

# Labor of love: Kleinschmidt realizes golf dream

■ The Oshkosh North grad plays a prominent role in the new Green Bay Country Club

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"It was done for the love of golf."

With that short phrase, Oshkosh native Ronn Kleinschmidt — a certified public accountant — writes off five years of toil and trouble.

That work will pay off today when the opening ceremonies for the Green Bay Country Club are held.

Kleinschmidt is an avid golfer who learned how to play from his father, Mel, honed his talents in the Lakeshore Municipal Golf Course programs of Lou Warobick and had his first hole-in-one at age 8.

Now a CPA in Green Bay, Kleinschmidt was frustrated by the waiting list at Oneida Golf and Riding

Club and the difficulty in getting on Green Bay's public courses.

"I checked into Oneida and it was going to be a lengthy wait," said Kleinschmidt, who graduated from Oshkosh North in 1974. "There are a lot of public courses but they are, I would say, only average quality. (Brown County) is a good course but it's tough to get on, it gets beat up and you are looking at six-hour rounds, guaranteed."

So Kleinschmidt decided it was time for Green Bay to have another private golf course. For that to happen, he had to make it happen.

"I was the No. 1 person who got it

going," Kleinschmidt said. "I formed a corporation, got board members and went from there."

Kleinschmidt began stirring up interest in 1990, had compiled a mailing list in 1991 and made an offering for memberships in 1992.

"We didn't sell out, but we needed 267 to proceed and we got 289," Kleinschmidt said.

Land was purchased on the southeast corner of Green Bay, in the Town of Bellevue, and plans were drawn up. Construction began in earnest in spring of 1993 and the course opens today, complete with a 14,000-square-foot clubhouse.

"It's a superb location and an unbelievable location to get," Kleinschmidt said. "They couldn't get sewer to it, otherwise it would have been developed for prime residential land years ago."

The layout of the course was done by Dick Nugent and Associates,

which designed Kemper Lakes Country Club in Illinois. The construction was done by Wadsworth Company, which Kleinschmidt said recently did reconstruction on Augusta National to repair flooding damage.

Kleinschmidt said the course is "extremely mature" like the Oshkosh Country Club and features "significant elevation changes" that he compared to the River Course at Blackwolf Run in Kohler.

"It will be ranked among the top courses in the state," said Kleinschmidt, who is the immediate past president on the board of the Green Bay Country Club. "It's just a thrill with the amount of effort put in by the board as a whole."

"It was countless hours of volunteer work with no compensation — except that now we get to play the course."



Kleinschmidt



N-C photo—H. Marc Larson

**A dream is realized**

A ribbon-cutting marks the grand opening of the Green Bay Country Club Friday morning.