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Chambers Bay

Bandon Dunes opened Northwest eyes to pure links golf. From the walking-only restrictions to caddies to amazing water views and world-class golf, Bandon sets the bar pretty high. Well, get ready for Chambers Bay.

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Located on the shores of Puget Sound just south of Tacoma, this new Robert Trent Jones II course is set to challenge the skeptics and bring its own brand of excellence north to Washington State. Those of you who have been awakened to traditional links golf will love it at first sight, as we did, when we toured the property in late October. With plans to open in mid-June 2007, Chambers Bay will be managed by KemperSports, which also manages Bandon Dunes on behalf of owner Mike Keiser. Pierce County's informational web site covering the course is now open and the official course web site will open shortly after the first of the year. (www.chambersbaygolf.com)

Pacific Northwest Golfer will have more on Chambers Bay and the other new entries to the Northwest golf course lineup in our March 2007 issue.

Idaho course breaks ground

After the success of his highly acclaimed design at Circling Raven, Gene Bates is keeping busy with another course in Idaho.

HUNTER'S POINT
A GOLF COMMUNITY
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Bates is the architect for Hunter's Point Golf and Country Club in Nampa. The private club will be on 175 acres of a 312-acre development that will include nearly 600 housing units.

"The course itself is pretty exciting," said Greg Bullock, the owner of the development along with his wife Jeanette. "It's a little over 7,000 (yards) from the tips, a par-71. It's a layout where we had Gene design the core course and then we put real estate around it. We didn't design the real estate and then ask him to find a course somewhere in between. So we gave him free reign to be creative and he's done a tremendous job."

Construction on the course began this fall, and grand opening is planned for May of 2008.

Bullock pursued Bates after playing Bates' Circling Raven course in Worley, Idaho. Bullock was so impressed the first time he played Circling Raven he immediately went into the office of director of golf Dave Christenson to inquire about the course designer.

"The minute I walked off Circling Raven I went into Dave's office," Bullock said. "'Dave, give me the name and number.'"

Part of the golf course site is a reclaimed quarry and Bullock has been impressed with the way Bates has called for pot bunkers and high native grasses.

"He came out, walked the site and fell in love with it," Bullock said of Bates.

"We have over 100 feet in change of elevation in the 18 holes so we feature a lot of elevated tees," Bullock added.

Bullock said OB Sports has been hired to manage the facility once it opens. It will be a private club with a variety of membership plans.

"We're going all out for the family venue here, with a kids club and junior tee boxes," Bullock said. "The clubhouse is going to feature a full health spa and exercise facilities with swimming, tennis and basketball."