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E-NOTES – April 5, 2016

PGA TOUR

FedExCup history note – Last year, **Jordan Spieth** became the first player in FedExCup history to have won the Masters in the same season he claimed the FedExCup. Spieth took over the lead after winning the Masters and did not relinquish it until missing the cut at The Barclays, the first event of the FedExCup Playoffs. He then reclaimed it after winning the season finale, the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta.

With his win at the Shell Houston Open, **Jim Herman** earned the final spot in the Masters field. Since Augusta National Golf Club re-instituted the “win-you’re-in” exemption in 2008 (it was taken away in 2000), four players have earned a spot in the Masters field via a win the week before: **Johnson Wagner** (2008 Shell Houston Open), **Martin Laird** (2013 Valero Texas Open), **Matt Jones** (2014 Shell Houston Open) and Herman (2016 Shell Houston Open). Here’s how they fared the following week at the Masters Tournament:

Year	Player	Masters result
2008	Johnson Wagner	T36
2013	Martin Laird	MC
2014	Matt Jones	MC
2016	Jim Herman	TBD

Jim Herman became the eighth first-time winner on the PGA TOUR in the 2015-16 Season, joining **Emiliano Grillo** (Safeway Open), **Smylie Kaufman** (Shriners Hospitals for Children Open), **Justin Thomas** (CIMB Classic), **Russell Knox** (World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions), **Peter Malnati** (Sanderson Farms Championship), **Kevin Kisner** (The RSM Classic) and **Tony Finau** (Puerto Rico Open at Coco Beach). At the age of 38 years, 4 months, 29 days, Herman is the oldest first-time winner on the PGA TOUR since **Alex Cejka** won the 2015 Puerto Rico Open at the age of 44 years, 3 months, 6 days.

Defending Masters champion **Jordan Spieth** is making his third start at the Masters. He is the first player to begin his Masters career with eight straight par-or-better rounds. **2014:** 71-70-70-72—283 **2015:** 64-66-70-70—270.

World No. 1 **Jason Day** is in search of his second major title having won the 2015 PGA Championship. The last player to win the PGA Championship then win the Masters was **Phil Mickelson** (2005 PGA Championship and 2006 Masters Tournament). Day, who has won his last two starts on TOUR (Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard and World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play), looks to become the third player to have won the Masters coming off wins in their last two starts: **Jack Nicklaus** in 1975 (Doral-Eastern Open and Sea Pines Heritage Invitational) and **Tiger Woods** in 2001 (Bay Hill Invitational and THE PLAYERS Championship).

Adam Scott is making his 60th appearance in a major and 59th consecutive. Active consecutive major appearances (including 2016 Masters Tournament):

- Sergio Garcia: 67
- Adam Scott: 59

Rafa Cabrera Bello’s third-place finish at the World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play two weeks ago, his second career top-10 PGA TOUR finish, moved him into the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking, earning his first-ever invite to the Masters Tournament. Bello finished fourth last week at the Shell Houston Open as a sponsor exemption and is eligible to join the PGA TOUR as a Special Temporary Member for the remainder of the year.

Rickie Fowler will make his 25th start in a major and sixth at the Masters. The Masters Tournament is the only major Fowler has never missed a cut.

2014-15 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year **Daniel Berger** recorded his first top-10 of the season in 12 starts, a T5 showing at the Shell Houston Open. Berger led the field with 23 birdies, including nine in the final round.

The Quicken Loans Hole-In-One Sweepstakes has not seen a winner in the last six PGA TOUR events. The last ace on TOUR was **Alex Cejka's** during the first round of The Honda Classic. The longest stretch of stroke play events without an ace since 1983 is 12 events (from 2014 Waste Management Phoenix Open to the 2014 RBC Heritage).

CHAMPIONS TOUR

Spain's **Miguel Angel Jimenez** closed with an 8-under 64 to post a 14-under 202 total, good for a two-shot victory over **Scott Dunlap** at the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic presented by C Spire, and the event's \$240,000 first-place prize. Jimenez, who notched rounds of 68-70—138 (6-under) during Saturday's marathon 36-hole round to earn a spot in Sunday's final threesome, played bogey-free golf on day three with eight birdies against 10 pars to close in 64 – the lowest final-round score in tournament history.

Bernhard Langer, who finished T6 in Mississippi, extended his lead in the season-long Charles Schwab Cup with \$517,050 on the year – thanks in part to a win at the Chubb Classic in February, and four additional top-10 finishes. With the win in Mississippi, **Miguel Angel Jimenez** moved from No. 51 to No. 5 in the Charles Schwab Cup Standings with \$278,600 in earnings.

Eight current PGA TOUR Champions members are in the field at the Masters Tournament this week: **Bernhard Langer, Tom Watson, Mark O'Meara, Larry Mize, Ian Woosnam, Sandy Lyle, Vijay Singh** and **Davis Love III**. Of the eight, Love is the only one not competing in the Past Champions category, as he is in the field courtesy of his win at the Wyndham Championship last summer.

Fourteen-time PGA TOUR Champions winner **Tom Watson** is set to make his final Masters Tournament appearance this year after 42 career starts to date – including every year since 1975. Masters wins in 1977 and 1981 set the foundation for one of the greatest career runs in Augusta National history, with three runner-up finishes and 15 top-10 efforts, including an unfathomable stretch of golf from 1977 through 1984, where he posted seven top-five finishes in an eight-year span that featured 27 of 32 rounds recorded under par. The World Golf Hall of Fame member electrified fans in 2010 when he opened the event with a 5-under 67 to sit tied for second through 18 holes before finishing T18 on the week – his last top-25 at the year's first major.

WEB.COM TOUR

Andrew Svoboda posted rounds of 64-65-65-67—261 (23-under) to claim his third career Web.com Tour title at the Brasil Champions presented by Embrase on Sunday. Trailing by one at the 72nd hole, Svoboda hit an approach to six feet for a closing birdie to overtake leader **Bhavik Patel**, who bogeyed the last to finish one shot back. The \$126,000 first-place prize moved him from No. 41 to No. 3 on the 2016 money list.

There are five players on the 2016 Web.com Tour money list who have earned in excess of \$100,000 through the first four events of the year, and **Martin Flores** is one of them. While Flores is the only member of the quintet without a win, he has been the Tour's most consistent performer to date this season. The 34-year-old has notched three top-5 finishes in four starts, including a solo-fourth-place effort in Brazil last week. Flores played the PGA TOUR as a rookie in 2010, lost his card, and secured a trip back via the Web.com Tour, thanks to a 24th-place finish on the season-ending money list in 2011. The former Oklahoma Sooner standout made 111 starts on TOUR from 2012 through 2015, posting five top-10s – including a third-place finish at the 2014 Wells Fargo Championship, where he played in Sunday's final twosome alongside winner J.B. Holmes.

Jim Herman's win at the Shell Houston Open was the 15th victory by a former Web.com Tour player during the PGA TOUR's 2015-16 season. Herman finished 19th and 25th, respectively, on the 2010 and 2012 Web.com Tour money lists to earn his PGA TOUR card each time before returning again to the Web.com Tour in 2014 to regain his TOUR card via a 10th-place finish on the Web.com Tour Finals money list. In 118 career starts on the Web.com Tour, Herman posted 11 top-10 finishes, including a playoff win at the 2010 Moonah Classic.

Seven of the top 10 spots in the current FedExCup standings are occupied by former Web.com Tour players: **Jason Day** (2), **Brandt Snedeker** (3), **Kevin Kisner** (4), **Russell Knox** (5), **Justin Thomas** (6), **Bubba Watson** (7) and **Smylie Kaufman** (9).

This week's Masters Tournament features 34 former Web.com Tour players, including Shell Houston Open winner **Jim Herman**. The other 33 players are **Trevor Immelman, Zach Johnson, Bubba Watson, Webb Simpson, Keegan Bradley, Jason Dufner, Jason Day, Bill Haas, Charley Hoffman, Kevin Streelman, Marc Leishman, Steven Bowditch, Ernie Els, Fabian Gomez, Emiliano Grillo, Smylie Kaufman, Chris Kirk, Russell Knox, Danny Lee, David Lingmerth, Troy Merritt, Vaughn Taylor, Justin Thomas, Daniel Berger, Harris English, Kevin Kisner, Matt Kuchar, Scott Piercy, Brandt Snedeker, Robert Streb, Jimmy Walker, Billy Horschel and Anirban Lahiri**.

The Web.com Tour moves from Brazil to Cartagena, Colombia this week for the second annual Servientrega Championship Presented by Efecty, set to be contested at TPC Cartagena. **Andrew Landry** won the event's inaugural edition in 2015, posting an 11-under 277 total for a dominant five-shot victory over **Steve Allan** and **Miguel Angel Carballo**. The win, which wound up as Landry's only top-10 of the year, pushed the former Arkansas Razorback to a 21st-place finish on the regular season-ending money list – a finish which netted a 2015-16 PGA TOUR card.

Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada

Forty-three players earned Mackenzie Tour status at the second of four qualifying tournaments at PGA Golf Club's Wanamaker Course in Port St. Lucie, Fla., last week, including medalist **Will Starke**, a senior at the University of South Carolina. Starke's South Carolina teammates **Matt NeSmith, Sean Kelly** and **Caleb Sturgeon** have also secured status for this season.

Ping An Bank China Tour – PGA TOUR China Series

China's **Cheng Jin** will become the first PGA TOUR China Series player to play in a major championship as a member, when he tees it up this week at the Masters Tournament. Jin, winner of the 2014 Nine Dragons Open, will play the first two rounds with **Zach Johnson** and **Rickie Fowler**. Jin, who turned 18 last month, earned his invitation by winning the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in October 2015 in Hong Kong.

New Zealand's **Josh Geary** had a successful 2016 Web.com Tour debut, tying for 12th at last week's Brasil Champions on the strength of four rounds in the 60s at Sao Paulo Golf Club. Geary fired scores of 66-69-65-68 and easily qualified for this week's event, the Servientrega Championship in Colombia, by virtue of his top-25 finish.

This season, in five worldwide starts, **Josh Geary** has made four cuts—with a pair of top-five finishes on the PGA Tour of Australasia. He tied for second at the Holden New Zealand PGA Championship, tied for fifth at the Oates Victorian Open and had his best Web.com Tour finish, a tie for 12th in Sao Paulo, since he tied for fourth at the 2011 Midwest Classic outside Kansas City.

Not only did a record seven former PGA TOUR China players tee it up last week at the Brasil Champions, six made the cut. There could have been nine players in the field, but China's **Xinjun Zhang** and **Zecheng Dou** were unable to make travel arrangements quickly enough once the Tour notified them that they were in the field in Brazil.

The Ping An Bank China Tour – PGA TOUR China Series begins its third season May 9-15 with the Henan Open in Zhengzhou.