



Photo by Anne Litz

Jim Furyk speaks at the Glenriddle Golf Club, Tuesday.

Furyk checks on War Admiral progress

By Jay Hodgkins
Worcester County Times

OCEAN CITY — Nine-time PGA tournament champion Jim Furyk visited the GlenRiddle Golf Club Tuesday afternoon to consult and advise the development of the club's War Admiral members course.

Furyk, the 2003 U.S. Open Champion from Lancaster, Pa., is officially a design consultant for the 6,868 yard par 72 parkland-style course, lined heavily with pine trees along an area of tidal marshes.

Known by golf fans for his unique golf swing, Furyk walked the course — in its early phase of construction —

and then spoke at an afternoon luncheon about his role.

"A lot of people were nervous when they saw a professional was going to help design the course, that I was going to come in and make it as long and hard and difficult as possible," Furyk said. "But my job is to help make this course as playable as possible for everyone."

The War Admiral course is only the 34-year-old Furyk's second foray into course design, and he said his professional's eye helps him interpret the course in a technical way that will help make it more playable for all golfers.

"I don't stand around smelling the

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FURYK: Golfer said focus is making the course enjoyable

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"I don't stand around smelling the flowers on the golf course like I should. I see the course and break it down," said Furyk. "Most of my friends at home can't break 80 and I enjoy playing with amateurs very much, so its not hard to see (the course) as an amateur golfer."

Located off Route 50 near the Route 569 intersection, the private War Admiral course is being developed for an estimated 400 future members, which is why, Furyk said, catering the course to amateurs is essential.

The Man O'War public golf course combines with the War Admiral course to make 36 holes of golf with plans to be lined by 650 homes on the site of the famous Riddle Farm stables where the two famous thoroughbreds who lend their names to the courses were raised.

Furyk walked the fairways with course designer Joel Weiman of McDonald & Sons, which has designed several renowned courses including the President's personal Camp David golf course; and Thomas H. Ruark, developer of GlenRiddle golf club.

Furyk said the group discussed several details of the course such as the exact placement and shape of sand hazards.

However, in doing so, Furyk explained that the group's main goal was to make the course as enjoyable as possible and as minimally disruptive of nature as possible.

"The idea of this course isn't to make a professional course," Furyk said. "I expect when peo-

ple are going out to play golf here, they do it to get away. I want them to be able to do that here."

Furyk added, "This course has a lot of natural beauty and we wanted to use that beauty, but to make it fit in with nature."

War Admiral still has a long way to go, according to Furyk, as only nine holes are anything more than just markings. The course is scheduled to open in the spring of 2006.

Furyk said the Ocean City area was always a place he enjoyed as a child, and he said thinks it has a lot to offer golfers in the future.

"We spent a lot of time on the Eastern Shore growing up —

mostly to fish with my dad — and I'm quite fond of the area," he said. "It's a beautiful area. It has a lot to offer."

And for what War Admiral will add to the region, Furyk said, "I don't want to just build

another golf course, but build a quality course that will attract new golfers to the area."

■ Reach Jay Hodgkins at 410-213-9442 Ext. 35 or e-mail jhodgkins@smgpo.gannett.com

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