

Texas Golfer



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SINCE 1984

ROLL TIDE!

Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail

New Course Planned at The Tribute



by James McAfee

Architect Tripp Davis and touring professional Justin Leonard recently detailed plans for the New Course at The Tribute in The Colony last month that they think will be complimentary to the Old Course there.

"We're going to make it look like it's been there for 100 years," said Davis, who indicated the design will reflect courses similar to Long Island, NY's Shinnecock, which has hosted a U.S. Open, and Maidstone.

"There are going to be eight holes on the lake (Lake Lewisville) and you'll be able to see water from all but four holes," Davis added.

Davis and Leonard have tweaked the layout, moving a few tees up, so that it will

play just under 7,100 yards from the tips, 6,300 to 6,700 yards from the middle tees and 5,100 yards from the forward tees.

Davis noted they want players who play it once to want to come back time and again since they enjoyed playing it, offering a more aggressive line for the better players and a safer route for the higher handicappers.

Premier Bermuda, an improved 419, will be used for the fairways and a Miniverde, an ultradwarf Bermuda, on the greens. Zoysia will be used on the edge of the roughs to help define fairways while Prairie Buffalo and native grasses will be used elsewhere in the roughs.

Davis, who also designed the Old Course at The Tribute, indicated he anticipated a September 2009 opening for the new layout.

Leonard, who won The Open at Royal Troon in 1997, noted that he had hoped for the opportunity to design a course in Dallas, but never felt the time was right until he met with Davis in the fall of 2005 about this project.

"I've really enjoyed doing it," Leonard said. "It has peaked my interest in doing other courses, but I have a full-time job playing golf right now and will only consider some special projects."

In talking about the Old Course at The Tribute, Leonard added, "I played a lot of courses over there (Scotland) and seeing such an accurate rendition of the holes close to home is nice. A lot of people will not be able to play in Scotland, but they can experience it here at The Tribute." ■

