

Arizona course site of Costner's latest movie

TUSCON, Ariz. — The Tubac Golf Resort has gone big-time Hollywood.

Mulligan Pictures Inc. and movie star Kevin Costner spent a week at the resort recently for the filming of "The Tin Cup," a story about a down-and-out former golfer — played by Costner — who turns his life and game around and makes it back into the top tournaments.

The character's metamorphosis occurs on Tubac's 16th hole, a 540-yard par-5 surrounded by trees and mountains, which was transformed for the movie and will become the course's signature hole.

The hole has natural rough from which Costner plays a miraculous shot that is central to the plot. The only thing missing from the hole for the producers was a lake.

Tubac owner Al Kaufman checked with the course architect about the idea of adding a lake. He agreed with the idea and an artificial lake was born.

While conceding that movie crews, filming schedules and helicopters shuttling stars back and forth were disruptive to regular course business, Kaufman hopes the exposure will help the resort in the future.

Fresno links mimic Augusta

FRESNO, Calif. — Golfers arriving at the new 7th hole at Fig Garden Golf Club might find themselves wondering if they've been transported to Augusta, Ga., as in home of the Masters.

In another example of the trend toward copying famous golf holes, despite the threat of lawsuits, Fresno golf course architect Robert Dean Putnam redesigned Fig Garden's seventh hole with some of the flavor of Augusta National's No. 13. The new 214-yard par-3 has an 8,000-square-foot green

protected by a 130-foot-long creek in front and three new bunkers behind the green. A stand of 18 crepe myrtle trees have also been planted behind the green.

"We couldn't put in azaleas because they don't do well in our weather," Putnam joked to *The Fresno Bee*. The revamped 7th hole is the beginning of a continual upgrade at the course, which opened as a nine-hole course in 1958 and expanded to 18 in 1960. Putnam redesigned the course in 1973.

Major resort proposed for So. Ore. coast

BANDON, Ore. — A Chicago businessman wants to build three 18-hole golf courses along with 300 luxury homes, a lodge, clubhouse and conference center as part of a multi-million dollar resort on the southern Oregon coast.

Michael Keiser's proposed Bandon Coastal Dunelands Resort would be set on 1,215 acres of duneland backed by rolling hills and marine terraces. Keiser would like one of the three golf courses to be an authentic Scottish links-style layout. The limited partnership has hired Gleneagles Golf Developments of Scotland as course architects.

The development is planned in two stages, according to Bruce Johnson, a contract planner and project architect. If permitting and reviews go as hoped, construction could begin in late 1997 with completion by 1999. The first phase calls for one 18-hole golf course, restaurant, pro shop and overnight accommodations for at least 75 guests.

Miller has big plans in Utah

LEHI, Utah — Johnny Miller has said the course he designed at Thanksgiving Point will be unique to Utah and potential site for a future U.S. Open.

One thing that will clearly be unique about Miller's design is its length. To accommodate the course's 4,500-foot elevation and Utah's dry air, Miller plans a 7,600-yard layout from the tournament tees. It will be the longest course in the state when completed in 1997.

The course will be laid out on hills along the Jordan River. The fairways and greens will be nestled in and around a 70-acre, European-style botanical garden.

Owners Alan and Karen Ashton plan to build a hotel, restaurants and gardens. Miller, a former Brigham Young University golfer, said the course will be mature enough to stage a major tournament just prior to the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

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