 openings, 84 percent were daily fee or municipal facilities.

The source of this information, *Golf Facilities in the U.S.: 2000 Edition*, is available on line or from NGF Information Services at 1-800-733-6006.

<b>Golf Course Developments</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
Course Openings	289	351	354	358	381	468	442	429	448	509
Courses Under Construction	560	583	616	671	769	820	850	932	1,069	936
Courses in Planning	781	681	580	543	541	562	808	720	708	903

Source: *Golf Facilities in the U.S.* (Figures are as of December 31 of each year.)