Graham/Panks jazz up Scottsdale

RIO VERDE, Ariz. — Touring pro David Graham and design partner Gary Panks have opened Tonto Verde Golf Club here.

The softly contoured 6,737-yard par-72 course is the centerpiece of the 600-acre Tonto Verde subdivision, being developed by Rio Verde Development, Inc. Views of the Mazatlan, Superstition, and McDowell mountain ranges surround the course, providing the players with spectacular panoramas unique to the area.

They have also broken ground of the Talon Course at the Grayhawk Golf Club, in north Scottsdale.

Grayhawk developers Gregg Tryhus and Del Cochran are in the initial stages of construction of the 7,000-yard, par-72 layout.

“Scottsdale is fortunate to have several of this country’s finest courses, and we have set our sights high. From the day it opens, we intend to have our first course considered as one of the best in the state,” said Cochran.

Construction plans call for grassing the 176-acre layout to begin by early summer, with the course opening scheduled by year’s end.

The fairways and tees are to be planted with Tifway 419, and the grassy hollows and collars around bunkers will be Tifgreen 328. The greens will have Penncross bentgrass, with a three-foot ryegrass border.

‘That sinking feeling’ is more than an expression at Shoal Canyon

The par-4, 301-yard 5th hole at Graham/Panks’ Tonto Verde Golf Club.

McCALL, Idaho — Substantial construction was completed in 1993 on a nine-hole addition to the 18-hole McCall Municipal Golf Course.

The par-35 layout was designed by Robert Muir Graves of Walnut Creek, Calif.

The addition, developed by O’Neill Enterprises, is to be given to the city, along with 100 acres of land. Developer Peter O’Neill also will provide a mile-long section through Spring Mountain Ranch for construction of an eastern bypass road for the city of McCall.

Golf course developments and other improvements will be financed by a city local improvement district bond issue, amortized by the sale of home sites at Spring Mountain.

Neal Meagher, Graves design associate, said, “In order to match the new nine to the existing 18, we’ve used sand bunkers sparingly, which leaves alternative open routes into the greens.”