

BACKGROUND

An outstanding high school and college athlete in Florida. Graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in Education. Taught math for a year at Delray Beach, FL, then decided on a golf career. A friend, golf architect Dick Wilson, helped him land the job of assistant pro at Moraine Country Club in Dayton, OH.

Spent two years at Moraine while Wilson was building neighboring NCR Country Club. Left Moraine to assist in the completion of NCR, then supervised construction of several Wilson designs. Worked as Wilson's primary designer from then until Wilson's death. Finished four courses Wilson had started, then formed his own design practice. Concentrated on the Sunbelt at first, then branched into the Caribbean, Portugal and South America.

Was assisted during his entire career by Betty Peters, who served as draftsman and business manager. Beginning in 1970, Rocky Roquemore worked as a design associate, eventually became a partner in the firm.

Despite the many years in Dick Wilson's shadow, he ultimately eclipsed the legend of his mentor, both in the total number of courses designed and the amount of public acclaim. Considered a true gentleman of the game.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Joe Lee has steadfastly designed with a distinct style throughout his career, one founded in Dick Wilson's philosophy of heroic play but modified to make it more playable and enjoyable for average golfers. Where Wilson forced tee shots to skirt lakes, Lee positioned holes so lakes were decorative rather than penal. Where Wilson would force shots over bunkers onto greens, Lee provided more room to bounce balls onto targets. Both, however, relied heavily upon bunkers to extract penalties for bad play.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

Large hourglass-shaped bunkers flanking both sides of fairways. Single bunkers guarding fronts of greens, with open avenues left and right. Double-dogleg par 5s with water hazards guarding inside corners of both doglegs.