

E-Notes from the PGA TOUR



PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL

February 3, 2009

Written by Dave Lancer, Director Information

- Look for someone from Southern California to win this week's Buick Invitational. In the last 21 years, 15 of the winners of the event have been from the area. In fact, 10 of the last 12 have hailed from Southern California.
- Six natives of San Diego have won the Buick Invitational—**Gene Littler, Billy Casper, Craig Stadler, Scott Simpson, Greg Twiggs and Phil Mickelson**. There are five PGA TOUR members from San Diego in the field this week—**Mickelson, Bill Lunde, Charley Hoffman, Dennis Paulson and Chris Riley**.
- Don't look for a first-time winner this week at the Buick Invitational. The last player to win his first title at the tournament was **Jay Don Blake** back in 1991.
- He hasn't won yet in the early going, but **David Toms** is perhaps the hottest player on TOUR. After an opening round even-par 70 at the Sony Open in Hawaii, Toms has posted 12 consecutive rounds in the 60s. He's 48-under in his first three starts and is fifth in the FedExCup standings.
- This is the fifth week of the season and when play begins on Thursday, four players will have played in all five events—**Daniel Chopra, Ryuji Imada, Chez Reavie and Johnson Wagner**.
- 17 of the 28 rookies on TOUR have earned FedExCup points after the first four weeks of the season. **Scott Piercy** heads the list in 16th place while **Webb Simpson** is right behind him in 17th place. Simpson, by the way, began his rookie campaign with 11 consecutive rounds of par or better before a third-round 77 ended that streak last week.
- **Padraig Harrington and Retief Goosen** will both make their season debuts on the PGA TOUR this week. Neither has ever played before in the Buick Invitational.

NATIONWIDE TOUR

- This week's Panama Digicel Championship will mark the start of the Nationwide Tour's 20th season. The very first event was held Feb. 2-4, 1990 in Bakersfield, CA.

PGA TOUR

112 PGA TOUR Boulevard • Ponte Vedra Beach, FL • 32082 tel 904.273.6000 fax 904.285.0000 PGATOUR.com

GIVING BACK: THE HEART OF THE PGA TOUR

- The field at this week's season-opening event will be jumping right into the fire as the Panama GC was the most difficult course on the Nationwide Tour in 2008. The par-70 course played to a stroke average of 72.959 with only four players breaking par for the week. Seven of the holes ranked among the 50 Toughest on the Tour.
- Among those teeing it up this week in Panama is **Manuel Villegas**, the brother of **Camilo Villegas**, who will be in action at the Buick Invitational.
- There are 22 former PGA TOUR champions in the field in Panama along with five winners from the 2008 Nationwide Tour. Four of the five previous winners of the Panama Digicel Championship will be on hand this week as well.

CHAMPIONS TOUR

- The Champions Tour's first full-field event of the season will be held next week when 78 players arrive in Boca Raton, FL for the Allianz Championship.
- Among those turning 50 this year are **Tom Lehman (Mar.7)**, **Bob Tway (May 4)**, **Olin Browne (May 22)**, **Tom Pernice Jr. (Sept. 5)**, **David Frost (Sept. 11)** and **Fred Couples (Oct. 3)**.