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Black Desert and PGA Grant Utah Golfing Pro Jay Don Blake Exemption to Mark 500th Tour Event

St. George, Utah (May 15, 2024) – As a testament to his career, Black Desert has presented local legendary golfing professional Jay Don Blake with a certificate of exemption to compete at the Black Desert Championship this fall. The tournament will mark his 500th Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour event in his hometown of St. George, Utah.

Black Desert Managing Partner Patrick Manning surprised Blake and his wife, who was his caddy for over a decade on the Champions Tour, with the certificate last week on Black Desert's 19-hole course. Blake was also met by 18 family members on the green, including all his children and grandkids.

Manning has been working on getting the exemption for Blake since it was announced that Black Desert Resort would be hosting a PGA Tour event in the fall of 2024.

"As soon as we announced the Black Desert Championship and the PGA's return to Utah, we knew we had to get to work," said Manning. "With Jay being born and raised in St. George and 499 Tour starts, we knew what a special moment we could create to help him reach 500. This has been a work in progress for about a year, getting approval from the PGA about two weeks ago."

The St. George native was inducted into Utah State University's Hall of Fame in 1991. During his collegiate career he won the 1980 NCAA Golf Championship, followed by a second place finish the following year. Blake, a two-time All-American, was also named the Collegiate Player of the Year in 1981.

Blake earned his pro-card 43 years ago, making his first tour start six years later in 1987. His best year came in 1991, with his first PGA Tour win at the Shearson Lehman Brothers Open, five other top-10 finishes and a top-30 money list placing. He also led the tour in putting in 1991.

"We know our community is eagerly anticipating Blake's performance in this year's event," said Manning. "The opportunity to watch our hometown hero mark yet another chapter in his career is what Black Desert is all about, making remarkable within reach."

The Black Desert Championship, which will be part of the PGA's FedExCup Fall series, is scheduled for Oct. 9-13. VIP tickets and exclusive weekly hospitality opportunities are now on sale at blackdesertevents.com. General admission passes and daily hospitality tickets will be available for purchase in June of this year.

For more information about Jay Don Blake and updates on the Black Desert Championship, please visit www.blackdesertresort.com.

About Black Desert Resort

Reef Capital Partners is developing Black Desert. Upon buildout, the property will offer 3000+ hotel rooms and residences; a concert venue; miles of trails through ancient lava flows; a waterpark; a wellness spa; and more than 250,000 square feet of retail and restaurants. In addition to the 19-hole, Weiskopf-designed golf course, guests of Black Desert will enjoy a 36-hole illuminated putting course for day or night play. The resort's 19th Hole, an amphitheater-style lakeside-gathering place terraced into the black lava, will be the ultimate venue for winding down after a day of golf. To learn more about Black Desert Resort, visit www.blackdesertresort.com.

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