Ex-pro Brad Bell opens third course at Coyote Moon

By DOUG SAUNDERS

TRUCKEE, Calif. — Coyote Moon Golf Course, which recently opened in this town in the High Sierras, is the third golf course designed by Brad Bell of Sacramento, Calif. The 18-hole layout is rare in this state as it is a stand-alone project, built strictly for golf, not to sell building lots.

Although the course is located on a ridge 200 feet above Route 80, the main east-west interstate, it feels like it's miles away from anywhere. The layout winds through piney forests and sweeps over valleys, ravines and lakes. The only sounds heard come from birds, the streams, and the wind through the woods.

Golfers are teased to play shots into greens protected by huge rock outcroppings, hit to pins 80 feet below over creeks, and nail drives over tantalizingly long lakes. Throughout the course the challenge of shaping shots to negotiate nature's purest challenges adds to the sheer pleasure of playing on such a unique piece of property.

**SIX YEARS IN THE MAKING**

It took more than six years and a firm commitment for Bell and his partner Chris Steele to complete Coyote Moon.

Steve, whose true profession is high-rise construction, got into the golf course construction business in 1994. Commercial construction had slowed, and Steele—who is not a golfer—had learned of a golf course shortage in the Sacramento area. He knew he could secure land and financing, but he also needed to secure people who understood golf to make his foray into the field successful.

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Red Sky Ranch to pair Fazio and Norman designs

By JAY FINEGAN

WOLCOTT, Colo. — Vail Resorts Development Company (VRDC) has broken ground on the first of two championship courses here in Wolcott, near Interstate 70 west of Vail and just outside White River National Forest.

The 780-acre project, known as Red Sky Ranch, will unfold over rolling Rocky Mountain terrain flush with sagebrush, juniper, aspen and dramatic rock outcroppings. Plans call for some 500 acres to be left in their natural state. The views of the Gore Range to the east and Castle Peak to the west promise to give the complex a stunning visual dimension.

The first of the two 18-hole tracks, a Tom Fazio design, will feature an 800-foot elevation change over the par-72 track. This is a monster layout, measuring 7,305 yards from the back pegs. The front and back nines will return to the Resort Clubhouse, a 20,000-square-foot ranch-style structure that will also house a golf academy. A 40-acre practice facility will sit nearby.

The second course, designed by Greg Norman, is awaiting approval by Eagle County zoning authorities. Christine Richards, a VRDC spokeswoman, said county officials were expected to rule on the project in early October. "We hope to have all of our approvals done this fall," she said.

The Norman layout will be another 18-hole championship course. It will feature a private Members' Clubhouse, another western-style building. The New York firm of Robert Lamb Hart is designing both clubhouses.

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