



## *Championship*

# JAPAN AIRLINES Championship

Narita Golf Club-Accordia Golf | Narita-shi, Chiba, Japan | September 4-10, 2017

### Media Contacts

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### Quick Facts

**Golf Course:** Narita Golf Club-Accordia Golf (7,151 yards / par 72)

- Also hosted the 2002 Cisco World Ladies Match Play Championship (won by Grace Park) and Senior JPGA tournaments in 2008 and 2010

**Course Designer:** Taiso Kawata (1988)

**Purse:** \$2,500,000 (Winner: \$400,000)

**Golf Channel Coverage (all times Eastern):**

- Friday: 10:00 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. (live); 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. (replay)
- Saturday: 12:30 – 3:00 a.m. (live); 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. (replay)
- Sunday: 12:30 – 3:00 a.m. (live); 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. (replay)

### Field Overview (as of 9/6/17)

This week's JAPAN AIRLINES Championship is the first official PGA TOUR-sanctioned tournament in Japan. Narita Golf Club-Accordia Golf will host the 63-player field that includes three members of the World Golf Hall of Fame (**Colin Montgomerie**, **Larry Nelson** and **Tom Watson**) and 13 major winners: Watson (8), Nelson (3), **John Daly** (2), **Lee Janzen** (2), **Mark Brooks**, **Mark Calcavecchia**, **Todd Hamilton**, **Tom Lehman**, **Larry Mize**, **Corey Pavin**, **Scott Simpson**, **Jeff Sluman** and **David Toms**.

- 44 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 183 total career victories
- 49 PGA TOUR winners with 276 total career victories
- 13 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 13 with a PGA TOUR major

### McCarron's Hot Streak

**Scott McCarron** has won three of the last six tournaments and two of the last three, including last week's Shaw Charity Classic. In all, he has four wins this season, tied with Bernhard Langer for most on Tour, and he has been No. 2 in the Schwab Cup standings 11 of the 19 weeks this season, including each of the last six. He is \$527,050 behind Bernhard Langer, who did not play in Calgary and is not in this week's field.

McCarron surpassed the \$2 million mark with his \$352,500 payday last week, and his \$2,067,585 total is the most he has won in a season as a professional. He won more than \$1 million three times on the PGA TOUR (2001-2003), and his most lucrative season was 2002 when he won \$1,896,714. Last year, he won over \$1.5 million and finished eighth on the money list and fifth in the final Schwab Cup standings.

# ***Tournament Storylines***

## **Japanese, Korean Players in the Field**

The field includes seven players from Japan or Korea.

- **Kim Jong Duck** (Korea)
  - 4 wins on the Japan Golf Tour; 3 wins on the Japan Senior Tour
  - 24th on the 2016 Japan Senior Tour money list
  - Defeated Prayad Marksang last week in a playoff to earn a spot in the JAPAN AIRLINES Championship
- **Kohki Idoki** (Osaka, Japan)
  - 4 wins on the Japan Golf Tour; 1 win on the Japan Senior Golf Tour
  - Won the 2013 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship
  - 34th on the 2016 Japan Senior Tour money list
- **Massahiro Kuramoto** (Hiroshima, Japan)
  - 34 wins on the Japan Golf Tour; 7 wins on the Japan Senior Golf Tour
  - 2010 Japan Senior Tour money winner
  - Tied for fourth at 1998 Open Championship
- **Kiyoshi Murota** (Gunma, Japan)
  - 16 wins on the Japan Golf Tour; 20 wins on the Japan Senior Tour
  - 3rd on the 2016 Japan Senior Tour money list
- **Tommy Nakajima** (Gunma, Japan)
  - 59 wins on the Japan Golf Tour; 5 wins on the Japan Senior Tour
  - Ranked in the top-10 of the World Golf Rankings for 85 weeks (1986-87)
  - 4-time Japan Golf Tour money winner (1982, 1983, 1985, 1986)
- **Joe Ozaki** (Tokushima, Japan)
  - 36 wins on the Japan Golf Tour; 3 wins on the Japan Senior Tour
  - Member of the 1998 International Presidents Cup Team
  - 1991 and 1999 Japan Golf Tour money winner; 2012 Japan Senior Tour money winner
- **Takeshi Sakiyama** (Ehime, Japan)
  - 1 win on the Japan Golf Tour; 7 wins on the Japan Senior Tour
  - 2nd on the 2016 Japan Senior Tour money list

## **Past Winners in Japan**

The 63-player field includes 18 players who have won on the Japan Golf Tour. **Todd Hamilton** has the most wins among the American players, as he won 11 times, including four in 2003 when he finished third on the money list. Seven players won the Dunlop Phoenix – **Tom Watson** (1997, 1980), **David Frost** (1992), **Larry Nelson** (1991), **Larry Mize** (1989, 1990), **Tsuneyuki Nakajima** (1985), **Scott Simpson** (1984). Other winners include **Carlos Franco** (5 wins), **Larry Nelson** (4), **Bob Gilder** (3), **Corey Pavin** (2) and **Tom Lehman** (1).

## Tournament Storylines

### Jockeying for Position in the Charles Schwab Cup Standings

Players are aiming for a spot in the top-five of the Schwab Cup standings, as any top-five player that wins the season finale would win the Charles Schwab Cup. Big moves can be made this week, as a check for \$400,000 awaits the winner.

Player	Money	Season Summary	Last Week (Shaw Charity Classic)
2. Scott McCarron	\$2,067,585	Four wins, nine top-10s	Win
5. Kevin Sutherland	\$1,324,089	13 top-10s	T3
8. Kirk Triplett	\$906,747	Six top-10s	T19
9. Stephen Ames	\$867,809	One win, seven top-10s	T19
11. Tom Lehman	\$799,893	One win, five top-10s	DNP

### Battle on the Bubble for Schwab Cup Playoffs

With four events left in the regular season, players are also eyeing a top-72 place in the standings and a spot in the second-annual Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs. This week's field includes six players near the No. 72 position, including 72nd-ranked **Russ Cochran**.

Player	Money	Money from No. 72
62. Willie Wood	\$169,570	\$50,614
64. Tim Petrovic	\$159,794	\$40,838
66. Mark Calcavecchia	\$148,994	\$30,038
72. Russ Cochran	\$118,956	-
75. Jim Carter	\$111,096	(\$7,860)
78. Gary Hallberg	\$95,251	(\$23,705)

### Player Capsules

- **Kevin Sutherland** has five straight top-10s and he leads the Tour with 13 top-10s this season. He has recorded 26 consecutive rounds of par or better, the Tour's longest active streak, and he has the second-best scoring average this season (68.52). His career includes 36 top-10s in 72 starts, though he is still searching for his first win.
- **Tom Lehman** claimed his 10th career PGA TOUR Champions victory earlier this season, winning the Tucson Conquistadores Classic. His career includes one win on the Japan Golf Tour (1993 Casio World Open).
- World Golf Hall of Famer **Tom Watson** won 39 times on the PGA TOUR and 14 times on PGA TOUR Champions. He also won four times on the Japan Golf Tour, including the 1980 and 1997 Dunlop Phoenix.

## ***2017 PGA TOUR Champions – Season Overview***

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 190 countries and territories, reaching more than 330 million potential 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 prevailed in 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 Energy 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 Energy 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.

### **Tour Welcomes Several New Faces in 2017**

A number of long-time PGA TOUR performers will turn 50 and become eligible to compete on PGA TOUR Champions this season.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Jerry Kelly (DOB: November 23, 1966) | • Jay Williamson (February 7, 1967)  |
| • David Toms (January 4, 1967)         | • Steve Stricker (February 23, 1967) |
| • Craig Perks (January 6, 1967)        | • Steve Flesch (May 23, 1967)        |
| • Kent Jones (January 8, 1967)         | • Peter Lonard (July 17, 1967)       |
| • Td Tryba (January 15, 1967)          | • Len Mattiace (October 15, 1967)    |
| • Mike Heinen (January 17, 1967)       |                                      |

## 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:** Fred Couples closed with a bogey-free 67 and defeated second-round leader Miguel Angel Jimenez by three strokes. The win was Couples' 12th victory on PGA TOUR Champions, and first since he defeated Billy Andrade in a playoff to win the 2014 Shaw Charity Classic.
4. **Tucson Conquistadores Classic:** Tom Lehman birdied two of his last three holes to erase a two-stroke deficit and win with a 20-under-par total. In his PGA TOUR Champions debut, Steve Stricker led by two with three holes to go, but he three-putted for bogey on No. 16 and hit his tee shot into a hazard on No. 18, leading to his runner-up finish.
5. **Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic:** Miguel Angel Jimenez successfully defended his title, but it took one extra hole for him to settle the matter. Holding a two-stroke advantage going to the 54th hole, Jimenez made a double bogey to fall back into a playoff with Gene Sauers, the 36-hole-leader. Steadying his nerves, the Spaniard calmly drained his 10-foot birdie putt to end the affair.
6. **Mitsubishi Electric Classic:** Stephen Ames became the third Canadian to win on PGA TOUR Champions, carding a final-round 66 to win by four strokes. The victory came in his 49th start on Tour, and he became the 11th player to have wins on the Web.com, PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions.
7. **Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge:** Vijay Singh and Carlos Franco teamed up to win the weather-shortened Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge. The tandem posted a 15-under total after shooting a tournament-record 12-under 42 in the second and final round, which consisted of nine holes of modified alternate shot and nine holes of better ball at the Top of the Rock Par 3 Course. The win was Franco's second on PGA TOUR Champions, while Singh claimed his first victory in his 13th start on Tour.
8. **Insperty Invitational:** One year after making his PGA TOUR Champions debut, John Daly captured his first victory at the Insperty Invitational. Daly carded a second-round 65 to take a one-stroke advantage into Sunday, and he began his final round with an eagle on No. 1. He finished with a final-round 69, a 14-under-par total and a one-stroke victory over Kenny Perry and Tommy Armour III. The win came in Daly's 22nd start on Tour, and he became the 12th player with victories on the Web.com Tour, PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions.
9. **Regions Tradition:** Bernhard Langer shot a final-round 64 and overcame a two-shot deficit en route to his second straight win at the Regions Tradition. The win was his eighth major championship on PGA TOUR Champions, which tied him with Jack Nicklaus for most senior major titles. His 20-under-par total was five shots better than Scott McCarron and Scott Parel.

10. **KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship:** Bernhard Langer finished at 18-under-par and outlasted Vijay Singh to win the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship by one stroke. It was his ninth senior major victory, and he passed Jack Nicklaus for the most major victories in PGA TOUR Champions history. Langer also became the first player to win all five majors on PGA TOUR Champions. With the victory, Langer earned an invitation to play in the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow in August.
11. **Principal Charity Classic:** Brandt Jobe finished at 14-under and won the Principal Charity Classic by one over Kevin Sutherland and Scott McCarron, the defending champion and Jobe's roommate at UCLA. It was Jobe's first victory in his 32nd start on PGA TOUR Champions, and first professional victory since he won the 1998 Mizuno Open on the Japan Golf Tour (a span of 18 years, 11 months, 14 days). He was winless in 34 starts on the Web.com Tour and 337 starts on the PGA TOUR.
12. **American Family Insurance Championship:** Trailing by three at the start of the final round, Fred Couples birdied six of his first 11 holes en route to a final-round 66 and a two-stroke victory. It was Couples' 13th career win on PGA TOUR Champions, and it was his second win of the season. Tournament host Steve Stricker finished three shots behind Couples and tied for third.
13. **U.S. Senior Open Championship:** Kenny Perry carded a final-round 68 to finish at 16-under and win the U.S. Senior Open by two strokes over Kirk Triplett. It was his fourth senior major victory and his second U.S. Senior Open title (2013, 2017). His four-day total of 264 set a new U.S. Senior Open record for lowest 72-hole score, and his 16-under total was the third-best score in relation to par in tournament history.
14. **Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship:** Scott McCarron carded a final-round 66 and erased a six-shot deficit to overtake Bernhard Langer and Brandt Jobe and win his first major on PGA TOUR Champions. The six-shot, come-from-behind victory is tied for the largest in tournament history (Raymond Floyd, 2000). Sunday on the par-3 17th, Langer made double bogey and Jobe made bogey, and both players fell one shot short when they missed birdie putts on No. 18. With the win, McCarron earned an invitation to play in THE PLAYERS Championship in 2018.
15. **The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex:** Bernhard Langer captured his record 10th major on PGA TOUR Champions, winning his third Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex on Sunday at Royal Porthcawl. Langer finished at 4-under, three shots better than runner-up Corey Pavin, who was the only other player to finish the championship under-par. With the win, Langer joins Jack Nicklaus as the only two players to win three senior majors in one season.
16. **3M Championship:** Paul Goydos birdied the first playoff hole to defeat Gene Sauers and win the 3M Championship at TPC Twin Cities. The win was his fifth on PGA TOUR Champions, and he has at least one win in each of his four seasons on PGA TOUR Champions. Despite starting the tournament 1-over through 10, Goydos played the last 44 holes in 21-under and emerged victorious. His 20-under total was aided by a tournament-record 60 in the second round, the 12th score of 60 in Tour history and first since 2015.
17. **DICK'S Sporting Goods Open:** Scott McCarron birdied the last three holes en route to a final-round 64 and a one-shot victory over Kevin Sutherland. His weekend total of 61-64 – 125 was the second-lowest 36-hole total in Tour history, and it helped him recover from being T35 after a first-round 71.
18. **Boeing Classic:** Trailing by one with three holes to play, Jerry Kelly birdied Nos. 16 and 17 to win by one over Jerry Smith. It was his first victory in his 13th start on PGA TOUR Champions, and his first win since the 2009 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. Kelly tallied 21 birdies and just two bogeys en route to a 19-under-par 197 total, setting a new tournament record. Kelly became the 13th player with wins on the Web.com Tour, PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions.

19. **Shaw Charity Classic:** Scott McCarron tallied his fourth victory of the season in Calgary, winning by one over Miguel Angel Jimenez. McCarron led by two at the start of the final round, and his final-round 67 was enough to hold off Jimenez and Kevin Sutherland.
20. JAPAN AIRLINES Championship
21. Pacific Links Bear Mountain Championship
22. PURE Insurance Championship
23. SAS Championship
24. Dominion Energy Charity Classic
25. PowerShares QQQ Championship
26. Charles Schwab Cup Championship