



CHAMPIONS

2017 TUCSON CONQUISTADORES CLASSIC ADVANCE MEDIA INFORMATION

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Dates: March 13-19, 2017

Course: Omni Tucson National (Catalina Course), Tucson, Arizona

Par/Yards: 36-37-73/7,238

Year Opened: 1963 (Robert Bruce Harris/Bruce Devlin)

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

Purse: \$1,700,000; **Winner's Share:** \$255,000

Television: Golf Channel -- Friday 6:30-8:30 p.m. (tape delayed), Saturday & Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Live). All times are local.

2016 Champion: Woody Austin defeated Jim Carter by one stroke.

2016...A Look Back: Woody Austin holed out for eagle from a greenside bunker on the par-5 15th and held on to win the Tucson Conquistadores Classic by one stroke over Jim Carter for his first PGA TOUR Champions title. His victory came in his 28th start on PGA TOUR Champions. When his caddie, his older son, Parker, fell ill Austin tapped his younger son, Peyton, to fill in and finished the round with a 7-under 65 and a 16-under-200 total. One of the keys for Austin in his victory was his bunker play, converting nine of 10 sand saves, including his 35-yard chip-in for eagle on No. 15. "The greatest bunker week of my career, no question," Austin said.

The 2017 Schedule: The 3rd annual Tucson Conquistadores Classic is the fourth of 26 official events in 2017, a season that concludes with the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, November 6-12, at the Phoenix Country Club in Phoenix, Arizona. The course hosted what is now the Waste Management Phoenix Open for several years. The PGA TOUR Champions primary purpose is to provide significant competitive and earnings opportunities for players age 50 and older, to protect the integrity of the game and to help grow the reach of the game in the U.S. and around the world.

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. 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.

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.

About the Tucson Conquistadores Classic: The late Roy P. Drachman was the founding father of the Tucson Conquistadores. The 41 businessmen who formed the original Conquistadores were the leaders of their day. Drachman recognized a need in the community, that of "extra-curricular support of deserving athletes as well as other community sporting events" and he successfully recruited the people who pledged to fill that need. The annual Sports Award Banquet, which had a long, successful run from 1963 through 1994, was the original fundraising event of the Tucson Conquistadores. In 1966, the Conquistadores adopted the Tucson Open golf tournament. The high-powered group turned the fledging PGA TOUR event into an exciting professional sporting and community event which continued through 2006 with over \$15 million being raised for charity during those years. From 2007 through 2014, the Tucson Conquistadores served as the tournament leadership team and sales arm for the World Golf Championships-Accenture Match Play Championship held at The Golf Club at Dove Mountain. This prestigious tournament featured the top 64 golfers in the world and created an unprecedented opportunity for the Conquistadores to raise record levels of funds for Southern Arizona youth - the final 2014 event generated \$1.3 million for charity. The Conquistadores have an active membership of up to 55 business and professional men, and a total membership of 197 who represent a cross-section of the Tucson community. True to its charter, the Conquistadores remain a working organization. In addition to its professional golf activities, the group has established the Tucson Conquistadores Foundation. The Foundation's goal is to build an endowment fund that will generate guarantee funds for the future. The key beneficiaries of the Conquistadores' fund-raising have been The First Tee of Tucson, Tucson and Pima County Junior Golf Programs, the Field of Dreams/Challenger Little League sports complex, Boys and Girls Clubs in Tucson, Sierra Vista and Nogales, Pima County Special Olympics, Educational Enrichment Foundation, Tucson Urban League and the YMCA. The Conquistadores have contributed over \$32 million to youth athletic programs in Southern Arizona.

TUCSON CONQUISTADORES CLASSIC STORYLINES...

Steve Stricker to Make Debut: Steve Stricker, a 12-time winner on the PGA TOUR and the captain of the 2016 United States Presidents Cup team, will make his PGA TOUR Champions debut at the Tucson Conquistadores Classic. The Madison, Wisconsin resident turned 50 on February 23rd and will join fellow Wisconsin resident Jerry Kelly as one of the two newest members of the Tour. Kelly finished T3 in his debut at the Chubb Classic. Stricker is no stranger to Tucson. He competed in the PGA TOUR's Tucson event eight times in his career with his best showing a T2 in 1994. He was also fourth overall in 2005. In those eight appearances, Stricker played a total of 26 rounds at the host course with his low round an 8-under-par 64 in 2005. His scoring average in those 26 rounds was 69.54.

Couples Off to Hot Start: After missing all but three events in 2016 with back woes, Fred Couples has been the hottest player on PGA TOUR Champions since the start of the campaign. He posted his first victory since 2014 (Shaw Charity Classic) when he prevailed by three strokes in his most recent start at the Chubb Classic. He was also second to Bernhard Langer at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai and T6 at the Allianz Championship. All eight of his rounds have been in the 60s this year and he has a scoring average of 66.50. He missed last year's Tucson Conquistadores Classic, but finished T59 in 2015. During his PGA TOUR career, Couples made 10 starts in Tucson with his best showing a T4 in 1983.

PGA TOUR Veteran Bob Estes to Join Stricker in Tucson: The ever-changing face of PGA TOUR Champions continues in Tucson with Bob Estes joining Steve Stricker in making his debut. Earlier this year, David Toms, a 13-time winner on the PGA TOUR, including the 2001 PGA Championship, debuted at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai where he finished T4. Two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal finished T41 at the Allianz Championship and Jerry Kelly was T3 at the Chubb Classic. Estes won four times on the PGA TOUR and played in over 600 events in his career which spanned four decades. His best year was in 2001 when he was a two-time winner and finished ninth on the money list. Like Stricker, Estes is no stranger to Tucson. He competed in the Tour event 11 times with a T3 effort in 1996 his best showing.

Langer Eyes Another Record: Bernhard Langer comes into the event with 29 consecutive sub-par rounds dating back to last year. The PGA TOUR Champions record in that category is 31 by Gil Morgan in 2000. However, Colin Montgomerie has a current string of 30 straight dating back to last year but is not in this year's field. Langer's scoring average in this current run is 67.41.

Thirteen Players Making First Appearance Here: This year's field includes 13 players making their debuts in this tournament. The new faces include David Toms, Michael Bradley, Steve Stricker, Mike Small, Jean Van De Velde, Paul McGinley, Fran Quinn, Phillip Price, Billy Mayfair, Skip Kendall, Bobby Gage, Jerry Kelly and Bob Estes. Quinn was slated to play a year ago but was forced to withdraw prior to the start of the event with an injury.

Six Former Tucson PGA TOUR Winners in Starting Field: Six former winners of the former PGA TOUR event in Tucson are slated to compete in this year's tournament. The six include Kirk Triplett ('06), Jim Carter ('00), Jeff Sluman ('97), David Frost ('88), Larry Mize ('93) and Lee Janzen ('92). Frost's victory came when the tournament was played at TPC Starr Pass. The others came at this year's site or a combination of this year's host course and Starr Pass GC.

Pavin Set to Return: Corey Pavin will be making his first start in 10 months after being forced to the sidelines with an elbow injury. Pavin underwent surgery for a torn tendon on his right elbow last May 26th which cut his season short after just eight events. He finished T21 here a year ago and T18 in 2015.

Van de Velde Came Close Here in 2000: Jean Van de Velde, who is playing on a sponsor exemption this week, came very close to claiming a title here when the PGA TOUR's Touchstone Energy Tucson Open was staged here in 2000. The Frenchman finished T2, two strokes behind Jim Carter after posting four consecutive rounds in the 60s. His second-place finish was one of three he posted in his PGA TOUR career.

Irwin Not Showing His Age: World Golf Hall of Famer Hale Irwin, the Tour's all-time leader in victories with 45, is certainly not showing the effects of his age. The 71-year-old Irwin has played eight rounds this year and has bettered his age three times and matched it three more times.

A Look at This Year's Field: Here is a rundown on the makeup of the 2017 field.

- 55 players in the field have won 328 PGA TOUR victories
- 44 players have won 252 PGA TOUR Champions titles
- 17 players have won major titles on the PGA TOUR
- 17 players have won major titles on PGA TOUR Champions
- There are six members of the World Golf Hall of Fame, including Ian Woosnam

2017 PGA TOUR Champions – Tournament Recaps:

1. Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai: Bernhard Langer claimed his 30th career victory on PGA TOUR Champions after high winds forced the cancellation of the final round at Hualalai. Langer closed Friday's second round with birdies on four of his last five holes, and his 36-hole total of 15-under-par (64-65) held up as the winning score over Fred Couples (-14) and Kirk Triplett (-13). The victory came on his 33rd wedding anniversary with his wife, Vikki, who was in attendance along with two of Langer's children.

2. Allianz Championship: After hitting a 7-iron from 179 yards on the par-5 18th, **Scott McCarron** made his six-foot eagle putt to win the Allianz Championship, his third career PGA TOUR Champions victory. At one time, seven players were tied for the lead during Sunday's final round, but in the end McCarron's 17-under total was one stroke better than Carlos Franco and Kenny Perry.

3. Chubb Classic: With a birdie on No. 2 on Sunday, **Fred Couples** took his first solo lead and didn't look back. He made four more birdies in his bogey-free 67 and claimed a three-shot victory at the Chubb Classic, the 12th win of his career and first since 2014. Miguel Angel Jimenez, the 36-hole leader finished second.

TUCSON CONQUISTADORES CLASSIC NOTES...

Catalina Course at Omni Tucson National Has a Rich History: The PGA TOUR has had a lengthy relationship with the Omni Tucson National's Catalina Course, dating back to 1965 when it first hosted the Tucson Open. The tournament was played there annually until 1980, with the exception of 1979 when it was played at Randolph Park Golf Course. After moving to both Randolph Park and TPC Starr Pass for a period of time, the event chose Omni Tucson National as the host course in the multi-course format that was utilized by the tournament from 1991-1996. In 1997, the event changed back to a more traditional format of 72 holes at only one course and the Omni Tucson National's Catalina Course hosted the tournament for 10 more years. World Golf Hall of Fame member Bob Charles won the first event at the Catalina Course in 1965 and Kirk Triplett won the last in 2006. Among the many highlights at this historic layout involving PGA TOUR Champions players were Arnold Palmer's popular victory in 1967, Lee Trevino's back-to-back wins in 1969-70 and Johnny Miller's three straight victories there from 1974-76, earning him the nickname "Desert Fox". Ben Crenshaw also claimed the individual NCAA Championship at this locale in 1971. The Catalina Course is a parkland design, illustrative of its early 1960s roots, when Midwestern visitors and homeowners frequented the area and it was what they were familiar with back home.

Truly an International Field: This year's Tucson Conquistadores Classic field includes players representing 12 different countries. In addition to the U.S., players hail from Mexico, Canada, Sweden, Wales, Ireland, France, Barbados, Paraguay, Germany, South Africa and Australia.

They Had Aces Here: In addition to holes-in-one by Jerry Smith (#7) and Rod Spittle (#12) in 2015, four players recorded aces here while playing on the PGA TOUR – Hal Sutton (#17/1992), Willie Wood (#7/1994), Mark Calcavecchia (#4/1998), Brandt Jobe (#4/2001).

Tway Was the Leading Money Winner: When the PGA TOUR event was contested in Tucson from 1945-2006, the all-time leading money winner was Bob Tway with \$937,112. Although he never won the Tucson event, Tway finished second twice (1991, '96) and third twice (1985, 2001) and had eight top-10 finishes in 19 appearances. Kirk Triplett was second in earnings with \$909,736 with a win in 2006.

Field Includes Several Arizona Residents: The state of Arizona is certainly well represented in terms of residents in this year's field. Seven players in this year's field reside in the state. The players include Michael Allen (Scottsdale), Hale Irwin (Paradise Valley), Bill Mayfair (Scottsdale/Arizona State), Tom Lehman (Scottsdale), Jerry Smith (Scottsdale), Kirk Triplett (Scottsdale) and Jim Carter (Scottsdale/Arizona State).

PGA TOUR HIGHLIGHTS FROM TUCSON WINNERS NOW ON PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS:

1982: Craig Stadler kicks off the 1982 campaign with a three-stroke victory over Vance Heafner and John Mahaffey. Stadler led by seven strokes after 54 holes, and despite a final-round 1-over-par 71, he prevailed in the first event of the 1982 season.

1983: Gil Morgan birdies the second playoff hole to defeat Lanny Wadkins and Curtis Strange and duplicates Craig Stadler's victory in the first event of the season. One week later, Morgan wins again, finishing two better than Lanny Wadkins, Gibby Gilbert and Mark McCumber at the Glen Campbell-Los Angeles Open.

1984: Tom Watson wins the first match play event, defeating Gil Morgan, the defending champion at stroke play the year prior, by a score of 2 and 1. It's Watson's second victory in Tucson, having captured the 1978 Joe Garagiola-Tucson Open in 1978.

1986: Jim Thorpe successfully defends his match play title, defeating Scott Simpson 67 to 71 in the final.

1988: David Frost wins his second career title on the PGA TOUR, claiming the Northern Telecom Tucson Open after shooting a career-best 60 in the final round at Randolph Park.

1992: Future two-time U.S. Open champion Lee Janzen wins his first-ever PGA TOUR title, edging Bill Britton by one stroke.

1993: Larry Mize closes with a 5-under-par 67 to defeat Jeff Maggert by two strokes.

1997: Jeff Sluman earns his first PGA TOUR title since the 1988 PGA Championship, defeating Steve Jones by a shot.

2000: After playing in 292 PGA TOUR events, Jim Carter finally reaches the winner's circle. Carter finishes two strokes ahead of Jean van de Velde, Chris DiMarco and Tom Scherrer.

2006: In the final-stroke play event in Tucson, Kirk Triplett closes with a 9-under-par 63 and makes up six strokes the final day to defeat Jerry Kelly by one stroke.