



Oak Ridge Golf Club in Spartanburg has been sold to Warrior Golf and the new company has plans to improve the facility. Brett Miller of Miller Golf Management and PGA Pro Bill Clayton (above, left-right) are supervising the transition of the club to the new ownership group. Warrior Golf owns courses in North Carolina, Florida and California and is working to have Oak Ridge back in shape by early spring.

New ownership takes over at Oak Ridge

Warrior Golf buys Spartanburg course, begins renovations

The For-Sale sign has been taken down from the entrance to Oak Ridge Golf Club on the East side of Spartanburg.

The course has a new owner with a new commitment to improving the facility and giving Upstate golfers a well conditioned, valued priced course to play.

Warrior Golf Management of California is known to golfers as an equipment company that has a solid reputation for custom clubs and club components. The company is also becoming an owner of golf courses around the country.

Warrior Golf Management purchased Oak Ridge and now owns three courses in the area. In addition to the Spartanburg course, the company also owns Broadmoor Golf Links and Reems Creek Golf Club near Asheville. The three courses are part of a group that includes courses in Florida and Texas.

“Warrior Golf Management bought the course outright,” said Brett Miller of Miller Management Associates who is consulting on the revitalization of the course for the company. “It is a logical extension of their business and owning courses is a nice synergy,” he added.

Miller, who has been a long time PGA professional and golf course owner in Western Carolina can see the problems the course needs to overcome but also the potential for Oak Ridge.

“You start with some really good greens. When they rebuilt them they did it the right way and with a little care they will be back in great shape,” he said.

Miller also is convinced the elevation



The elevation changes at Oak Ridge make the course play like a mountain course without leaving the Upstate. The Bermuda greens have been considered by many as some of the best in the area.

changes and rolling hills give Oak Ridge a special character that is only found in courses much closer to the mountains.

“It does have a little mountain golf flavor. The course is not long but the elevation changes provide a different kind of challenge. You get to hit a lot of different shots and use all the clubs in your bag,” he said.

Almost as soon as the new owners took title to the property they began an aggressive turf maintenance program. Oak Ridge will receive a heavy dose of fertilizer now and pre emergents on the proper cycle to make sure it will be very good condition next spring.

“We are on track to get things back on schedule and make some other improvements around the course,” said Miller.

One of the changes is to give golfers an option on the way to play the second hole. The demeaning 410 yard par-4 hole is

uphill. Among the renovations will be the construction of a new tee allowing golfers to play the hole as a par-3 from 160 yards.

“We are also going to fix the bunkers around the course and better define the fairways. We will improve some and take out others to create friendlier playing conditions,” said Miller.

While many courses like to convince golfers they could host a Tour event, Oak Ridge will be very satisfied to be an enjoyable course for family recreation.

“Warrior Golf Management has plans to make the course as enjoyable as it can for golfers. We are switching from gas carts to electric carts and we have plans to naturalize the golf course. We want golfers to enjoy their rounds and have fun. Oak Ridge will be a good product and at fair price,” said Miller.

The club has a relaxed dress policy for golfers. Shirts with sleeves are required

and blue jeans are permitted.

“We get a lot of golfers who play here and love the layout,” said PGA Professional/General Manager Bill Clayton. “It is the kind of course golfers can play well the first time out but after a few trips around Oak Ridge they learn the subtleties of the course and find ways to improve their scores,” he said.

One of the first things golfers will notice is some cosmetic changes to the clubhouse and grounds. New paint, carpeting, flat screen TVs and landscaping around the building will improve the curb appeal of the club.

The clubhouse will also reopen the bar area on the second floor. The snack bar will be improved to feature golf course favorites and the bar will be open for adult beverages.

The golf shop will also be stocked with the essentials golfers need to enjoy their time on the course.

“We are going to expand the shop to include Warrior Golf equipment and get some pro-line necessities in the shop,” added Clayton.

The clubhouse will include a special member’s area in the future. A membership plan is being formulated and will be announced early next year.

Clayton and Superintendent John Poggemeyer continue their positions with the new owners.

“Golfers are going to see improvements immediately and by spring the course will be in great shape. Warrior Golf Management made a commitment and with the way they have developed their other properties, golfers are going to enjoy playing Oak Ridge and enjoy coming back to play the course many times,” concluded Miller.