

Black Desert Championship (PGA TOUR)

Black Desert Resort • Ivins, Utah • October 10-13, 2024

Golf Course Superintendent

Ken Yates, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 13

Years at Black Desert: 2 ½

Years as a Superintendent: 20

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' 1st pro tournament.

For superintendent contact info, contact Mike Strauss, GCSAA at mstrauss@gcsaa.org or 785-865-8444

Other Key Golf Personnel

Tyler Jolley, Assistant Superintendent

Juan Lopez, Assistant Superintendent

Vince Haughton, Equipment Manager

Zach Kelly, PGA Professional

Colby Cowen, General Manager

Number of Employees: 26

Number of Tournament Volunteers: 42

Course Architect

Architect (year): Tom Weiskopf/Phil Smith (2023)

(Front 9 opened Nov. 2022, Back 9 opened May 2023)

X

Superintendent - @lucky9803

Course - @BlackDesertUT

Tournament - @BDChampionship

GCSAA - @GCSAA

Tournament Fact Sheets for the PGA TOUR, LPGA, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry and Epson Tours and USGA and PGA of America championships can be found at: <https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

Tournament Set-up

Par: 36-35--71

Yardage: 7,371

Stimpmeter: 12

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

Number of Water Hazards: 3

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 2

Soil Conditions: Sand based

Water Sources: Effluent, grey

Drainage Conditions: Good

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"

Additional Notes

- For the first time in PGA TOUR history a course will use robotic fairway mowers.
- The fairways are being mowed due north and south regardless of hole direction for aesthetics.
- Golf course is in the midst of a lava field.
- Average fairway widths in landing areas: 30 yards.
- This is the first PGA TOUR event in Utah since the 1963 Utah Open Invitational. Course will host an LPGA event in Spring 2025.
- Wildlife on course include snakes, bobcats, coyotes, rabbits, road runners, chuckwalla.
- The facility has a 2-acre short-game practice area for Utah Tech's golf teams.
- Ken Yates is a former volunteer fireman.
- Read GCM story on Yates and building the course: <https://rb.gy/94taig>

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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.