

Golf Notebook: Renovation started at El Dorado layout

Quail Valley tract expected to be open Dec. 1

By RICHARD DEAN Copyright 2009 Houston Chronicle

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Renovation began Monday on the El Dorado layout at Quail Valley Golf Course. The course will be open to the public, as is the La Quinta Course, which reopened last July after Missouri City acquired in June what was formerly Quail Valley Country Club.

El Dorado is expected to be open for play Dec. 1. Heritage Links of Houston is the construction firm, and Jeff Blume is the architect.

"Jeff will modernize the course and move bunkers around to today's standards," said Quail Valley head professional Tyson Stittleburg.

The construction phase is expected to be complete by July 1. From then until December, it's about getting the course in condition.

"The city has managed to put together a project to bring Quail Valley back as a golf destination," said Quail Valley Golf Course general manager Dave Elmendorf. "As far as daily fee courses, we will be not only one of the finest golf courses in the Houston area, but in the state."

El Dorado, which has been closed since Sept. 1, 2007, will be a par 71, with length around 7,000 yards. Four lakes will be created, including one on No. 10. That hole used to be a long par 4, but it will be a risk/reward par 5. The green on No. 10 will be moved back 40 yards, and the tee box will be extended.

"It will be a shot-makers course," said Stittleburg. "No one will have an advantage if they fade or draw the ball. You will need to hit both."

La Quinta is a more open layout than what El Dorado will be. Stittleburg said the number of rounds at La Quinta's have surpassed what was expected.

The irrigation systems for La Quinta and El Dorado will be replaced. During the process, La Quinta will remain open. The irrigation system should be in place by May 1. After El Dorado opens, La Quinta will be remodeled.

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tournament to honor the late **Dick Harmon** on Feb. 15 at Redstone Golf Club's Tournament Course.

The following day, golfers who play in Sunday's tournament, can attend a seminar/clinic with Dick's brother **Billy Harmon** from 9 a.m.-noon at the Dick Harmon Learning Center.

Charlie Epps, the director of golf at The Houstonian Golf & Country Club, is asking for a donation of \$500 per player for the Claude Harmon Foundation. Registration on Feb. 15 is at 11 a.m. Lunch is 11:30-a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the driving range, followed by a half-hour golf clinic from Billy Harmon. Golf starts at 1 p.m.

For information, contact Epps at cepps@houstoniangolf.com.

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