Alstarz Golf Center: Practice, practice

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

BY BILL KENNEDY

BORDENTOWN -- Hitting balls on a practice range during lunch hour is something a few golfers do occasionally.

In the process, most of them probably skip lunch.

But now the opportunity to do both during spring, summer and fall is available at the Alstarz Sports Pub Golf Center on Route 130 south in Bordentown.

Alstarz Sports Pub opened Nov. 19 with 24 TV screens, features an outdoor patio and excellent cui sine. Like most business of its kind, Alstarz runs all kinds of sports promotions, and the latest is the creation of a golf center, which features some very unique equipment.

"We want to attract the type of people who play golf," said Michael Mastoris of Upper Freehold Township, a 61-year-old retired chiropractor who owns the pub.

So he hired one of his former patients, Alan Martin of East Windsor, as the center's director of golf, which is located adjacent to the patio.

Foremost among the interesting equipment at Alstarz is The Net Return, which is a light sports net that can be used for numerous sports and easily could sit in a backyard, and possibly on a porch or deck of a golfer's home. The Net Return knocks down the hardest shots a human can hit, and is used in football, soccer, baseball, softball and lacrosse, among other sports.

Also available at the golf center are: the HillShot Golf Trainer and Birdie Ball, which enables a golfer to practice hitting off uphill, downhill and sidehill lies; the Perfect Putting Machine, a training device to groove a putting stroke, and the Perfect Release, which enables a golfer to standardize a smooth swing. Then there is an artificial putting green and a chip shot mat.

"We are thinking about creating memberships," said Martin, a past Springdale Golf Club President's Cup champion, who is the originator of the "Thumbs Down Method" of golf which is outlined on his website www.thumbsdownmethod.com.