

Black Desert Championship (LPGA)

Black Desert Resort • Ivins, Utah • May 1-4, 2025

Golf Course Superintendent

Ken Yates, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 14

Years at Black Desert: 3

Years as Superintendent: 21

Previous Courses: Lagoon Park (super), Aliante GC (super), LaCantera Resort (super), Badlands (super), Sunset Hills (asst/super)

Hometown: Sandoval, Ill.

Education: Iowa State University

Professional Tournaments Hosted: This is Yates' 2nd professional event as he hosted the PGA TOUR's Black Desert Championship in October 2024. He will host the PGA TOUR again in October 2025.

Contact: Mike Strauss: mstrauss@gcsaa.org / 785-865-8444

Other Key Agronomy Personnel

Tyler Jolley, assistant superintendent; Juan Lopez, assistant superintendent; Vince Haughton, equipment manager; Zach Kelly, PGA professional; Colby Cowen, general manager
Agronomy Employees: 26 / Tournament Volunteers: 42

Course Architect

Tom Weiskopf and Phil Smith (2023)

Front 9 opened November 2022 / Back 9 opened May 2023

Notable

- A new fairway bunker was added on No. 1 since last year.
- The rough on the left side of No. 18 was extended into the desert to accommodate spectators.
- Cart paths are being installed on every hole.
- Robotic fairway mowers will be used as they were for the PGA Tour event in October.
- Tees have been added for the PGA TOUR players on No. 1 and No. 10. Two more tees will be added for the men this summer on No. 3 and No. 18.
- Golf course is in the midst of a lava field.

- This is the first LPGA event in Utah since the 1964 Riverside Ladies Open at Riverside Country Club in Provo.
- Last October's PGA TOUR stop was the first in Utah since the 1963 Utah Open at the Salt Lake Country Club.
- Black Desert Resort joins Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Fla. as the only two courses hosting LPGA and PGA TOUR events in the same year (Tiburon also hosts the PGA TOUR Champions).
- Yates performed CPR on a member of his crew for 13 minutes and received recognition from the North Las Vegas Fire Department. Yates is a former volunteer fireman.

Tournament Setup

Par: TBA

Yardage: TBA

Turfgrass

Greens: 007XL bentgrass .120"

Collars: Dominator bentgrass .350"

Approaches: Dominator bentgrass .350"

Tees: Dominator bentgrass .350"

Fairways: Dominator bentgrass .350"

Rough: Kentucky bluegrass 2"

Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 7,000 sq. ft.

Total Property Acres: 600

Acres of Fairway: 51

Acres of Rough: 25

Number of Sand Bunkers: 44 (1.7 acres)

Number of Water Hazards: 3

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 2

Soil Conditions: Sand based

Water Sources: Effluent, grey

Drainage: Good

High Elevation: No. 1 green (3,000 ft.)

Low Elevation: #5 green

Average Fairway Widths: 30 yards

(more on next page)

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Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 20,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.



Tournament Fact Sheet

Links

GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet Home:

<https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

GCSAA Website: <https://www.gcsaa.org/>

GCM (GCSAA Magazine): <https://gcmonline.com/>

Superintendent X: @lucky9803

Course X: @BlackDesertUT

Tournament X: @BDChampionship

GCSAA X: @GCSAA

2025 GCSAA Course and Superintendent Notes For Courses Played (LPGA Only) (U.S. Courses Only, but includes HSBC in Singapore) (This Week's Course in Red)

Tournaments by State

2 – Florida

1 – Arizona / Nevada / California / Texas / **Utah**

Yardage (par) **XXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

6,911 (72) – The Club at Carlton Woods (Chevron)

6,775 (72) – *Sentosa (HSBC) in Singapore*

6,765 (72) – Shadow Creek (T-Mobile Match Play)

6,679 (72) – El Caballero (JM Eagle)

6,661 (72) – Whirlwind (Ford)

6,642 (72) – Lake Nona (Hilton Grand TOC)

6,557 (71) – Bradenton CC (Founders Cup)

Average Green Size

10,600 – *Sentosa (HSBC) in Singapore*

7,000 – Black Desert (Black Desert Championship)

6,800 – The Club at Carlton Woods (Chevron)

6,300 – El Caballero (JM Eagle)

5,900 – Whirlwind (Ford)

5,900 – Lake Nona (Hilton Grand TOC)

5,800 – Bradenton CC (Founders Cup)

5,500 – Shadow Creek (T-Mobile Match Play)

Number of Bunkers

86 – El Caballero (JM Eagle)

74 – Shadow Creek (T-Mobile Match Play)

62 – The Club at Carlton Woods (Chevron)

58 - Lake Nona (Hilton Grand TOC)

54 – *Sentosa (HSBC) in Singapore*

53 – Whirlwind (Ford)

53 – Bradenton CC (Founders Cup)

44 – Black Desert (Black Desert Championship)

Green Turf Type

3 - Bentgrass

3 – Bermudagrass

1 - Poa Trivialis overseed

1 – Poa / bermudagrass

Rough Turf Type

4 - Bermudagrass

1 – Zoysiagrass

1 – Poa trivialis overseed

1 – Ryegrass overseed

1 – Kentucky bentgrass

Superintendents Tournaments Hosted (includes 2025)

12 – *Andrew Johnston – Sentosa (HSBC) in Singapore*

5 – Nick Dolimpio - Lake Nona (Hilton Grand TOC)

3 – Tim Huber – The Club at Carlton Woods (Chevron)

2 – Ken Yates – Black Desert (Black Desert Championship)

1 – Matt Bachmann – Whirlwind (Ford)

1 – Jamie McCrosky – Bradenton CC (Founders Cup)

1 – Scott Delpiere – Shadow Creek (T-Mobile Match Play)

1 – Zach Stephens – El Caballero (JM Eagle)

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Tournament Fact Sheet

Superintendents GCSAA Membership Years

- 25 – Jamie McCrosky – Bradenton CC (Founders Cup)
- 23 – *Andrew Johnston – Sentosa (HSBC) in Singapore*
- 20 – Tim Huber – The Club at Carlton Woods (Chevron)
- 19 – Zach Stephens – El Caballero (JM Eagle)
- 14 – **Ken Yates – Black Desert (Black Desert Championship)**
- 14 – Matt Bachman – Whirlwind (Ford)
- 10 – Scott Delpiere (Shadow Creek (T-Mobile Match Play)
- 9 – Nick Dolimpio - Lake Nona (Hilton Grand TOC)

Superintendents Alma Maters

- 2 – Michigan State University
- 1 – Delaware State University
- 1 – Rhode Island University
- 1 – University of Arizona
- 1 – University of Massachusetts
- 1 – Penn State University
- 1 – **Iowa State University**

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