



## Cologuard Classic

Omni Tucson National | Tucson, Arizona | March 2-4, 2018

### PGA TOUR Champions Media Contacts

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### Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** Omni Tucson National – Catalina Course (Par 73, 7,207 yards)
- **Designed by:** Robert Bruce Harris/Bruce Devlin (1963)
- **Purse:** \$1,700,000 (Winner: \$255,000)
- **Golf Channel Coverage (all times ET):** Friday: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.; Saturday: 4:30 – 7 p.m.; Sunday: 4:30 – 7 p.m.
- **Social Media:** Twitter [@TucsonClassic](https://twitter.com/TucsonClassic), Instagram [@cologuard\\_classic](https://www.instagram.com/cologuard_classic), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cologuard_classic)

### Field overview (as of 2/28):

The fourth annual Cologuard Classic returns to Tucson, Arizona this week with a field of 78 including defending champion Tom Lehman and Steve Stricker, who recorded the tournament's lowest round in relation to par with his 10-under-par 63 in the second round and finished T2. After posting a third consecutive top-five finish of the season at the Chubb Classic, David Toms will make his first start as Charles Schwab Cup leader. Also competing are perennial contenders Bernhard Langer and Colin Montgomerie, along with Kevin Sutherland, winner of the 2017 Charles Schwab Cup. In all, the field includes 32 of the top 36 players from last year's Charles Schwab Cup, as well as six members of the World Golf Hall of Fame including Vijay Singh, who will be making his first start at the Cologuard Classic.

- 32 of the 36 players who qualified for the 2017 Charles Schwab Cup Championship
- 6 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
- 56 PGA TOUR winners with 308 total career victories
- 47 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 207 total career victories
- 15 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 16 with a PGA TOUR major

### Sponsor overview

2018 marks the first year of the tournament's partnership with Cologuard maker Exact Sciences and is the fourth year that the [Tucson Conquistadores](#) have partnered with PGA TOUR Champions. [Cologuard](#) is the first noninvasive screening test for colorectal cancer that analyzes both stool DNA and blood biomarkers. Available through healthcare providers, Cologuard offers people 50 and older at average risk for colorectal cancer a screening test they can do in the privacy of their own home.

The 2018 Cologuard Classic coincides with March's national Colon Cancer Awareness month.

## **2017 Recap**

Holding a two-stroke advantage over Tom Lehman with three holes remaining, Steve Stricker suffered a pair of critical miscues down the stretch, which proved costly. After Lehman made a 20-footer for birdie at No. 16, Stricker, making his first PGA TOUR Champions start, three-putted for a bogey and saw his two-stroke lead disappear. After each made birdies on No. 17, Stricker's tee shot on the final hole went in the water, opening the door for Lehman, who would eventually two-putt for a par and the win when Stricker bogeyed.

The victory was Tom Lehman's 10th in his PGA TOUR Champions career, and it came just four months after he underwent surgery on his left elbow for a detached tendon. He has won at least one event in seven of his nine years on Tour.

## **Langer in the record book**

Bernhard Langer will make his fourth start in Tucson, and his tournament record includes back-to-back third place finishes (2016-17) for a total of three top-10s. He currently holds a streak of 36 straight rounds of par or better and has a chance to break the all-time record of 38 (set by Jay Haas and Colin Montgomerie) this week at the Cologuard Classic.

Langer led the Charles Schwab Cup 23 of the first 25 weeks of the 2017 season, but he tied for 12th in the season finale and finished second in the final standings. Though he was unable to win his fourth straight Charles Schwab Cup, it was his sixth consecutive top-two finish in the season-long competition and he was named PGA TOUR Champions Player of the Year for the seventh time.

The World Golf Hall of Fame member also set many records in 2017. He became the second player to win three senior majors in one year, he became the Tour's all-time leader in major wins (10), he broke the single-season money record (\$3,677,359), and he won his sixth straight money title. The most elusive PGA TOUR Champions record remains, however, as his 36 career victories is nine shy of Hale Irwin's record 45 wins.

## **Player capsules**

- **David Toms** – Coming off a T2 finish at the Chubb Classic, Toms' \$98,560 check allowed him to overtake the Charles Schwab Cup standings for the first time in his career. Dating back to last season, Toms has now tallied five straight top-five finishes and 13 straight rounds in the 60s (all-time record is 16, set by Jerry Kelly in 2017). He has gone 56 straight holes without a bogey (2 holes at Boca Raton Championship, 54 holes at Chubb Classic). Toms will make his second start in Tucson after finishing T15 last year.
- **Steve Stricker**- In his PGA TOUR Champions career debut at last year's Cologuard Classic, he shot a second round 10-under-par 63, the lowest round in tournament history in relation to par, and finished tied for second. Stricker has now recorded five top-three finishes in seven starts including T2 at the last event, the Chubb Classic.
- **Kevin Sutherland** – The reigning Charles Schwab Cup champion will make his fourth start in Tucson. Last year, he finished T7 to earn a third consecutive top-10 in a streak of seven.

### **Mattiace makes PGA TOUR Champions debut**

Len Mattiace turned 50 on October 15, 2017, and the Cologuard Classic will be his first start on PGA TOUR Champions. In his PGA TOUR career, Mattiace won more than \$6.8 million in 398 starts, including wins at the 2002 Genesis Open and the 2002 FedEx St. Jude Classic. He also finished second at the 2003 Masters, shooting a final-round 65 before losing to Mike Weir on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff.

### **New faces in the field**

Including Mattiace, a total of 10 players are making their first appearance at the Cologuard Classic: Paul Claxton, Steve Flesch, David McKenzie, Kent Jones, Len Mattiace, Sam Randolph, Geoffrey Sisk, Sonny Skinner, Vijay Singh and Tommy Tolles.

### **Tanigawa territory**

Ken Tanigawa, a resident of Scottsdale, was a successful amateur in his home state, winning two Arizona Amateur titles (2017, 2015). In December, he became the first amateur to finish in the top-five at PGA TOUR Champions Q-School since Jim Roy in 2009. Though Tanigawa shed his amateur status at the start of the year, it is not the first time he's played professionally. He was a pro for 11 years in Australia, Asia and Japan, and in 2003 he played 22 [Web.com](#) Tour events before regaining his amateur status.

In his first two starts on PGA TOUR Champions, he finished T10 at the Boca Raton Championship and T48 at the Chubb Classic. He is currently 39th in the Charles Schwab Cup standings with \$38,171.

### **Tucson trophies**

All three Cologuard Classic past champs are in the field this week: Tom Lehman ('17), Woody Austin ('16) and Marco Dawson ('15).

They are joined by five winners of former PGA TOUR event the Tucson Open including Kirk Triplett ('06), Jim Carter ('00) and Jeff Sluman ('97), who won on this week's host course, the Catalina at [Omni Tucson National Resort](#). Other past champions include Larry Mize ('93) and Lee Janzen ('92).

### **Arizona connections**

The state of Arizona is well represented in terms of residents, with eight players in this year's field reside in the state. The players include Michael Allen (Scottsdale), Hale Irwin (Paradise Valley), Tom Lehman (Scottsdale), Bill Mayfair (Scottsdale/Arizona State), Jerry Smith (Scottsdale), Ken Tanigawa (Scottsdale), Kirk Triplett (Scottsdale) and Jim Carter (Scottsdale/Arizona State).

### **Always a tough finish**

Since the tournament began in 2015, the 469-yard, par-4 18th hole has been one of the three toughest closing holes on PGA TOUR Champions. In 2017, it was the third-toughest finishing hole on Tour, playing to a 4.338 scoring average. The field combined to make just 16 birdies, the lowest total on No. 18 among all full-field tournaments last year.

## ***PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Season Overview***

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older, including 35 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 2018, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 27 tournaments across the United States, Scotland and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$56 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 in excess of 190 countries and territories, reaching more than 330 million potential households. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at PGATOUR.com, at facebook.com/PGATOURChampions, on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

### **Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs**

In 2017, Kevin Sutherland became just the third player to win the Charles Schwab Cup Championship and the Charles Schwab Cup in the same season. His breakthrough win at the season-ending event was the first of his PGA TOUR Champions career, and it was enough for him to surpass Bernhard Langer, who had won the Charles Schwab Cup the previous three years.

The third edition of the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will begin with 72 players at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Oct. 15-21). The top 54 will advance to the following week's PowerShares QQQ Championship, and the season will conclude with the top 36 players at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Nov. 5-11).

### **The 2018 Rookie Class**

For players to become eligible to compete for PGA TOUR Champions events they must turn 50 years of age by the first competition round. If a player plays less than six tournaments in his first season of eligibility, he is considered a rookie the following season. Newcomers for 2018 with at least one PGA TOUR win include:

- Brent Geiberger (May 22)
- Robert Gamez (July 21)
- Dudley Hart (August 4)
- Darren Clarke (August 14)
- Chris DiMarco (August 23)

Upcoming rookie classes include:

- 2019 – Retief Goosen (February 3), Angel Cabrera (September 12), Ernie Els (October 17)
- 2020 – Jim Furyk (May 12), Mike Weir (May 12), K.J. Choi (May 19), Phil Mickelson (June 16)

## ***PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Schedule***

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Jerry Kelly birdied the 18th hole in the final round to turn a one-shot deficit into a one-shot victory over Colin Montgomerie. Leading by one on No. 18, Montgomerie found the fairway bunker off the tee and missed the green with his approach. After Kelly made his 18-foot birdie putt, Montgomerie had a chance to force a playoff, but his six-foot par putt slid by the hole.

2. **Boca Raton Championship:** Mark Calcavecchia captured his fourth PGA TOUR Champions title in wire-to-wire fashion, finishing two shots better than Bernhard Langer. Langer, who trailed by as many as four on Sunday, evened the score at 16-under with two holes to play, but he bogeyed the last two holes and finished second. The win was Calcavecchia's first since the 2015 Principal Charity Classic.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Over the last six holes at the Chubb Classic, Joe Durant and Steve Stricker traded two two-shot swings and one three-shot swing. In the end, it was Durant's birdie-birdie finish that produced a 19-under total and four-shot victory, the third of his PGA TOUR Champions career and first since the 2016 3M Championship.
4. Cologuard Classic
5. Toshiba Classic
6. Rapiscan Systems Classic
7. Mitsubishi Electric Classic
8. Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge
9. Insperity Invitational
10. Regions Tradition
11. KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship
12. Principal Charity Classic
13. American Family Insurance Championship
14. U.S. Senior Open
15. Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship
16. The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex
17. 3M Championship
18. DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
19. Boeing Classic
20. Shaw Charity Classic
21. Ally Challenge
22. The Sanford International
23. PURE Insurance Championship
24. SAS Championship
25. Dominion Energy Charity Classic
26. PowerShares QQQ Championship
27. Charles Schwab Cup Championship