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E-Notes – April 22, 2014

PGA TOUR

Zurich Classic of New Orleans on Twitter: @Zurich_Classic

Featured groupings – Zurich Classic of New Orleans (all times local)

Thursday, April 24

12:30 p.m., No. 1 (7:30 a.m., No. 10 on Friday) – Patrick Reed – Billy Horschel – Rickie Fowler
12:40 p.m., No. 1 (7:40 a.m., No. 10 on Friday) – Justin Rose – Ernie Els – David Toms

Friday, April 25

12:30 p.m., No. 1 (7:30 a.m., No. 10 on Thursday) – Kevin Stadler – Nick Watney – Retief Goosen
12:40 p.m., No. 1 (7:40 a.m., No. 10 on Thursday) – Matt Every – Keegan Bradley – Charles Howell III

Patrick Reed, a two-time PGA TOUR winner in 2013-14 and No. 4 in the FedExCup standings, won two high school state championships at University Lab School in Baton Rouge, La. In two previous starts at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, he finished T24 in 2012 and missed last year’s cut.

The final-round scoring average for the 22 stroke-play winners in 2013-14 is 68.14 compared to the overall TOUR final-round scoring average of 71.26.

Low final rounds for PGA TOUR winners in 2013-14		
Player	Score	Tournament
Jimmy Walker	63	Sony Open in Hawaii
Bubba Watson	64	Northern Trust Open
Matt Kuchar	64	RBC Heritage
Harris English	65	OHL Classic at Mayakoba

High final rounds for PGA TOUR winners in 2013-14		
Player	Score	Tournament
Steven Bowditch	76	Valero Texas Open
Jimmy Walker	74	AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am

Matt Kuchar notched his TOUR–best eighth top 10 of the 2013-14 season with his victory at the RBC Heritage. Kuchar has 45 top 10s in 106 TOUR starts (43 percent) since the beginning of the 2010 campaign. The only player with a higher percentage of top-10 finishes since 2010 is RBC Heritage runner-up **Luke Donald**, who has 37 top 10s in 81 starts (46 percent).

After 10 of the first 17 events of 2013-14 were captured by players under the age of 30, the trend has taken a turn towards experience. The last six winners have been over the age of 30, including **John Senden** at the Valspar Championship, the oldest winner of the season at 42 years, 10 months and 27 days.

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The Zurich Classic of New Orleans offers players not otherwise qualified the last opportunity to earn an invitation to THE PLAYERS by moving into the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking or top 10 of the FedExCup standings as of Monday, April 28. After that, the only way into THE PLAYERS is to win the Wells Fargo Championship and, if needed to complete the field of 145, the highest-ranked players on the FedExCup points list, in order of their position, will earn a spot in the field.

CHAMPIONS TOUR

Spain's **Miguel Angel Jimenez**' debut on the Champions Tour saw him win the Greater Gwinnett Championship by two strokes over **Bernhard Langer**. He was the 18th player in Champions Tour history to win in his debut. Along with **Jeff Maggert**'s win at the previous event, the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic presented by C-Spire, it marks the first time since 1980 that back-to-back Champions Tour tournaments have been won by players making their debuts. In 1980, the first two official events ever played on the Champions Tour were won by **Don January** (Atlantic City International) and **Roberto DeVicenzo** (U.S. Senior Open). Jimenez's victory earns an exemption for one full year and qualifies him into the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai field for the next two years.

Bernhard Langer finished runner-up at the Greater Gwinnett Championship and extended his streak of finishes among the top 10 to 16 straight on the Champions Tour and 17 overall, including a T8 at the Masters Tournament. The last time Langer did not finish in the top 10 in a Champions Tour event was when he was T14 at the 2013 U.S. Senior Open in Omaha (July 14).

In addition to **Miguel Angel Jimenez** debuting last week, four-time PGA TOUR winner **Joe Durant** finished T21 in his first Champions Tour start. Durant turned 50 on April 7.

Bernhard Langer earned 158 Charles Schwab Cup points for his runner-up finish at the Greater Gwinnett Championship to increase his total in the season-long race to 869 points. Langer widened his lead in the Schwab Cup race to 264 points over **Fred Couples** who finished fourth at TPC Sugarloaf and earned 107 points. **Miguel Angel Jimenez** earned 270 points for his victory and appears on the standings in 8th position.

Colin Montgomerie has not been out of the top-10 in his five appearances on the Champions Tour in 2014.

60-year-old **Jay Haas** has been among the top five in five of his six appearances and he is a cumulative 73-under for the 2014 season. Of his 18 rounds this year on the Champions Tour, 15 have been in the 60s.

After celebrating its 10th anniversary last year, the Insperty Invitational (formerly Championship) takes on a new name and a new player eligibility format. The 81 players to compete in Houston from April 28-May 4 will be invited based on eight new categories of eligibility. Here is a breakdown of the new eligibility requirements for the Insperty Invitational:

1. Those players eligible for Champions Tour events who are members of the World Golf Hall of Fame.
2. Winners of major championships on the Champions Tour (Senior PGA Championship, the Senior Open Championship, U.S. Senior Open, Constellation Senior Players Championship, Regions Tradition) in the preceding five calendar years and the current year.
3. Top 20 available players from the final Previous Year's Money List provided such players are 50th or better on such money list.
4. Top 20 players available from the All-Time Money List as of commitment deadline, not otherwise exempt above, provided such players are 70th or higher on such money list.

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5. The top player from the prior year's European Senior Tour, PGA Australia Legends Tour and Asian Senior Tour Orders of Merit.
6. Winners of cosponsored or approved Champions Tour tournaments since the prior year's Insuperity Invitational.
7. The top player from the most recent Champions Tour National Qualifying Tournament.
8. In order to fill the field of 81 players, at the invitation of the host organization, players not otherwise exempt for the Insuperity Invitational, provided all of such players shall be winners of a PGA TOUR, Champions Tour, European Tour or European Senior Tour tournament. Or, players who have a minimum of five wins on their respective home Tour.

WEB.COM TOUR

This week's 23rd WNB Golf Classic in Midland, Texas is the seventh of 21 Regular Season events, marking the one-third point. The Regular Season will be followed by the four-event Web.com Tour Finals in late August and September, which will determine who gets the 50 available PGA TOUR cards for 2014-15 and priority ranking positions.

After T4, 2nd and T5 finishes in his previous three starts, **Matt Kuchar** corralled his seventh PGA TOUR victory at the RBC Heritage on Sunday and Tour alumni win No. 383. Of the 23 PGA TOUR events played in 2013-14, 18 have been won by former Web.com Tour members.

Web.com Tour fields grow to 156 this week in Midland and will remain at 156 through the end of the Regular Season, with the exception of next month's BMW Charity Pro-Am, which features three venues, 25 celebrities and 168 players.

Two-time 2014 winner **Carlos Ortiz** has climbed from No. 1,508 in the Official World Golf Ranking at the end of last year to No. 193, making him the highest-ranked Mexican golfer in the world. The Guadalajara native has already expressed his desire to compete in the 2016 Olympics. Ortiz turns 23 on Thursday (Apr. 24th).

Two-time Jack Nicklaus Award/NCAA Division II Player of the Year **Alex Carpenter** of Little Rock, Ark. has received a sponsor exemption this week. Carpenter won 20 college events at Abilene Christian University in Texas.

The Web.com Tour is in Valdosta, Ga. next week for the South Georgia Classic.

NEC SERIES-PGA TOUR LATINOAMÉRICA

William Kropp, a 24-year-old rookie who played collegiately at the University of Oklahoma, managed to hold off local favorite **Ángel Cabrera** to win the 83rd Abierto OSDE del Centro presented by FiberCorp on Sunday. His victory at the Cordoba Golf Club, in Cabrera's hometown of Villa Allende, was his first in just five career starts on NEC Series-PGA TOUR Latinoamérica. Kropp finished at 8-under par 276, oneshot ahead of the 2007 U.S. Open and 2009 Masters champion.

A third-place finish in Cordoba helped Colombia's **Marcelo Rozo** move into the first spot of the PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Order of Merit. Rozo, 24, is the only two-time champion under the age of 25 on the Tour. He had won the 2013 season ending Argentine Open in December and collected his second win by surviving a seven-way playoff in Guadalajara, Mexico four weeks ago. At the end of the season the top 5 ranked players will earn status on the Web.com Tour.

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The Latinoamérica Tour is in Montevideo, Uruguay this week for a new edition of Roberto De Vincenzo Invitational Copa NEC. The tournament that honors Latin America's greatest player will be played at the historic Club de Golf del Uruguay, designed by Alister MacKenzie in the 1930s.

PGA TOUR CANADA

Vermillion Bay, Ontario's Jordan Krantz carded a final-round 66 at the Jack Nicklaus Signature Course at Reunion Resort last Saturday to claim medalist honors and lead all 43 players who earned status at PGA TOUR Canada's Florida Qualifying Tournament. Krantz, a two-time Manitoba Amateur champion, was the only player finish under par for the week, earning the top spot by two over Michigan's Ryan Brehm.

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