

LEBANON -- He calls himself, "just a Southern boy," but Don Shirey, the recently appointed new general manager at Five Oaks Golf and Country Club, has much more in his bag than being just a Southerner from Ft. Payne, Ala.

Shirey, a professional golfer for some 17 years, 12 of which were spent on the PGA tour, was recently selected for the management post at Five Oaks by Troon, an international golf course, private club, and resort management company based in Scottsdale, Ariz. Troon, the number one ranked management company in the industry, began its role at Five Oaks about two weeks ago.

Shirey, a graduate of Auburn University and a member of Auburn's first Southeastern Conference championship golf team in 1978, distinguished himself over the past 12 years as one of Troon's most outstanding management executives heading operations for Pronghorn Golf Club in Bend, Ore. and Elkhorn Golf Club in Sun Valley, Idaho. He also had two stints at Troon's headquarters as general manager of corporate operations.

During his tenure at Elkhorn, a private club hosting a Robert Trent Jones/Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed golf course, Shirey sold more than \$9 million in club memberships in a 10-month period and was recognized by Troon for the "Most Outstanding Performance of the Year." He was at Elkhorn from 2003 until June of last year.

Shirey also was the general manager and owner of Horseleg Plantation Country in Rome, Ga. While playing professional golf from 1979 to 1995, Shirey won more than 50 mini-tour events, including the Alabama Open, Dixie Classic, and the Atlanta Open; finished in the top-125 money winners in 1989; and qualified and played in two U.S. open Golf Championships. Shirey says his best year on the tour was in 1989.

Not only did he win the most money during his career but he was also finished sixth in the category of "greens in regulation" among all holders on the entire PGA tour.

Born and raised in Ft. Payne, Shirey is not timid when he says he's glad to be back in the South.

Don Shirey is new GM at Five Oaks

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"To say I'm a 'Southern Boy' would be an understatement," he acknowledges, adding that when he had the opportunity to get back close to home after spending a number of years playing professional golf followed by years of club management, most of which was in distant western states, "I immediately said I want to go home."

Shirey said he is excited to be in Lebanon and believes the area "is one of the most attractive places in the South with so much potential."

Troon is engaged in the management of golf properties worldwide including sites in 29 states in the U.S. and 29 foreign countries.