

E-Notes from the PGA TOUR



PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL

March 3, 2009

Written by Dave Lancer, Director Information

- The teenagers are back this week on the PGA TOUR. **Rory McIlroy** and **Tadd Fujikawa** are both entered this week at The Honda Classic which has seen successful teens before. **Ty Tryon**, at age 16 years, 9 months and 7 days, made the cut at the 2001 Honda Classic becoming (at that time) the second youngest player to ever make a cut on TOUR behind Bob Panasuk. Fujikawa topped Tyron, however, at the 2007 Sony Open making the cut at age 16 years and 4 days. In 1990, current TOUR player **Chris Couch** Monday qualified for The Honda Classic at age 16.
- **Ernie Els** will attempt to become just the second player in Honda Classic history to win back-to-back titles this week. Only **Jack Nicklaus** in 1977-78 has ever accomplished the feat.
- **Mark Calcavecchia** has quite a record at The Honda Classic winning twice and finishing second twice. He won in 1987 at the TPC Eagle Trace and in 1998 at the TPC Heron Bay. A win this week would not only give his three wins in three different decades, but at three different courses.
- You might want to look for an international player to shine this week. In the past 15 years, Honda Classic winners have hailed from Zimbabwe, Australia, Fiji, Sweden, England and South Africa in addition to the U.S.
- Rookie **Scott Piercy** is off to a great start. He's finished in the Top 20 in four of his first five starts with a scoring average of 69.64. He's 37th in the FedExCup points race after the West Coast Swing.
- Eight different players competed in seven tournaments out west including four—**Alex Cejka, Pat Perez, Brendon de Jonge and Dean Wilson**—who played in all seven events for which they were eligible.
- With **Pat Perez** winning his first career title at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, it became the sixth consecutive season in which there was a first-time winner during the West Coast Swing.

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

CHAMPIONS TOUR

- While The Honda Classic is being played on the PGA TOUR, the Toshiba Classic on the Champions Tour will be staging a Honda Classic former champions reunion with 10 former winners in the field.
- Five times over the past 14 years, the winner of the Toshiba Classic has gone on to receive Champions Tour Player of the Year honors following the season in which he won—**Jim Colbert (1996), Hale Irwin (1998 and 2002), Jay Haas (2007) and Bernhard Langer (2008)**.
- Newport Beach CC, site of this week's Toshiba Classic, is the shortest course on the Champions Tour in 2009, playing to a par-71 over 6,584 yards.
- **Bernhard Langer** won last year's Toshiba Classic in a seven-hole playoff over **Jay Haas**. While it was the longest playoff on the Tour last year, it was only the third longest in Toshiba Classic history. Both the 1997 and 2001 events staged nine-hole playoffs before determining a winner.

NATIONWIDE TOUR

- **Mark Wilson's** victory last week at the Mayakoba Classic at Riviera Maya-Cancun was the 241st victory on the PGA TOUR by a former Nationwide Tour player.
- The Class of 2008 is off to a good start on the PGA TOUR with 23 of the 25 graduates earning FedExCup points during the West Coast Swing. **Scott Piercy** leads the way in 37th place with **Jeff Klauk** right behind him in 42nd place.
- This week's HSBC New Zealand PGA Championship will be the first two events this year in New Zealand. Aussie **Peter O'Malley** has won this event twice in its first eight years on the Nationwide Tour and with a victory this week would become the first player in Nationwide Tour history to win the same event three times.
- One more on **O'Malley**: He finished second last week at the Moonah Classic in Australia aided in part by making a birdie putt on the 16th green on Saturday estimated at between 100 and 120 feet with 15 feet of break.