

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday June 21, 2023

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**OTTER CREEK GOLF CLUB
COLUMBUS, INDIANA**

SELECTS TOM KITE FOR COURSE REDESIGN

“We are delighted to collaborate with former PGA player and accomplished golf course architect Tom Kite and his team of experts, including Billy Fuller, former Head Grounds Superintendent at Augusta National. Tom and Billy won our trust with their wonderful personalities, outstanding ideas, professional experiences, and burning passion to restore Otter Creek to the great championship golf course it is meant to be. Our team has a big vision, and we can’t wait to get to work with Tom and Billy to make it happen. Otter Creek will always be historic, friendly, and memorable!” said Bob Haddad, Jr., Owner and Chief Executive Officer of Otter Creek Golf Course.

THE LEGENDARY TOM KITE

- Kite began playing golf at age six and won his first tournament at age eleven. He attended The University of Texas on a golf scholarship and was coached by Harvey Penick, considered one of the top golf teachers of all-time.
- Tom turned professional in 1972. Known for his innovation, he was the first to add a third wedge to his bag, use a sports psychologist, and emphasize physical fitness to improve his golf game.
- Tom has 19 PGA Tour victories, including the 1992 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.
- He holds the unique record of making the cut for the first four U.S. Opens held at Pebble Beach: 1972, 1982, 1992, and 2000.
- Mr. Kite competed on seven Ryder Cup squads (1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1993) and served as the 1997 Ryder Cup Captain.
- He was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2004.

The conversation around hiring an architect to redesign Otter Creek began in the Fall of 2022 after Bob Haddad, Jr. purchased Otter Creek Golf Course from the City of Columbus. An exceptional list of architects was selected to travel to

Columbus to engage in the interview process. The selection committee then had the opportunity to thoughtfully consider the best design team for the project. Tom Kite Designs has completed ten spectacular course designs. Otter Creek looks forward to joining that list.

**Tom Kite and design partner Billy Fuller at Otter Creek Golf Course
Wednesday June 28, 2023
11522 E. 50 N, Columbus, IN 47203**

1:30pm Otter Creek West Ballroom - Media Q & A w/ Tom Kite, Billy Fuller and Bob Haddad Jr.

2:15pm Otter Creek Outdoor Scoreboard – Official Architect Announcement and Photographs

A few thoughts from Mr. Kite...

WHY OTTER CREEK?

“There are so many reasons why I’m excited about the opportunity to work on Otter Creek Golf Club, but first on my list would be the people I will get to hang out with while we do the redesign. Everyone associated with Otter Creek is a golf junkie, very passionate about the game and committed to creating one of the finest golf experiences in Indiana. I truly expect to have some wonderful friendships long after the project is completed.”

WHY COLUMBUS, INDIANA?

“I have been an avid admirer of great architecture for years. So much so, that if I had not been as successful playing golf, I most likely would have ended up being an architect. The opportunity to spend time in Columbus, a city well known for its cutting-edge architecture, is a dream come true and I fully expect to act like a tourist and check out the fabulous buildings on many of my site visits. The golf course is what brings us together, and what a great starting off point.”

WHY REDESIGN OTTER CREEK?

“Robert Trent Jones was one of the most creative and prolific golf architects in the history of the game. Otter Creek was long regarded as the finest course in

Indiana and all who play it know that the “bones” of the course are fabulous. But so many things in our game have changed since 1964 and it is time to bring Otter Creek up to today’s standards.

- The original irrigation system is old and outdated with newer systems incorporating significant water saving features.
- Newer grasses have been developed in the 60 years since opening resulting in much improved playing conditions.
- Now even the sand bunkers have extensive drainage systems making them much easier and cheaper to maintain.
- In 2023 more ladies, juniors and seniors are playing the game than ever before creating a need for more forward tees helping them get around the course.
- With the improved golf equipment, elite golfers are hitting it further resulting in a need for longer courses.
- With the additions of multiple tees and an improved strategic design, we will end up with a course that is fun and challenging for all levels of golfers.

Just as many “mid-century moderns” have been updated, Otter Creek will be updated. But when all is said and done, the “bones” that Mr. Jones laid out will still be recognizable, praised and hopefully enjoyed for decades to come.”

- **Tom Kite**

Otter Creek Golf Course is a premier public championship golf course that golfers of all levels can play. It has been ranked among the top public golf courses in the U.S since opening in 1964. Robert Trent Jones Sr., the world’s most prolific golf course designer at the time, designed the original 18 holes, now the North and West courses, in harmony with Southern Indiana’s gently rolling hills. Designed to ensure each shot a natural challenge, Jones distinguished Otter Creek as a championship golf course unique to all others. It is the only RTJ Sr. course in Indiana. Jones’ son Rees Jones designed an additional 9 holes, the East course, in 1995 that complement the original 18. Otter Creek also has a top-notch driving range, chipping and putting practice area. The Otter Creek Golf Shop and Restaurant are located in the historic clubhouse, which was designed by renowned modernist architect Harry Weese. For more information, go to www.ottercreekgolf.com.

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