

# Companion course

## A-Ga-Ming to open a second 18 holes

BY MIKE  
TERRELL  
Special to the  
Record-Eagle

KEWADIN  
— The golf  
course con-  
struction  
boom of the  
1990s —  
when the  
state of  
Michigan led  
the nation in  
new course  
construction  
is long over —  
but that didn't  
stop A-Ga-



**The new Sundance course at A-Ga-Ming**

Ming Golf Club from forging ahead with the construction of its second 18-hole course.

The new Sundance course, designed by one of Michigan's best known golf architects Jerry Matthews, is slated to open in early June. It will join the club's other 18-hole course The Torch, which made its debut in 1986. That was designed by former PGA champion Chick Harbert and developed by then owner Bill Siebenthaler.

The new course, which was built just to the west of The Torch, is along the same rolling bluffs that offer such great views of Torch Lake from the present course.

"You'll not only still get some great views of Torch Lake from Sundance, but it's opened up some spectacular views of Grand Traverse Bay as well," enthused owner Mike Brown, who along with his partner Larry Lavelly took over the reigns of A-Ga-Ming in 1996. "We saw a need for a second course, interest rates on borrowed money were low, and we forged ahead with the new development.

"We were sending our package customers off to other courses because golfers like variety," he explained. "It seemed the right time to develop a second course and offer them more variety at A-Ga-Ming Golf Club instead of sending them off elsewhere."

The new Sundance course involves a combination of rolling link-style terrain and northern Michigan hardwoods.

"It's a very open links-style course that is comparable to Forest Dunes, the Tom Weiskopf course east of Grayling, or Gary Player's Wolverine at Grand Traverse Resort," said Brown. "That's heady company, but I think they are most like what

golfers will experience when they play Sundance."

With its more open layout he feels that it will appeal to a wider segment of the golfing public.

"It's not as tight as The Torch. The average golfer will be able to spray a few balls around the course, but still be able to recover," offered Brown. "It's a very playable course, even though there is a lot of sand on it."

Matthews, who's designed nearly 100 courses with most of them being in Michigan, laid out the course to appeal to a wide variety of golfers.

"This is one of the best properties I've worked with," said Matthews. "I'm constantly surprised at how many places you can be on the golf course where the views are absolutely amazing. I've just accentuated what Mother Nature had already put here."

From the tips the new Sundance course will measure around 7,000 yards down to a very manageable 5,000 yards from the forward tees, according to PGA pro Lavelly.

"We want it to appeal to all skill levels," he added. "We will have five sets of tees so the golfer can pretty much customize the yardage to a comfortable distance."

Sundance will feature fescue-covered mounds, wide fairways, large greens, 110 strategically placed bunkers, large ponds, wetlands and a couple of huge waste bunkers.

"The course kind of dazzles you with its views and topography," added Brown.

Both owners feel that No. 17 is probably their signature hole.

"It's a picturesque 210-yard, par-three playing

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