

2 new courses to debut in area

By MICHAEL P. SHIELS
SPECIAL WRITER

National Golf Foundation statistics in recent years have indicated that the growth of golf in Michigan is virtually unparalleled. New golf courses are being built all over "the mitten," and demand for tee times at new and at existing golf courses is consistently high.

The good news for Oakland County golfers is that two much-anticipated new golf options are slated to debut this summer, and when the curtain lifts, there should be plenty of "ohhs and ahhs" along with the increase of available tee times.

"Shepherd's Hollow Golf Club, in Clarkston, will be a 27-hole, daily fee golf course that golfers will receive about," suggests Dave Richards, President and CEO of Birmingham's Golf Marketing Services. "The ter-

rain in that part of Oakland County is like northern Michigan. The course will not have a weak hole on it."

Shepherd's Hollow received its name because the rolling and wooded piece of land it is built on near I-75 was leased from an order of Jesuit priests.

Toledo architect Arthur Hills, who designed the course for Rochester developer Mike Bylen, reportedly characterized the landscape as a perfect piece of unspoiled inland property. Bylen currently operates the popular Pine Trace Golf Club in Rochester.

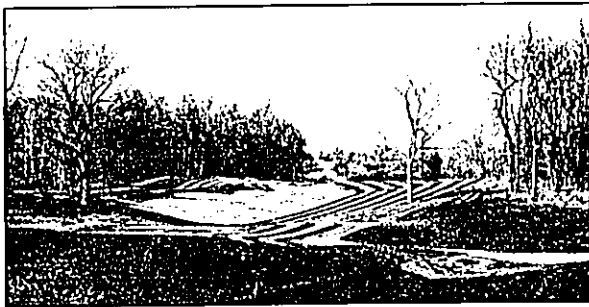
The work of Arthur Hills is well known in the golf industry. Some of his better-

known work in Michigan includes Bay Harbor Golf Club, the dramatic 27-hole stretch overlooking Little Traverse Bay in Potoskey. Bay Harbor, opened in 1998, features five holes that play through a rock quarry, but Oakland County residents who want to experience quarry golf needn't travel all the way to Potoskey because a quarry golf experience will open right here in Oxford this summer.

Jim Dewling, current President of the Michigan PGA and developer of the Michigan Grand Golf Trail, plans to open Boulder Pointe Golf Club, a 27-hole public facility.

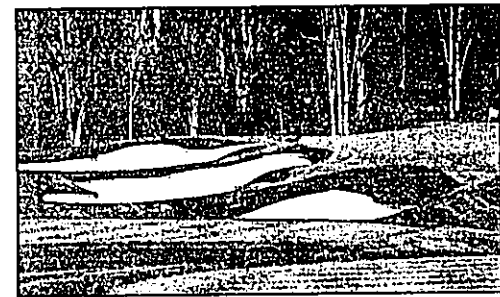
"Boulder Pointe is being built in a huge, old mining quarry," Richards reveals. "It'll be very rugged and dramatic, with unique and unforgettable quarry holes."

Boulder Pointe will be located on M-24 just one-half of a mile north of Oxford. Dewling, a strong advocate of daily-fee public golf, is probably best known for his 27-hole Mystic Creek development in Milford. The Boulder Pointe Golf Club, which he designed with Pat Conroy, will feature the same management philosophies that golfers have come to enjoy at the other Total Golf operated properties: Winding Brook GC, Timber Trace GC, Highland Hills GC, Thornapple Pointe GC, Beacon Hill GC, Brentwood GC, and Metamora G&CC, and Mystic



STAFF PHOTO BY STEVE CASTELL

Tough approach: The 11th hole at Shepherd's Hollow demands a nice approach shot.



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Bunker bound: The par 3 12th hole at Shepherd's Hollow is bounded by three bunkers on the left.

Creek make up the rest of the Michigan Grand Golf Trail.

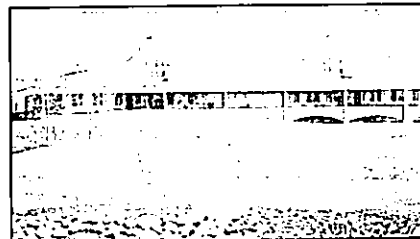
"We probably best exemplify my philosophy at Mystic Creek," says Dewling of the 27-hole golf operation he and Conroy developed and designed from the ground up at Camp Dearborn in Milford.

"Players drop their golf bags right next to the practice tee and are moved very quickly and comfortably out to the golf course," Dewling explains. "Because we were able to design every aspect of Mystic Creek, we were able to incorporate features that make it easy for the employees to make the operation work, and for golfers to get the most from their experience."

Dewling suspects that Boulder Pointe will be popular, not only because of the high level of service, but because of its special location and features.

"Elevation changes, an abundance of hardwoods, and natural water are the things that will drive a magnificent golf course," says Dewling. "Boulder Pointe has each of those qualities."

Shepherd's Hollow and Boulder Pointe are two brand new quality golf experiences awaiting Oakland County golf enthusiasts eager to be among the first to peek behind the curtain.



STAFF PHOTO BY LARRY McKEE

Boulder clubhouse: Boulder's outline the Boulder Pointe clubhouse.

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