

The Club at Ibis Leading in Technology

"Nation's Most Distinctive Courses" and "Most Women-Friendly Course in America" are two of its numerous awards.

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA: After a \$2.5 million investment into its practice facilities, including installation of Toptracer Range (a first for a private club in the state of Florida), The Club at Ibis is seeing dividends.

"The wind is in our sails," said a pleased Ben Bauer, director of golf operations. "We are embracing technology on and off the course. There is no better place in South Florida to work on your game, and our members are responding in kind. Before the upgrades, we typically went through 50,000 range balls on an average day. Today, during season, we are now upwards of 80,000 balls hit."



Practice facilities at The Club at Ibis.

Instead of high schoolers hopping into a tractor hitched to roller baskets, the club utilizes robotic ball pickers (think of an oversized Roomba capable of picking up 300 range balls at a time). "Our success is requiring us to order an additional machine to meet demand," reported Bauer.

NICKLAUS FAMILY TRIO

The Club at Ibis, with over 1,800 homes scattered among 33 lushly landscaped neighborhoods, is the size of a small town. With size comes advantages; the private community's three Nicklaus family designed golf courses, The

Legend, The Heritage, and The Tradition, were created by Jack Nicklaus Sr., Jack Nicklaus Jr., and Steve Nicklaus.

"The Nicklaus name is synonymous with golf and Ibis is synonymous with Nicklaus," continued Bauer. "In my opinion, he is still the best player of all time!"

The 13th hole on The Legend Course plays to an island green and will make you think twice. "We pull upwards of 75,000 golf balls from our courses' lakes last year. An outsized number of those balls come from the hole. It's very rare for a foursome of players to all hit the green. If you do so, consider No.13 your lucky number," teased Bauer.

The clubhouse and sports village still have a "fresh paint smell."

"When the community opened, residents weren't required to become full golf members," concluded Bauer.

"It's gratifying to see more and more households join our golf programming. This year, we had over 50 existing families upgrade and join as golf members. The positive momentum provides a larger golf budget, which ultimately should convince more homeowners to join our golf ranks." ■

For more information, visit ClubAtIbis.com.

13th hole on The Legend Course.



"My goal is to make a player use their mind ahead of muscles, to control emotions sufficiently, and think through options before drawing a club from the bag."

— JACK NICKLAUS

