



## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual 3M Championship Advance Media Notes

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**Dates:** July 31, August 6, 2017

**Course:** TPC Twin Cities; Blaine, Minnesota

**Par/Yards:** 36-36—72/7,002

**Course Designer:** Arnold Palmer/Tom Lehman (2000)

**Field:** 78 professionals **Format:** 54-hole stroke-play event with no cut.

**Purse:** \$1,750,000; **Winner's Share/Charles Schwab Cup:** \$262,500

**Television:** Golf Channel will televise all three rounds. The Friday telecast will be on a tape-delayed basis from 8:00-10:00 p.m., while weekend coverage will be from 4-6 p.m. All times are local.

**The 2017 Schedule:** The 25th annual 3M Championship is the 16th of 26 official events in 2017, a season that concludes with the Charles Schwab Cup Championship from November 9-12 at Phoenix Country Club in Phoenix, AZ.

**About PGA TOUR Champions:** PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of golf's most recognizable and accomplished players, age 50 and older, including 32 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour's mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. In 2017, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 26 tournaments in 18 states, Japan, Wales and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$55 million, an average of \$2.1 million per event. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long champion. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air live, tape-delayed or in a highlights-package format in excess of 206 countries and territories, reaching more than 145 million households. The PGA TOUR's web site is PGATOUR.COM, the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Follow PGA TOUR Champions at [facebook.com/PGATOURChampions](https://www.facebook.com/PGATOURChampions), on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

**2016 Recap:** **Joe Durant** closed with a 9-under-par 63 for a 54-hole total of 19-under-par 197. He sank a 10-foot eagle putt on the first extra hole for the victory over **Miguel Angel Jimenez** to become the first player to make an eagle on the final hole to win since Wes Short, Jr., at the 2014 Quebec Championship. His 17-under-par 127 on the weekend, at the time was the best consecutive rounds on PGA TOUR Champions in 2016 and his lowest on Tour. In 2015, Durant posted an impressive two-round total of 14-under-par 128 at the 2015 Toshiba Classic, which included his career-low round on PGA TOUR Champions (9-under-par 62).

**About the Sponsor:** The 3M Company, formerly known as the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company (1902–2002), is based in Maplewood, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul. With \$30 billion in annual sales, 3M employs 89,800 people worldwide and produces more than 55,000 products, including: adhesives, abrasives, laminates, passive fire protection, dental and orthodontic products, electronic materials, medical products, car-care products (sun films, polish, wax, car shampoo, treatment for the exterior, interior and the under chassis rust protection), electronic circuits, and optical films. 3M has operations in more than 65 countries including 29 international companies with manufacturing operations and 35 companies with laboratories. 3M products are available for purchase through distributors and retailers in more than 200 countries, and online directly from the company. For more information, visit [www.3M.com](http://www.3M.com) or follow @3MNews on Twitter.

**The 2017 Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs:** In 2016, Bernhard Langer won the inaugural Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs and won the Charles Schwab Cup for the third year in a row, and fourth time overall. This year's three-tournament playoff series begins in Richmond, Virginia, before heading west to Thousand Oaks, California, and concluding in Phoenix.

- October 16-22 | Dominion Charity Classic (The Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia)
- October 23-29 | PowerShares QQQ Championship (Sherwood Country Club, Thousand Oaks, California)
- November 6-12 | Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Phoenix Country Club, Phoenix, Arizona)

At the start of the playoffs, each player's regular-season money total will become the equivalent number of points (e.g. \$330,000 equals 330,000 points). During the first two playoff events, each dollar earned is worth two points, and those points will be added to a player's regular-season point total. After the Dominion Charity Classic, the top 54 players will advance, and after the PowerShares QQQ Championship, the top 36 players will qualify for the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

Points will be reset for the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, similar to the reset in the FedExCup Playoffs before the TOUR Championship. Any of the top-five players will win the Charles Schwab Cup with a victory in the season finale, and all 36 players are mathematically capable of winning the Charles Schwab Cup, depending on his performance and the results of the rest of the field.

**Where the Charles Schwab Cup Race Stands:** Prior to last week's Senior Open Championship in Wales, Bernhard Langer sat atop the standings with \$2,039,666 in the season-long race followed by Scott McCarron with \$1,378,135, a margin of \$661,531. Kenny Perry is third with \$1,249,745. Rounding out the top five are Fred Couples and Brandt Jobe.

## 3M Championship Storylines...

**A Look at the 2017 Field:** The 2017 3M Championship will again have a star-studded field. Below is a rundown on the makeup of the tournament field.

- 57 players in the field have won 293 PGA TOUR titles
- 49 players have won 239 PGA TOUR Champions victories
- 12 players have won major titles on the PGA TOUR
- 18 players have won major victories on PGA TOUR Champions

**Stricker to Make 3M Championship Debut:** One of the newest faces on PGA TOUR Champions is Wisconsin native Steve Stricker. A 12-time winner on the PGA TOUR, Stricker served as a Vice Captain under Davis Love III last fall when Hazeltine National hosted the Ryder Cup matches. He also competed in a pair of PGA Championships staged at the same venue in 2002 (MC) and 2009 (MC). This will be Stricker's sixth start on PGA TOUR Champions in 2017. He owns four top-10 finishes, including a second-place at the Tucson Conquistadores Classic and a pair of T3 efforts at the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic and the American Family Insurance Championship. He will serve as captain of the 2017 United States Presidents Cup team later this year.

**Langer Has Enjoyed Great Success at 3M Championship:** No player has enjoyed the success that 59-year-old Bernhard Langer has achieved at the 3M Championship. Just days shy of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, the World Golf Hall of Famer won last week's Senior Open Championship, his third major title in 2017 and 10<sup>th</sup> overall. His play in the 3M Championship has been just as impressive. He has won the event twice (2009, 2012), finished second three times (2008, 2014, 2015) and tied for third a year ago. Of the 24 rounds he has played at the course, all 24 have been below par and 22 of those have been in the 60s. His scoring average in those 24 rounds is an impressive 66.96. Langer already owns 33 career wins on PGA TOUR Champions, including four this year. Two of those were back-to-back major championships at the Regions Tradition and the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship.

**More on Langer:** Of the 26 events on the 2017 PGA TOUR Champions schedule, Langer has posted a victory in 15 of those at least once. In 200 career starts, Langer owns 33 career victories, has been second 27 times and third 21 times. In 10 seasons on Tour, he has posted multiple victories in nine of those years. The lone exception came in 2011 when he was sidelined for an extended period with an injury which limited him to 14 starts. In addition he has finished in the top 10 a total of 143 times (71.5%) in his career.

**Post-It (R) Products Greats of Golf Challenge Returns For 14th year:** A popular Saturday tradition will again return to the 3M Championship this year as golf legends Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Lee Trevino (Capt. Chi Chi Rodriguez) will tee off in an exhibition match on August 5th. That threesome will compete in an 18-hole scramble against three other teams composed of David Graham, Tom Weiskopf and Hale Irwin (Capt. Tony Jacklin); Fuzzy Zoeller, David Graham and Ben Crenshaw (Capt. Andy North); Michelle McGann, Pat Bradley and Nany Lopez (Capt. Bill Rogers). In addition, Jim Colbert, Jerry Pate, Charles Coody and Al Geiberger will be on hand to sign autographs in the Stryker Expo Tent on Saturday morning.

**Success for Players Age 56+ in 2017:** So far in 2017, an impressive eight of 16 tournament winners have been aged 56 or older. Coming into this season, nearly 85 percent of tournament winners in PGA TOUR Champions history have been between the ages of 50-55. The players aged 56 and older with victories this year are Bernhard Langer (4 wins), Fred Couples (2 wins), Kenny Perry and Tom Lehman.

**Toms, Mayfair and Flesch Highlight Other First-Timers:** In addition to Steve Stricker, the 3M Championship welcomes several other former PGA TOUR winners, including 13-time Tour winner David Toms, five-time winner Billy Mayfair and four-time champion Steve Flesch. Joining the trio will be Phillip Price, Fran Quinn, Bobby Gage, Kent Jones, James Kingston and Scott Parel. Price is a three-time winner on the European Tour and competed for the Europeans at the 2002 Ryder Cup, while Kingston owns more than a dozen victories worldwide, including two on the European Tour.

### **3M Championship Notes...**

**A Minnesota Staple:** The 3M Championship has been held in the Twin Cities since 1993, making it one of the longest-running events on PGA TOUR Champions schedule in one metropolitan area. Only two other tournaments have been played longer in one city. Those markets include: Naples (Chubb Classic since 1988), and Birmingham (Regions Tradition since 1993). This year's event is the 17<sup>th</sup> at the TPC Twin Cities in Blaine after an eight-year run at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids.

**You Better Go Low:** The winning score at the 3M Championship has been at least 15-under-par in the last 10 years. Three of those winning scores included totals of better than 20-under. When he had an opening-round 70 last year, Joe Durant ended a string of 13 consecutive years in which the winner had posted all three rounds in the 60s. In 2014, Bernhard Langer's 22-under 194 score was the lowest ever shot that did not win the event. In 2014, the final scoring average for the tournament was 69.909, the lowest in tournament history, bettering the 70.056 average in 2008. There were 1,104 birdies during the tournament, the second most ever in a PGA TOUR Champions' 54-hole event. There were 1,025 birdies in 2016.

**Firsts and Lasts:** There have been seven first-time winners in 3M Championship history: Vicente Fernandez (1996), Leonard Thompson (1998), Ed Dougherty (2000), Bruce Lietzke (2001), Wayne Levi (2003), David Edwards (2006) and David Frost (2010). Fernandez, Lietzke, Edwards, Frost and the 2013 champion, Tom Pernice, Jr., all won in their first appearances at this event. Chi Chi Rodriguez' victory at the inaugural event in

1993 was the last of his 22 career titles on PGA TOUR the Champions.

**Frost's Magical Week:** David Frost's seven-stroke triumph at the 2010 3M Championship was the biggest victory margin in tournament history. His final-round, 11-under-par 61, which included a birdie-birdie-eagle start, matched the lowest round by a winner in PGA TOUR Champions history. Frost's winning score of 25-under 191 also matched the lowest score ever recorded in a 54-hole event on the PGA TOUR Champions. Frost went bogey-free for all 54 holes of the event.

**Event Will Have a Local Flavor:** Four players in this year's field have ties to Minnesota, including a pair of former University of Minnesota stars Tom Lehman and John Harris. A two-time winner of the Charles Schwab Cup in 2011 and 2012, and co-designer of the TPC Twin Cities with Arnold Palmer, Lehman is a native of Austin, Minn., and was a three-time (1979-81) All-American for the Gophers. Harris, a former U.S. Amateur winner (1993), played both golf and hockey for the Gophers and won the Big Ten championship in 1974, the same year the hockey team won an NCAA title. He was a two-time All-American in golf at Minnesota. In addition, Lee Janzen is a native of Austin, Minnesota, and Rocco Mediate resides part of the year in the Twin Cities. His wife, Jessica, is from the area.

**How the Leaders Have Fared:** In the previous 24 3M Championships, players leading or co-leading after Saturday's round have won 14 times, including 12 of the last 20 years in Minnesota. First-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this event only five times. In 2011, Jay Haas was the first to do so since Tom Purtzer in 2005.

**Maggert, Eaks' Share Birdie Record:** Jeff Maggert's 24 birdies in 2014 tied the tournament record set originally by R.W. Eaks in 2008 when he rolled to a six-stroke victory. D.A. Weibring (2007), Kenny Perry (2011) and Miguel Angel Jimenez (2016) all made 22 birdies in the event.

**Oldest/Youngest:** Bruce Lietzke's victory in the 2001 tournament came just 24 days after he turned 50, making him the youngest winner in event history. Chi Chi Rodriguez is the oldest winner, claiming the inaugural event at Bunker Hills GC in 1993 when he was age 57 years, 7 months, 27 days.

**Sindelar Enjoyed Big 10 Success Here:** Joey Sindelar, competing for Ohio State, won the 1981 Big Ten Conference title at the University of Minnesota's Les Bolstad Golf Course, beating Minnesota's Tom Lehman by five strokes for the crown.

**Tough One to Defend:** When he successfully defended his title in 2015, Kenny Perry became the first to do so in this event. Prior to Perry's win, Tom Kite had the best chance finishing T5 in 2005. Hale Irwin was T2 in 2000 at Bunker Hills after his win a year earlier.

**25 Years Ago This Week:** On Sunday, August 2, 1992, Lanny Wadkins came from five strokes back with a final-round 5-under-par 65 to win the Canon Greater Hartford Open by two strokes over Dan Forsman, Nick Price and Donnie Hammond. It was the 21<sup>st</sup> and final PGA TOUR victory of his Hall of Fame career.