Bates’ Utah course ‘spectacular’ sight

Nestled among the desert mountains and laid out around two lakes, the Gene Bates-designed Washington Green Spring Golf Course in Washington, Utah, opened for play in mid-November.

Bates hopes the 6,742-yard, par 71 course, in the southwest corner of the state, will be one of the finest municipal 18's in Utah.

It winds around the two lakes and across several ravines that bring into play a spectacular mountain backdrop. Bates also used the desert surroundings as a strategic element of play.

Construction began in December 1988 on 150 acres of land donated to the city of Washington by Redlands Corp. and Desert Mutual Investment. Redlands principals and Nels Clayton plan major commercial and residential developments next to the course.

Sun City Center project surpassing 100 holes

When nine Ron Garl-designed holes open at Cypress Greens in January, Sun City Center, Fla., will bring a total of 108 holes.

Cypress Greens, which already has 18 holes, will offer 27 including the newest nine which plays at par 36 over 3,193 yards.

Sun City Center Corp. Senior Vice President Charlie Brasington said the firm already has plans for another 18-hole executive course at the site, which is one of the largest self-contained retirement communities in the country.

Garl, who has designed other layouts at the project, features church pew bunkers, split-level fairways, terraces and beach bunkers in this course. It was configured around, through and over environmentally sensitive areas.

Sherwood Country Club wins Nicklaus’ raves


Nicklaus and Greg Norman played a course-opening round on Oct. 30 at the 7,025-yard course, the centerpiece of an exclusive residential community. The course then hosted the inaugural Ronald McDonald Children’s Charities tournament on Nov. 17-19.

“Sherwood is one of the outstanding golf courses in the United States — a magnificent piece of land, so private — with so much natural beauty,” Nicklaus said, adding that the day it opened it would “look as if it’s been there for 100 years.”

The course stretches along Sherwood Lake and a stream flowing from it. Developer David Murdock was committed to preserving the Santa Monica mountain locale by moving and replanting hundreds of mature oak trees that were found on the original site.