



## 40<sup>th</sup> Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge at Big Cedar Lodge Advance Media Notes

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**Dates:** April 17-23, 2017

**Location:** Ridgedale, Missouri

**Courses:** Top of the Rock (9-hole); Buffalo Ridge-Springs Golf Course (18 holes)

**Course Designers:** Buffalo Ridge – Tom Fazio redesign (2014); Top of the Rock – Jack Nicklaus Signature (2014)

### Format:

**Champions Division** – 54-hole, two-man team competition

**Legends Division** – 36-hole, two-man team competition for players 65 and older

The Buffalo Ridge Springs course will utilize a better-ball format, while on the Top of the Rock par-3 course, nine holes will use the Scotch Foursome format and nine holes will use the better-ball.

**Purse:** \$2,400,000/\$360,000 to winning team in Champions Division

### Television: Golf Channel

Friday, April 21: 11 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. CT

Saturday, April 22: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. CT

Sunday, April 23: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. CT

**The 2017 Schedule:** The 40th annual Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge at Big Cedar Lodge is the seventh 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, on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

**2016 Recap:** An 18-foot birdie on the 54th hole by **Michael Allen** proved decisive as he and teammate **Woody Austin** won the title in the Champions Division at the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge at Big Cedar Lodge. Allen and Austin went to the final hole tied with David Frost and Roger Chapman at 22-under-par, but moments after Chapman's chip for birdie from 25 feet lipped out, Allen sank his winning putt for the win. Allen and Austin finished with a 54-hole total of 23-under-par 156, a tournament record. In the Legends Division, the team of **Bruce Fleisher** and World Golf Hall of Famer **Larry Nelson** defended their 2015 crown, going wire-to-wire and finishing two better than John Bland and Graham Marsh. Since teaming up in 2014 for this tournament, the pair owns two wins and a second.

**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.

## **Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge Storylines...**

**Stellar Field on Tap:** The 2017 Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge will once again have a well-decorated field. Below is a rundown on the makeup of the field.

- They have won 86 major championships on the PGA TOUR
- They have won 80 major titles on PGA TOUR Champions
- There are 16 current members of the World Golf Hall of Fame entered as well as two players who will be inducted later this year.
- They have won 778 PGA TOUR titles and 549 PGA TOUR Champions victories.
- Nine players in the field have served as captain of the U.S. Ryder Cup team and two have been captains of the European squad.
- Five players have been captains of the U.S. Presidents Cup team, while two others led the International team.

**Allen and Austin Won't Defend Title in Champions Division:** After claiming the title in the Champions Division in 2016, the team of **Michael Allen** and **Woody Austin** won't have the opportunity to defend their title in 2017 since they have changed partners. Allen will now team up with former Arkansas Razorback John Daly, making his first start in this event, while Austin is now teaming with Mark

Calcavecchia. Allen also enjoyed success in this tournament in 2012 when he teamed with David Frost for the victory. Should the team of Allen & Daly prevail, Allen would become the first player to win with three different partners. Below is a rundown of other players who won with two different partners.

- Jeff Sluman (w/Fred Funk in 2014; w/Brad Faxon in 2013)
- Andy North (w/Tom Watson in 2008; w/Jim Colbert in 2000, '01)
- Don January (w/Gene Littler in 1985, '86; w/Sam Snead in 1982)
- Sam Snead (w/Don January in 1982; w/Gardner Dickinson in 1978)
- Gene Littler (w/Don January in 1985, '86; w/Bob Rosburg in 1981)
- Roberto De Vincenzo (w/Rod Funseth in 1983; w/Julius Boros in 1979)

**Field Includes 16 Hall of Famers:** This year's field features no shortage of current members of the World Golf Hall of Fame – a total of 16 are slated to compete along with two others who will join the Hall later this year. The Champions Division will feature **Hale Irwin, Tom Kite, Fred Couples, Ben Crenshaw, Sandy Lyle, Tom Watson, Mark O'Meara, Vijay Singh** and **Jose Maria Olazabal**. Also competing in the Champions Division will be Davis Love III and Ian Woosnam, who are scheduled for induction later this year. The Legends Division includes **Hubert Green, Larry Nelson, Tony Jacklin, David Graham, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus** and **Lee Trevino**.

**History of the Event:** This year will be the 40th Big Cedar Lodge Legends of Golf and the fourth year the event will be played in the state of Missouri. This tournament is also the second oldest in senior golf, with only the 78-year-old Senior PGA Championship exceeding it in longevity. The first Legends of Golf event was contested at Onion Creek Country Club in Austin, TX, in 1978, two years before the start of the Senior PGA TOUR. This event is credited with helping spawn what is now known as PGA TOUR Champions. Its \$400,000 purse in 1978 was the largest in professional golf at the time. The winners of the first tournament were **Sam Snead** and **Gardner Dickinson**, who prevailed by a stroke over Peter Thomson and Kel Nagle in the team, better-ball format. In the 1979 Legends event, people started talking when Art Wall and Tommy Bolt made five birdies in a playoff only to be matched by five birdies from the team of **Julius Boros** and **Roberto De Vincenzo**. Boros and De Vincenzo finally prevailed that year by making birdie on the sixth extra hole. The Legends Division remained an unofficial team event through 2001 except for 1993 when it was contested as a stroke-play tournament. However, in 2002, the Legends Division became an official stroke-play tournament and was played under that format through 2007. In 2008, the Legends Division reverted to a team, better-ball format but with official money for the first time. The tournament added a Legendary Division in 1987 for players over the age of 60. Big Cedar Lodge is the sixth home of the tournament. It was played in Austin, TX, from 1978-94 (Onion Creek Country Club and Barton Creek Country Club) before a three-year run in La Quinta, CA, from 1995-97. After a year at the Golf Club of Amelia Island (1998) in Amelia Island, FL, it moved to St. Augustine, FL, in 1999 and was played at both course at the World Golf Village through 2002 before relocating to Savannah in 2003. The Club at Savannah Harbor was the venue from 2003-2013.

**How the Leaders Have Fared:** Since it became an official team event in 2008, only three second-round leaders/co-leaders have won the event. That includes last year's champions **Michael Allen** and **Woody Austin**, who held a one-stroke advantage after 36 holes. Others to win were Allen and David Frost in 2012 (they shared the lead) and Andy North and Tom Watson in 2008, who held a four-stroke advantage.

**Stricker & Kelly to Debut:** Two of the newest members of PGA TOUR Champions – **Steve Stricker** and **Jerry Kelly** – will make their debut in this event. The two Wisconsin residents are certainly no stranger to team competition, having teamed up several times in the Franklin Templeton Shootout. They claimed the title there in 2009 and finished second a year ago.

**Watson & North Have Enjoyed Success:** One of the most successful teams in this event has been **Tom Watson** and **Andy North**. The pair won three consecutive titles in the Raphael Division in this event from 2005-2007 and claimed victory in the Legends Division in 2008. At one point, they had a streak of 257 holes without a bogey from 2006-2010. They also played bogey-free a year ago as did the teams of Paul Goydos/Kevin Sutherland and Tom Pernice, Jr./Bob Tway.

**Several Others to Debut in Event:** In addition to Steve Stricker and Jerry Kelly, several others will be making their first appearances in the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge this year. That group includes **David Toms, Vijay Singh, Tim Petrovic, Carlos Franco, Billy Mayfair, John Daly, Jose Maria Olazabal** and **Miguel Angel Jimenez**.

**College Teammates to Partner:** This year's event will feature three teams made up of players who were teammates on their college teams. They include **John Cook/Joey Sindelar** (Ohio State), **Lee Janzen/Rocco Mediate** (Florida Southern) and **Corey Pavin/Duffy Waldorf** (UCLA),

**Team Event Winners as Well:** Several other teams competing in this event have enjoyed previous success in team events. **Scott Hoch** and **Kenny Perry** won the 2008 Franklin Templeton Shootout as did Woody Austin and Mark Calcavecchia in 2007. Lee Janzen and Rocco Mediate were also victorious in the event in 2002, while Brad Faxon and Scott McCarron prevailed in 2000.

**Wire-to-Wire Winners:** Wire-to-wire winners have been rare in this event as only six teams have accomplished that feat. The last to do so was the team of **Andy North/Tom Watson** in 2008. North also teamed with Jim Colbert to go wire-to-wire in 2000 and 2001. Other teams to go wire-to-wire include Hubert Green/Gil Morgan (1999), Charles Coody/Dale Douglass (1990) and Don January/Sam Snead (1982).

**Weiskopf Returns:** For the first time since competing in this event in 1993 (T2), **Tom Weiskopf** will play in the 2017 Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge, teaming with Tony Jacklin. A 16-time winner on the PGA TOUR and a four-time winner on PGA TOUR Champions, Weiskopf last competed in a Tour event in 2002 when he finished T44 at The Countrywide Tradition in Scottsdale.

**Ferree is Oldest in Field; Stricker the Youngest:** **Jim Ferree** holds the distinction of being the oldest competitor in the field at age 85 (6/10/31). Ferree will team with 82-year-old **Tommy Jacobs**. The "youngest" player in the field is 50-year-old **Steve Stricker**, who turned 50 on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ferree made his debut in this event in 1984, teaming with **Sam Snead**. The pair finished T7. Ferree also teamed with the late **Miller Barber** for several years, including a pair of Demaret Division titles in 2002 and 2003.

**Charity Information:** The College of the Ozarks and the National Wildlife Museum and Aquarium are the two primary charities for the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge. Since its move to Big Cedar Lodge in 2014, the event has raised \$3 million for local charities.

**25 Years Ago This Week:** On April 19, 1992, **Davis Love III** wins the third of his five RBC Heritage titles when he finishes four better than Chip Beck at Harbour Town. Love also won titles in 1987, 1991, 1998 and 2003. One week later, Love would fire a final-round 10-under-par 62 to win the Kmart Greater Greensboro Open by six strokes over John Cook.

**25 Years Ago This Week II:** On April 21, 1992, **Lee Trevino** captures his first Senior PGA Championship when he makes par-saving putts on Nos. 17 and 18 to defeat Mike Hill by one stroke at PGA National. He becomes the 10<sup>th</sup> player to win a PGA and Senior PGA Championship. Trevino will team with Hill, his long-time partner in this event, in the Legends Division this week. The pair has enjoyed much success in this tournament, winning five times together over the years.