Gearing up for a major tournament

BY VERN PUTNEY

While PGA Tour players sharpen their games in Hawaii after stops in California and Arizona, course superintendents at the next six sites are preparing welcome mats studded with stroke hazards.

The city of San Diego again hosts the Sheraton Lemon Hutton Open on Feb. 16-19 at the 36-hole public course of Torrey Pines Golf Club in La Jolla, while superintendents work ahead to prepare the famed "Blue Monster" course at Doral Club in Coral Gables, Fla., and English Turn Golf Course in New Orleans, La.

Torrey Pines, tailored to the blue-collar trade to the tune of 200,000 rounds annually, dons its whitest dress and brightest green for television. SD's golf jewel will feature sand much lighter than usually seen on camera, varying surfaces in the 9.5-10 stimpmeter range. Bunkers that hadn't been sharply defined in November, added his stamp of approval.