Casper-Nash opens Eagle Crest

SUMMERLIN, Nev. — Eagle Crest Golf Club, designed by Billy Casper and Greg Nash, has opened for public play at Del Webb’s Sun City Summerlin master-planned community. Eagle Crest is the third Casper/Nash-designed course built for the 2,500-acre community.

The par-60 18-hole executive track consists of 12 par-3 and six par-4 holes and is lined with hundreds of ash, purple leaf plum and sycamore trees. More than 700 mondale pines were planted throughout the course to give it a mature forest feel from opening day. The greens feature bentgrass while the fairways were seeded with Bermuda grass. All out-of-play areas were graded with sheep’s fescue, deer grass or buffalograss.

The course flows up and down the foothills of the Spring Mountains. The 15th green is the highest golf hole in southern Nevada at an elevation of 3,163 feet above sea level. The par-3 18th hole features a dramatic 75-foot drop from tee to green and provides a view of the Las Vegas skyline.

Flatt still on retainer at Carey Park?

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — Flatt Golf Service, Inc. (FGS) of Overland Park has been hired to design a new putting green for Carey Park Municipal Golf Course. Carey Park is operated by the city of Hutchinson and recently completed construction of a new clubhouse and parking lot for this heavily played 18-hole facility.

Meanwhile, Flatt was hired by the city of Olathe to determine the opportunity for development of a modestly priced public course in that rapidly growing suburban area adjacent to Overland Park and nearby Kansas City. FGS was also charged with the task of reviewing the operations of the existing Lakeside Hills municipal course in Olathe with an eye to improving its ability to capture more rounds in the growing public golf market.

Routing now complete at Cuscowilla

CUSCOWILLA, Ga. — The architectural team of two-time Masters champion Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore has completed the routing of the 18-hole golf course at Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee. A 600-acre, family-oriented lakefront community, Cuscowilla is the vision of Atlanta entrepreneurs William M. Harrington and Peter Bailey and German businessman Heinz Wilhelm-Nathe.

Located halfway between Atlanta and Augusta, Cuscowilla is the newest golf community in the popular Lake Oconee area—the state’s fastest-growing golf destination.

“It’s an unusual piece of property,” said Coore. “It sits on Lake Oconee like a hand with its fingers sticking into the lake. There’s a lot of variety to it. It has a lot of subtle elevation changes but it’s not as hilly as Augusta National or the other courses in this area. It’s just constantly moving.”

“It will be a shotmaker’s golf course,” said Crenshaw. “It will reward good strategy and a variety of well-played shots.”

“There are no more than two fairways on this golf course that will require shaping by cutting into the land or filling areas that need building up,” said Coore. “The fairways were just out there. It’s classic golf in its natural form.”

Cuscowilla’s clubhouse will be built atop a full overlooking Lake Oconee and the Cuscowilla property in the center of an area where Crenshaw and Coore have routed a number of fine golf holes. “It’s an area we kept coming back to as we planned the course routing,” says Coore. “So we have a lot of holes returning to the clubhouse. It’s sort of an old-fashioned affair like you might have seen in the golf courses of the ’20s and ’30s, when Mackenzie, Ross and Tillinghast were in their primes.”

The golf course was cleared in mid-February and, weather permitting, shapers will begin contouring the greens and bunkers in March.

“At this point, I’m envisioning slightly crowned greens,” said Crenshaw. “The high point of the green could be the center or one side may be pushed up-similar to some characteristics of the greens at Pinehurst No. 2, but this land is more rolling.”

The planting of the tees, greens and fairways is scheduled for the end of the summer, with members opening in the late summer or early fall of 1997.