



For Immediate Release

**DUININCK GOLF SIGNED TO REVIVE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COURSE
SWAMPED BY HURRICANE KATRINA**

Revamped course in Pontchartrain Park slated to reopen in fall, 2010

NEW ORLEANS, LA – Things haven't been easy in the Big Easy in the years since Hurricane Katrina struck the Louisiana coast in 2005, but Duinick Golf is doing its share to rebuild the most historically significant course in New Orleans.

The golf construction company, with offices in Minnesota and Texas, has teamed with course architect Garrett Gill and Kelly Gibson, a PGA Tour member and New Orleans native who is firmly committed to the city's recovery.

The layout, known as the Joe M. Bartholomew Sr. Municipal Golf Course, is located within Pontchartrain Park, a suburban-style neighborhood that was one of the first areas in New Orleans to provide home ownership to middle- and upper-income African Americans. The tree-lined course occupies the northern portion of the subdivision across from Southern University at New Orleans.

The golf course takes its name from Joseph M. Bartholomew, Sr., who was born in New Orleans in 1881 and later became one of the city's most successful African Americans. He learned to play golf at the turn of the last century as a caddie at Audubon Golf Course. He once shot a 62 at Audubon and competed against the likes of Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen. Demonstrating a talent for course maintenance, he was later made keeper of the greens at Audubon.

After being sent to New York by a group of wealthy private club members to study golf course architecture under the tutelage of Seth Raynor in the 1920s, Bartholomew returned to build several courses in and around New Orleans, including Lake Pontchartrain, a nine-hole course expanded to 18 holes in 1957. The layout is acknowledged as the first course designed by an African American architect in the U.S. During the segregation era in New Orleans, this course was the only one in the city available to African Americans. In 1979, the layout was renovated and renamed the Joe M. Bartholomew Sr. Municipal Golf Course in honor of its designer, builder and first pro.



This will be Duininck Golf's second go-round at the city's best-known public facility. "We had previously worked on the golf course in 2005," said Judd Duininck, a principal in Duininck Golf. "In fact, we were completing construction in June before Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Louisiana coast on August 29, 2005. We had renovated tees, regraded fairways, improved irrigation and had also made driving range improvements before the storm hit. The golf course never reopened due to the extensive damage incurred, but the city of New Orleans wants us to be part of a \$7.5 million rehabilitation project that will entail a complete makeover of the layout.

"Anytime you work in New Orleans it's a challenge because of the soft soils, especially when you're working on a site so close to the water," Duininck explained. He noted that the layout, surrounded by canals, is a stone's throw from Lake Pontchartrain. "We've had experience working in the swampy lowlands of New Orleans, but from a construction point of view, this project will be an ultimate challenge because we can't move the waterlogged dirt with traditional earth-moving methods." Nevertheless, Duininck Golf expects to meet the city's tight deadline and projected course opening in 2010. "We've got roughly 390 days to get the job done, but even with the heavy soils, we'll complete the job on time," Duininck said.

Peter Carew, long-time superintendent for the city's two golf courses, was one of the few golf employees to ride out the storm. He was on hand to assess the damage to the Bartholomew course after Hurricane Katrina blew through.

"The middle of the golf course was under 22 feet of water for over eight weeks," Carew said, adding that he measured the salt line on trees at 22 feet. "The golf clubhouse sits on a knoll, and it was eight feet under water." He added that redfish and other native aquatic species were observed in the vicinity of the clubhouse.

Dave Munkvold, General Manager of Duininck Golf, flew to New Orleans shortly after the hurricane to review course damage and assist the city's golf officials in preparing a damage claim package for FEMA. "Without Duininck Golf's help in creating spread sheets and cataloging the destruction, we'd have been out of luck," Carew said. "They really came to our rescue."

Garrett Gill, the Wisconsin-based golf architect hired to rebuild the course, said the Joe M. Bartholomew Sr. Municipal Golf Course was originally developed as the core of a 'New Age' residential community. While noting that Bartholomew only built a handful of courses, Gill said his work, influenced by Raynor, is a byproduct of the Golden Age of golf design and therefore classic.

"We are sensitive to the look and strength of the golf course," Gill said. "There's good structure to the course, from its orientation and general configuration of the holes to the distribution of par. Bartholomew laid a great foundation for this golf course. The city of New Orleans is looking to



preserve that. The tees and greens have been reshaped, but the basic essence of the design has been retained.”

According to Gill, “We’ve known Duinick Golf for a long time, and we’ve successfully collaborated on several projects. There’s no doubt they’re a professional company. Duinick Golf is very thorough. They do their homework and they follow the plan. Their project supervisors and construction managers know what we want. They know what design elements we believe are important, and they know what we expect and like to see.”

In addition to putting holes back to where Bartholomew had intended them to go, Duinick Golf will be building new tees, dredging existing lagoons and adding new ponds. One of the biggest projects will be to raise fairways to increase surface slope or topographical relief on the site. In addition to laying new cart paths, the construction firm will install a new irrigation system and pump station at the course.

On the technical side, Gill said the soil will need to be de-watered so that the construction crews don’t sink a backhoe or bulldozer. “Duinick Golf may need to dig ditches to direct water to the low point of the golf course and pump it out during the construction process and then put the water back in ponds, but obviously the company has the technical expertise to do this,” he stated.

Another key player in the makeover of the Joe M. Bartholomew Sr. Municipal Golf Course is Kelly Gibson, a fifth-generation New Orleans native who serves as the project’s professional design consultant. “We have a unique opportunity to take something historic in nature and bring it back to its full glory,” said Gibson, who assisted Pete Dye on the design of the nearby Tournament Players Club of Louisiana. “I’m leveraging my PGA Tour experience to help bring the best available talent to New Orleans to fix up its damaged golf courses.”

Gibson, who’s taken time off from competing on the PGA Tour to help rebuild his beloved home town, said, “I’ve been working on this project for over a year. It’s a very intricate process, what with the engineering and other technical considerations for a golf course situated below sea level. We’re not changing the layout. We’re taking what was here and making it better because the people of New Orleans deserve nothing less.

“This is a perfect fit for me,” Gibson related. “I’m not an architect, but I’ll definitely have some influence in the field. I’ll work with Garrett Gill and Duinick Golf on the playability of the holes and the sightlines. We’ll have open discussions and will work together as a team to achieve our goal of creating a modern facility that everybody can be proud of.

”It’s important that this course be playable for the 18-handicapper,” Gibson continued. “I want the course to be enjoyable by golfers at all skill levels. Aesthetically, it will be pleasing to the eye, easy to maintain, and will be offered at an affordable dollar figure.



“Hurricane Katrina was a defining moment for New Orleans,” he said. “Let’s face it, we were hit by the greatest natural disaster in the nation’s history. Out of the devastation, we have seized a very special opportunity at this golf course. When it’s completed, the Joe M. Bartholomew Sr. Municipal Golf Course will be a ‘hidden gem’ for both residents and visitors seeking affordable golf. This course is going to be beautiful and a lot of fun to play.” As before, breezes off Lake Pontchartrain will create the challenge, as will the well-placed water hazards and large, subtly contoured greens.

Gill cited the revival of the Joe M. Bartholomew Sr. Municipal Golf Course as “a very interesting project from a historical perspective. We’re very grateful and appreciative that we’ve been given the opportunity to work on this project with Kelly Gibson for the City of New Orleans.”

At completion, all 18 holes at the venerable course will have been completely redone. “We’ve got a tight timeline, but we have every expectation that Duininck Golf will get the job done on time,” Gill said. “This project is a good fit for Duininck—they’ve had experience working in coastal Louisiana.”

Following a groundbreaking event on July 4, 2009 attended by New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and other city dignitaries, Gill expected that grassing would be completed by next summer, with a fall, 2010 opening anticipated.

“When the course reopens next year, it will essentially be a new course,” Gill concluded. One with a storied and stormy past, he might have added.

About Duininck Golf

Duininck Golf is an award-winning golf course construction company and a certified member of the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) with nearly 100 years of family heritage. Working with some of the finest names in golf and on some of America’s most recognized courses has given us the experience we need to take on your greatest challenge and complete your most ambitious project.

Duininck Golf has the great fortune of combining the resources of a large, national company with the agility of a small, independent team of dedicated managers. We have the equipment to tackle the big jobs as well as the artistic finesse to handle detailed projects, and everything in between. From building new bunkers to refurbishing PGA Championship-caliber courses, Duininck Golf crews are dedicated to the game of golf and are passionate about their craft. Their expertise provides you with a permanent and ready team of construction, drainage, process management and engineering professionals. Whatever the demands, they’re equipped to exceed expectations.



Formidable terrain, tight timelines and complicated bureaucracy bring out the best in us. Whatever your challenge, Duinick Golf, with offices in Minnesota and Texas, will do it.

For more information about Duinick Golf, please visit us at www.duinickgolf.com.