

# RHS grad among world's top golf course architects

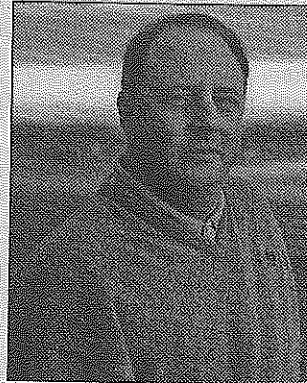
By **JOSH BROWN**  
Sports Editor

A Robinson native has taken a love for the game of golf and turned that into a successful career as a golf course architect.

Drew Rogers, a 1986 RHS graduate and standout on the RHS golf team, is a principal/owner with Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and Associates Golf Course Architects, based in Toledo, Ohio.

Rogers has been with the company since 1992, after he graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Landscape Architecture in 1991. He became a partner with the firm several years later.

He and his company have constructed several of the finest golf courses not just in the United States, but all over the world. In fact, one of the courses Rogers was directly involved in, Oitavos Dunes, located just north of Lisbon, Portugal, recently was bestowed the honor of being listed among the top-100 golf courses in the world according to GOLF



Drew Rogers

Magazine. The course, which opened in 2001, was ranked No. 88 on the list and was also tabbed by the magazine as No. 47 on the list of "50 Greatest Courses of the Last 50 Years".

"The ranking of Oitavos Dunes is a great honor and to understand what it takes to be among the Top-100 in the world makes it all the more satisfying, for our clients and our team there," Rogers said. "It's an amazing place. It was before we arrived and thankfully, it's even better now that we have integrated the golf course. It's seaside, dunesy and full of great views."

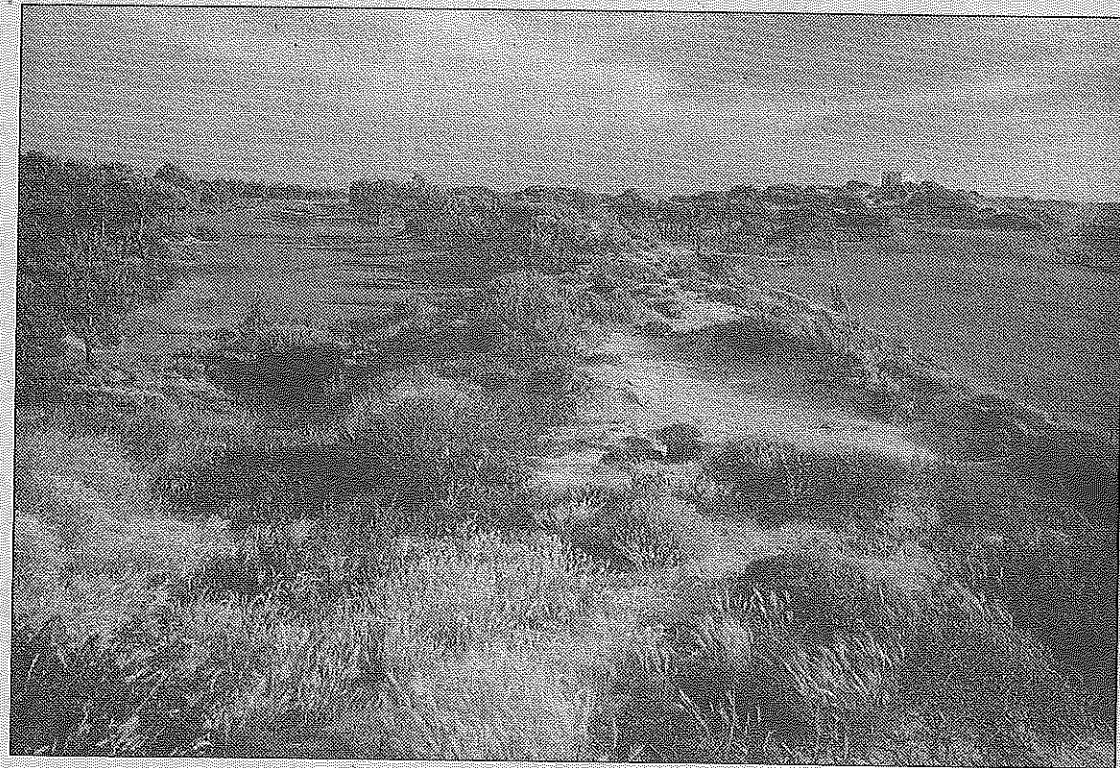
Since the course opened, it has hosted 11 professional tournaments from all five European tours, including four Portuguese Opens, which is a regular stop on the European PGA Tour. The course was also named by Golf World International magazine as the "Best New Course in Europe" in 2003, as well as being ranked No. 33 on GWF's "Top 100 Courses in Europe" list that year. The course was also recognized soon after opening by Audubon International as its first "Signature Sanctuary Golf Course" in Europe and only the second course with that distinction in the world. The other, Collier's Reserve in southwest Florida, was also designed by Hills/Forrest.

"Being a good course architect is very much like any line of professional work in many ways, working with people, managing others, running a sound business, staying competitive, etc.," Rogers said. "But it is a particularly rewarding profession because of the passion we have for the game of golf and for creating experiences for people to enjoy."

A lot his passion for the game came from playing the game here in Robinson, as well as working at Quail Creek Country Club. Rogers was a four-year letter winner in golf at RHS, which included a sixth-place finish at the State Finals in 1984 and he was also Apollo Conference Medalist in 1985.

"Much of that passion got its start in Robinson, playing at QCCC for years, representing RHS and also working at the Club in various capacities over the years," Rogers said. "That prepares one with the familiarity of a golf facility and the people and business of golf, not just the game."

Rogers also received the distinction of being featured in April of 2003 as a rising star "Golf's New Breed of Architects" in Golf Inc. Magazine in their "Ultimate Guide to Architects" feature. He has been involved with numerous other course projects across Portugal, England and throughout the United States, including Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Florida, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, New York, Georgia, Texas, Rhode



This view shows a couple of holes on the Oitavos Dunes Golf Course in Portugal. Drew Rogers, a Robinson High School graduate and former standout for the Maroons' golf team, was one of the principal designers of the course, which has received the honor of being ranked No. 88 in the World Top 100 golf courses by GOLF Magazine. (Submitted photo)

Island, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania and California.

But a project that has him excited is one that involves his home course. Rogers and his firm will be overseeing a renovation project at Quail Creek here in Robinson that is scheduled to start soon.

"It's no more satisfying though to be involved in a project like that (Oitavos Dunes) than it is to be coming home

to help out at Quail Creek," Rogers said. "I think we have the momentum and the collective desire to do some really positive things. Many of them will be basic, but they will produce some dramatic improvements to the course, visually and strategically. We also intend to improve the playability and maintainability of the course, through some directed efforts. It's exciting to me to see others get behind the plan

and move it forward. Things are slated to begin shortly and continue through next fall, with little to no disruption to play. In the end, it will look and feel like a new golf course and hopefully restore the shine on a traditionally solid regional golf destination."

Rogers is the son of Jim and Liz Rogers. He and his wife, Alison, live in Toledo, Ohio with their three children, Ryan, 6, Emily, 4 and Molly, 2.