Renovated Norman track opens for business at Florida's Doral

MIAMI — Having survived Y2K, the Southeastern United States was hit on Feb. 15 with "GWG" madness — as in The Great White Course at Doral Golf Resort and Spa.

Greg Norman's latest design is the Southeast's first "desert-scape" golf course and presents some distinctive and challenging features.

The Great White was constructed on the parcel of land where Doral's White and par-3 Green courses formerly existed. The new course complements the Blue Monster, home of the Doral-Ryder Open, with its tournament-caliber, championship features.

"The Great White is one of the most unique courses we've designed," said Norman. "We took a small parcel of 83 acres and designed a tournament golf course measuring more than 7,100 yards. That is what I'm most proud of. In addition, we designed a course that Florida golfers will really appreciate. It's different than any course in the Southeast. It has many of the same characteristics as a desert Southwest golf course, but in place of cactus, we have palm trees."

The course's desert design features a landscape of tightly packed coquina sand, accentuated with traditional South Florida foliage, including more than 2,400 native palm trees. The trademarks of the Great White are a series of pot bunkers that are characteristic of the courses Norman played growing up in Australia. There is no rough on the course, with coquina sand used in all the transition areas to separate the holes.

In 1988, fresh out of Africa's southernmost tip. The first gable stake in how we do business."