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Local

Quick Poll

Laughlin Ranch Golf Course to host Pinnacle Exceptional Driver contests

Tuesday, November 1, 2005 1:30 PM PST

The Pinnacle Exceptional Driver
 Championship event provides
 amateur golfers the opportunity to
 showcase their skills at 128
 locations throughout North
 America.

Qualification in the Tri-state area along the Colorado River is scheduled for November 10-12, 2005, at the Laughlin Ranch Golf Course overlooking Laughlin's Casino Strip. There is no cost for viewing the event and the public is advised to contact the course at (866) 684-GOLF to ascertain start times.

The contest utilizes a point system that rewards both distance and accuracy to determine winners. Contestants hit five Pinnacle Exception golf balls into a marked grid. The cumulative point total of the five shots is the competitor's score. The contestant with the highest total score at each of the 128 local qualifying events earns the right to participate in the season ending PEDC Finals in Laughlin.

That event will be televised on ESPN.

One of the Southwest's newest entries on the golf scene, Laughlin Ranch Golf Club, promises to be a layout to remember. Playing 7,297 from the tips, the Dave Druzisky 18-hole design located in Bullhead City, Arizona, is all the golf test players can handle. Three par 5s play more than 600 yards, including the finale, a 625-yard challenge that promises to be a knee-knocker.

“The 18th plays to a fairway that is wide in the landing area and which

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slopes right to left,” general manager Pat Laughlin said. “Players will then have the choice of going for it in two, or laying up in front of a large pond. They can lay up in front of the pond, but they will still have a 100-yard shot over water to a green that slopes back down into catch areas. I love that kind of golf. If they don't want to go over the pond, they can still go around the water on the left side of the hole.”

Sound intriguing?

Laughlin hopes so. He's banking on 42,000 rounds a year. While water comes into play on just three holes, 66 strategically placed bunkers will add to the layout's challenge.

The course features elevation changes on every hole and rolling fairways will add to the challenge. Undulating greens will test even the best putters.

With five sets of tees - the forward set of tees plays to 5,044 yards - Laughlin is sure the course will be playable for golfers of every ability, but it certainly won't be a pushover.

“We wanted a good test of golf, but we also wanted it to be fair,” Laughlin said.

When completed, Laughlin Ranch Golf Club also will have a 34,000 square-foot clubhouse; a full restaurant and bar; and a full spa. Three more golf courses also are in the design stages.

“It's going to be a nice destination course with a great golf course,” Laughlin said.



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