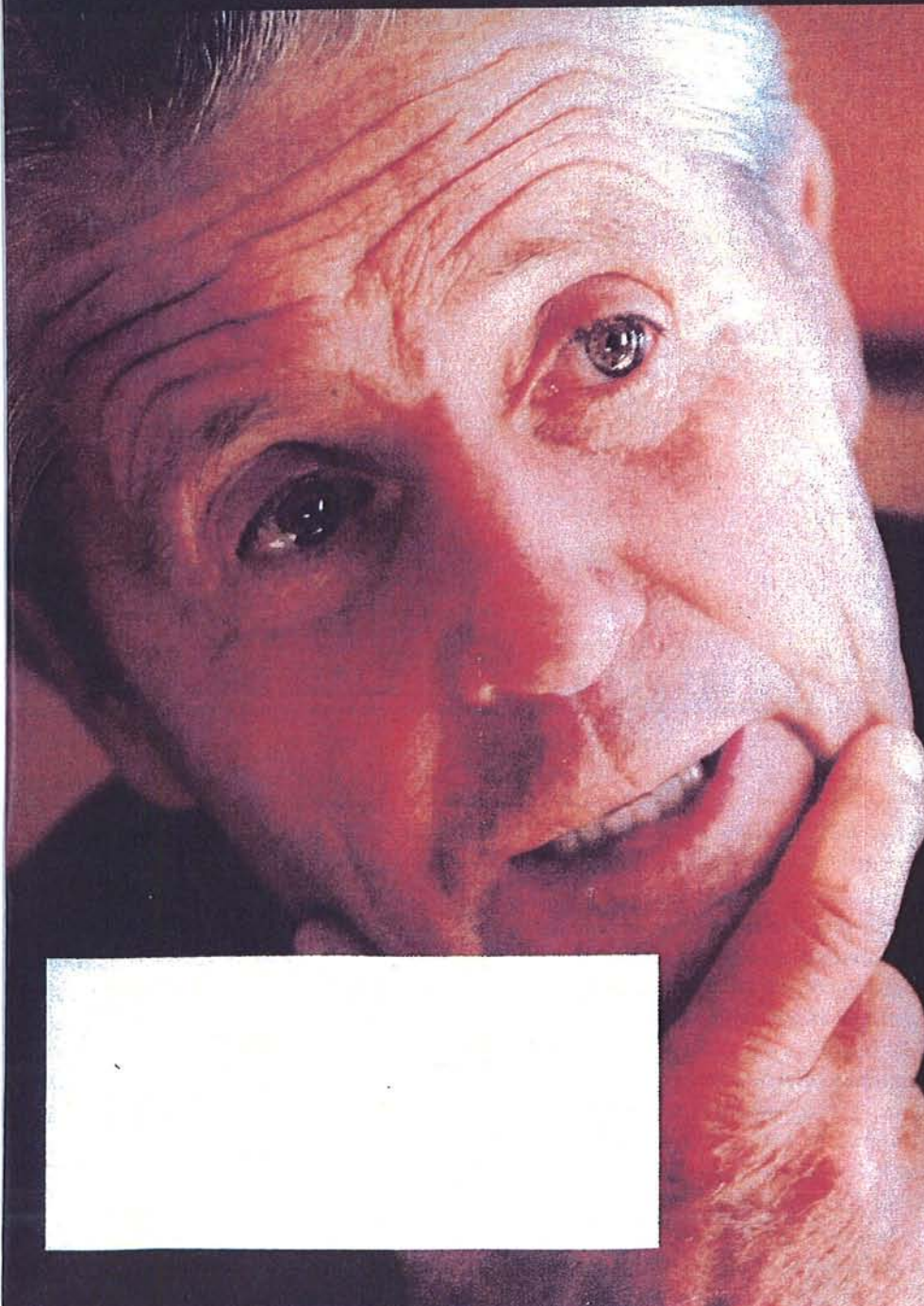


Innovation of the Year winners **26** Courses embrace green strategies **40**

Golf Inc.™

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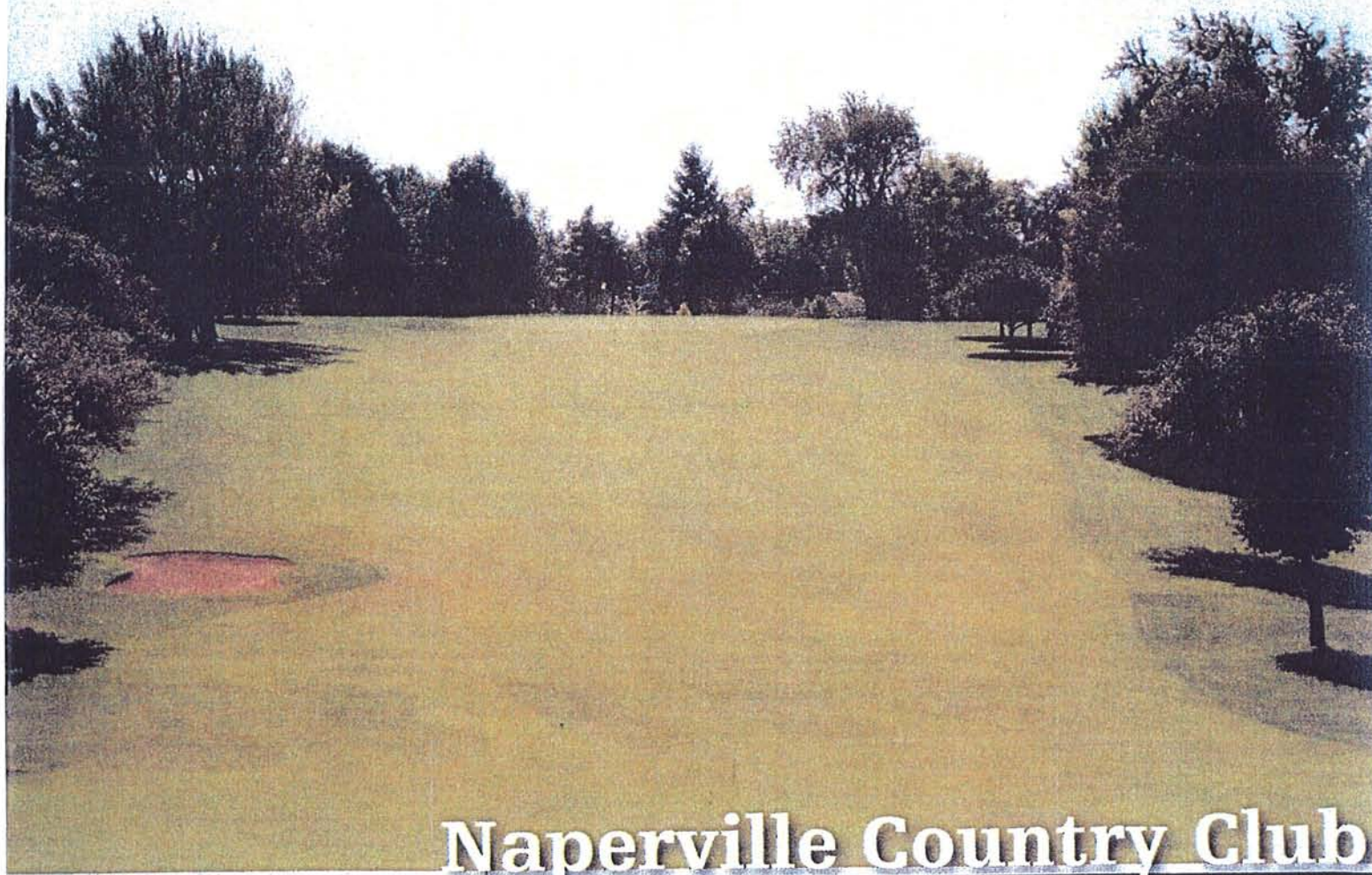
The World of Gary Player

More than a half-century and 14 million miles after launching his legendary career, the globetrotting South African is still a force of nature in the golf industry **18**





WINNER: PRIVATE CLUBS



Naperville Country Club

NAPERVILLE, ILL.

OWNER

Membership

ARCHITECT

Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest & Associates

CONTRACTOR

Wadsworth Golf Construction

This nearly 90-year-old club originally planned a \$1.5 million band-aid to fix a number of pesky problems. Those included an insufficient and dangerous driving range facility, poorly situated maintenance facility and complaints that the course, for a variety of reasons, was not fun for guests to play and did not offer appropriate levels of challenge for all member skill levels.

When the design firm of Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest & Associates submitted a much more ambitious and forward-thinking master plan that involved, among other things, rerouting of 13

holes, rebuilding of all 18 green and tee complexes, tree transplant and removal and a new irrigation system, the members realized that their problems were much more severe and the course could be taken to a new level. All it took was money and expertise. An increase in the budget to \$7 million took care of that.

The nearly two-year long renovation resolved all those issues and more. From the start of the work, the club has generated more than 43 new full members, and guest fee revenue is up nearly 100 percent as members proudly show off their "new" club and course.



What the judges said:

With the playability concerns with an old golf course routing, this renovation greatly improved this facility. This is a very tight space in today's cuttings and the architect did an outstanding job of re-positioning this course" —Tommy Sasser

definitely like the routing improvements within very limited space! The old routing had out of bounds left on every hole on the front 9. This now looks like it would be a shorter but really fun course to play for the members and is vastly improved aesthetically" —Rick Robbins

BY THE NUMBERS

Year course first opened: 1921

Renovation timeline: July 2006-May 2008

Budget: \$7 million

Line items: 60 bunkers, 150 trees transplanted, 330 trees removed