



The Ally Challenge

Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club | Grand Blanc, Michigan | September 14-16, 2018

PGA TOUR Champions Media Contacts

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Quick Facts

Golf Course: Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club (Par 72 / 7,127 yards)

Course Designer: Joe Lee (1957)

Purse: \$2,000,000 (Winner: \$300,000)

Golf Channel Coverage: 3-6 p.m. ET (all three rounds)

Field Overview (as of 9/11/18)

The inaugural Ally Challenge will be played at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club, which hosted 51 PGA TOUR events from 1958-2009. The 78-player field features 27 of the top-30 players in the Charles Schwab Cup, as well as six members of the World Golf Hall of Fame: **Fred Couples**, **Bernhard Langer**, **Sandy Lyle**, **Colin Montgomerie**, **Mark O'Meara** and **Vijay Singh**.

Langer is second on the PGA TOUR Champions all-time wins list (37) and is a four-time winner of the Charles Schwab Cup, and he enters the week No. 4 in the standings. **Scott McCarron** is coming off a victory at the Shaw Charity Classic, his second win of the year and eighth of his career, and he is No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup, while **Jerry Kelly** (No. 3), **David Toms** (No. 5) and Singh (No. 9) are also among the top-10 with four events remaining in the regular season.

- 57 PGA TOUR winners with 334 total career victories
- 49 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 217 total career victories
- 18 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 16 with a PGA TOUR major

Blast from the Past

Warwick Hills hosted the PGA TOUR's Buick Open 51 times between 1958 and 2009 (in 1977, the tournament was played at nearby Flint Elks Country Club). Not counting the four Open Qualifiers, 69 of the 74 players in the field played in the Buick Open; the five that did not are **Paul Broadhurst**, **Doug Garwood**, **Mike Goodes**, **Colin Montgomerie** and **Scott Parel**. The field made a combined 720 starts at the Buick Open, and the players' cumulative records include 92 top-10s and \$19.8 million in winnings.

The field features 10 players that won 13 total titles at the Buick Open, led by three-time winner **Vijay Singh** and two-time winner **Kenny Perry**. If The Ally Challenge is won by one of the 10 Buick Open winners, it would be the 17th time a player has won a PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions event on the same golf course. The last player to accomplish the feat was John Cook at Pebble Beach (2014 PURE Insurance Championship, 1981 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am).

Year	Champion	Score	Runner(s)-up
1988	Scott Verplank	-20	Doug Tewell (-18)
1992	Dan Forsman	-12	Steve Elkington, Brad Faxon (playoff)
1993	Larry Mize	-16	Fuzzy Zoeller (-15)
1994	Fred Couples	-18	Corey Pavin (-16)
1995	Woody Austin	-18	Mike Brisky (playoff)
1997	Vijay Singh	-15	Tom Byrum, 5 others (-11)
1998	Billy Mayfair	-17	Scott Verplank (-15)
1999	Tom Pernice Jr.	-18	Tom Lehman, 2 others (-17)
2000	Rocco Mediate	-20	Chris Perry (-19)
2001	Kenny Perry	-25	Chris DiMarco, Jim Furyk (-23)
2004	Vijay Singh	-23	John Daly (-22)
2005	Vijay Singh	-24	Zach Johnson, Tiger Woods (-20)
2008	Kenny Perry	-19	Woody Austin, Bubba Watson (-18)

Winning Memories for Singh, Perry

The field includes two players that won the Buick Open multiple times: **Vijay Singh** (1997, 2004, 2005) and **Kenny Perry** (2001, 2008). In 42 rounds at Warwick Hills, Singh amassed a 68.88 scoring average, best among the players in The Ally Challenge field. He has two wins this season on PGA TOUR Champions, including his first senior major victory at the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. In all, he has five top-10s and is currently No. 9 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Perry started the year recovering from off-season shoulder surgery and didn't make his first start until April. Despite missing the first seven tournaments, Perry has ascended to 18th in the Charles Schwab Cup behind the strength of four top-10s, including a victory at the 3M Championship in August. The win was the 10th of his career and third at that event.

Boom Boom is Back

Fred Couples is one of the 10 Buick Open winners in the field, as he finished at 18-under and defeated **Corey Pavin** by two in 1994. The Ally Challenge will be Couples' sixth start of the season, with his most recent being a T15 at the Boeing Classic near his hometown of Seattle. His PGA TOUR Champions career includes 13 victories and 63 top-10s in 95 starts, but he only has two top-10s in his last eight starts. If Couples finishes outside the top 10 this week, the four-tournament streak would be his longest top-10 drought on PGA TOUR Champions.

Home Game for Gillis

Tom Gillis' third start on PGA TOUR Champions will come just 30 miles from his residence in Lake Orion, Michigan. He has finished T3 in each of his first two starts (3M Championship, DICK'S Sporting Goods Open), and all six of his rounds have been in the 60s (67-67-67-67-69-67). Gillis made the cut twice in eight starts at the Buick Open, and his best finish was T52 in 2007. A two-time winner of the Michigan Open (1994, 2008), Gillis posted 10 top-10s in 188 starts on the PGA TOUR, including a playoff loss to Jordan Spieth at the 2015 John Deere Classic.

Great Moments in the Great Lakes State

In addition to the past champions of the Buick Open, three players in the field have won a senior major in Michigan, as **Colin Montgomerie** (2014), **Rocco Mediate** (2016) and **Paul Broadhurst** (2018) won the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship when it was played at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor. The other senior majors played in Michigan were the U.S Senior Open at Oakland Hills Country Club (won by Arnold Palmer in 1981 and Jack Nicklaus in 1991) and the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship at TPC Michigan from 1990-2006.

The last co-sponsored PGA TOUR Champions event in Michigan was the Greater Grand Rapids Open, which was played from 1986-2004 at Elks Country Club, The Highlands and Egypt Valley Country Club.

The Race for the Charles Schwab Cup

With his win at the Shaw Charity Classic, **Scott McCarron** moved to No. 2 in the [Charles Schwab Cup](#), his highest position this season. Last year, McCarron spent 18 weeks at No. 2 before finishing third in the final standings. Miguel Angel Jimenez is No. 1 by a slim margin of \$98,960, and he is one of six players that have led the standings this season. This marks just the third time in 18 years that six or more players have been No. 1 in a season (6/2003, 7/2015).

Players on the bubble entering this week include **John Huston** (\$100,272) and **Sandy Lyle** (\$93,078). Huston is currently 76th and is \$31,571 behind 72nd-ranked Michael Allen, while Lyle is 78th and trails by \$38,765.

Player	Money	Season Summary	Weeks #1	Last Week
1. Miguel Angel Jimenez	\$1,746,868	2 wins, 7 top-five finishes, 11 top-10s	2	5th
2. Scott McCarron	\$1,647,908	2 wins, 7 top-five finishes, 11 top-10s	0	1st
3. Jerry Kelly	\$1,619,368	1 win, 3 runner-up finishes, 10 top-10s	9	T17
4. Bernhard Langer	\$1,509,104	1 win, 5 runner-up finishes, 10 top-10s	3	T6
5. David Toms	\$1,417,597	1 win, 6 top-five finishes, 8 top-10s	2	DNP

Familiar Venues

Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club is one of nine golf courses on this year's schedule that currently host or previously hosted a PGA TOUR event.

Golf Course	PGA TOUR Champions tournament	PGA TOUR tournament
Omni Tucson National	Cologuard Classic	Tucson Open (1965-1978, 1980, 1991-2006)
TPC Sugarloaf	Mitsubishi Electric Classic	AT&T Classic (1997-2008)
The Woodlands Country Club	Insperty Invitational	Houston Open (1975-2002)
Old Course at St. Andrews	The Senior Open Championship	The Open Championship (29 times)
En-Joie Golf Course	DICK'S Sporting Goods Open	B.C. Open (1971-2005)
Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club	The Ally Challenge	Buick Open (1958-2009)
Pebble Beach Golf Links	PURE Insurance Championship	AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (1947 – present)
Sherwood Country Club	Invesco QQQ Championship	Hero World Challenge (2000-2013)
Phoenix Country Club	Charles Schwab Cup Championship	Waste Management Phoenix Open (38 times from 1932-1986)

Best Scoring Averages at the Buick Open

At the Buick Open, **Vijay Singh** carded under-par rounds 34 of 42 times, including each of his last 17 rounds. His career-best score at Warwick Hills was 63 (R1/2004, R3/2005) and he only missed the cut once (1993) in 11 starts. This year on PGA TOUR Champions, Singh ranks 10th with a 69.73 scoring average.

Player	Starts	Top-10s	Best	Average	Money
Vijay Singh	11	5	Win (1997, 2004, 2005)	68.88	\$2,258,437.60
Woody Austin	15	7	Win (1995)	68.89	\$1,642,195.23
Kenny Perry	16	4	Win (2001, 2008)	69.21	\$1,981,519.57
Jerry Kelly	4	1	T8 (2004)	69.75	\$157,133.33
Scott Verplank	22	5	Win (1988)	69.76	\$1,097,373.14
Stephen Ames	7	0	T14 (2001)	69.83	\$184,846.49

Most Money Won at the Buick Open (minimum \$700,000)

Player	Starts	Top-10s	Best	Average	Money
Vijay Singh	11	5	Win (1997, 2004, 2005)	68.88	\$2,258,437.60
Kenny Perry	16	4	Win (2001, 2008)	69.21	\$1,981,519.57
Woody Austin	15	7	Win (1995)	68.89	\$1,642,195.23
Scott Verplank	22	5	Win (1988)	69.76	\$1,097,373.14
Tom Pernice Jr.	18	3	Win (1999)	69.89	\$903,260.35
Chris DiMarco	14	2	T2 (2001, 2003)	69.96	\$768,320.14
Rocco Mediate	19	3	Win (2000)	70.23	\$730,963.74

Most Starts at the Buick Open

Player	Starts	Top-10s	Best	Average	Money
Jeff Sluman	23	3	T3 (1995)	70.08	\$553,128.29
Tom Byrum	22	3	T2 (1997)	70.24	\$426,252.23
Scott Verplank	22	5	Win (1988)	69.76	\$1,097,373.14
Tommy Armour III	19	1	T9 (1999)	71.63	\$108,388.36
Rocco Mediate	19	3	Win (2000)	70.23	\$730,963.74

Most Top-10s at the Buick Open

Woody Austin tallied 52 top-10s on the PGA TOUR, seven of which came at the Buick Open. Austin averaged \$109,479 per start at the Buick Open, while he averaged \$28,238 per start in his other 529 PGA TOUR starts.

Player	Starts	Top-10s	Best	Average	Money
Woody Austin	15	7	Win (1995)	68.89	\$1,642,195.23
Scott Verplank	22	5	Win (1988)	69.76	\$1,097,373.14
Scott Hoch	15	5	3rd (1984, 1987), T3 (1991)	69.94	\$195,636.96
Vijay Singh	11	5	Win (1997, 2004, 2005)	68.88	\$2,258,437.60
Kenny Perry	16	4	Win (2001, 2008)	69.21	\$1,981,519.57
Dudley Hart	16	4	T4 (2001)	70.02	\$625,468.33
Mark O'Meara	18	4	T2 (2002)	70.55	\$450,279.03
Fred Couples	13	4	Win (1994)	69.92	\$355,936.46

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, [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(@ChampionsTour\)](#) and [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 Invesco QQQ Championship, and the season will conclude with the top 36 players at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Nov. 5-11).

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 three 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 Invesco QQQ Championship, the top 36 players will qualify for the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. The player with the most points at the conclusion of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship will win the Charles Schwab Cup.

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:** One year after bogeying No. 18 and finishing runner-up in his PGA TOUR Champions debut, Steve Stricker parred the closing hole en route to a 14-under total and two-stroke victory. It was his first win in his eighth start on Tour, and it was his first victory since the 2012 Sentry Tournament of Champions.
5. **Toshiba Classic:** As many as six players shared the lead Sunday, and Vijay Singh was the last man standing as his five back-nine birdies helped him post an 11-under total and a one-shot victory. It was his first individual win since the Dell Technologies Championship on September 1, 2008, and he had played 237 individual tournaments since that triumph. Singh is the first FedExCup champion (2008) to win on PGA TOUR Champions.
6. **Rapiscan Systems Classic:** For the first time, Steve Stricker claimed consecutive titles on PGA TOUR Champions with his 11-under-par effort at the Rapiscan Systems Classic. Stricker held a one-stroke lead through the front nine on Sunday before making four back-nine birdies to secure the title. His 4-under 68 on Sunday was his 25th consecutive round of par or better (the longest active streak on Tour) and kept his stat of never carding a round over par on PGA TOUR Champions intact.
7. **Mitsubishi Electric Classic:** With a birdie on the second extra hole, Steve Flesch prevailed in a three-man playoff and won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, his first win on PGA TOUR Champions. Flesch birdied No. 18 to get into a playoff with Bernhard Langer and Scott Parel, and he birdied it twice more in the playoff, first eliminating Langer on the first extra hole, and then Parel. Because of inclement weather in Sunday's forecast, both the second and final rounds were played on Saturday.
8. **Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge:** Kirk Triplett holed a bunker shot for birdie on the first playoff hole to secure the victory with partner Paul Broadhurst at the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge. The team of Bernhard Langer and Tom Lehman birdied five of their last seven holes (best ball) to get into a playoff at 24-under, but they settled for second place after they both missed birdie putts in sudden death.
9. **Insperty Invitational:** Bernhard Langer saved par on the 54th hole to win wire-to-wire and claim his fourth victory at the Insperty Invitational. Langer led by one through 36 holes, but he started the final round 2-over through eight holes and fell four shots off the pace. He played the last 10 holes bogey free, and birdies on Nos. 9, 10, 13 and 15 gave him an 11-under total and a one-shot win over Paul Goydos, Bart Bryant and Jeff Maggert.
10. **Regions Tradition:** Miguel Angel Jimenez birdied Nos. 16 and 18 to break a three-way tie for the lead and win his first major title. Jimenez had at least a share of the lead after every round, and his 19-under total was three shots better than Steve Stricker, Joe Durant and Gene Sauers. It was Jimenez's fifth win on PGA TOUR Champions, and he extended his streak to five straight years with a victory.

11. **KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship:** Paul Broadhurst carded weekend rounds of 64-63 and won the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship by four strokes with a tournament record-tying total of 19-under 265. Broadhurst's 8-under 63 on Sunday erased the two-shot advantage held by the 54-hole co-leaders, Scott McCarron and Tim Petrovic.
12. **Principal Charity Classic:** After recording a second-round 65, Tom Lehman took a two-shot lead through 36 holes at the Principal Charity Classic. That lead turned into his margin of victory, as severe weather in Des Moines forced the cancellation of the final round and Lehman earned his 11th win on PGA TOUR Champions. Lehman's 13-under 131 total set the tournament's 36-hole scoring record at Wakonda Club, and it was two shots better than Bernhard Langer, Scott Parel, Woody Austin and Glen Day.
13. **American Family Insurance Championship:** Scott McCarron carded an 8-under-par 64 for a one-stroke victory over Wisconsin native Jerry Kelly. The seven-time PGA TOUR Champions winner birdied Nos. 14 through 16 and with pars on the final two holes took the American Family Insurance title with a 15-under-par 201 score. Tournament host Steve Stricker finished T3 with a 7-under-par 65 clean card on Sunday.
14. **U.S. Senior Open:** David Toms made a 15-foot birdie putt to take the lead at No. 16, then a long par putt at No. 17 on his way to a one-shot victory Sunday at the U.S. Senior Open. Toms' two-putt par on No. 18 closed out his final round of even-par 70. His 3-under-par 277 finish claimed his first victory on PGA TOUR Champions over Miguel Angel Jimenez (69), Tim Petrovic (70) and Jerry Kelly (72), who led after each of the first three rounds.
15. **Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship:** Vijay Singh birdied the second playoff hole to defeat Jeff Maggert and win the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, his third win on PGA TOUR Champions and first senior major. Singh started the final round one shot behind in fourth place, and he carded a final-round 67 to earn a spot in the playoff at 20-under. With the win, Singh earned an exemption into THE PLAYERS Championship in 2019.
16. **The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex:** Miguel Angel Jimenez made a 12-foot par putt on St. Andrews' 17th hole to preserve a one-stroke lead, and a par on No. 18 gave him the victory over defending champion Bernhard Langer at The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex. Jimenez closed with a final-round 69 and finished with a 12-under total for his second major victory of the year on PGA TOUR Champions.
17. **3M Championship:** Kenny Perry built a five-shot lead after carding a second-round 60, and he closed with a 3-under 69 to seal a three-shot victory at the 3M Championship. The win was his third in eight starts at TPC Twin Cities, making him the tournament's second three-time champion (Hale Irwin – 1997, 1999, 2002), and it was his 10th career win on PGA TOUR Champions.
18. **DICK'S Sporting Goods Open:** Bart Bryant made a 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to secure a one-shot victory over Michael Bradley at the DICK'S Sporting Goods Open. Bryant became the first repeat winner in tournament history (2013, 2018), and both of his wins on PGA TOUR Champions have come at this event.
19. **Boeing Classic:** Scott Parel birdied the final six holes on the front nine en route to a 9-under 63 to win the Boeing Classic, his first victory on PGA TOUR Champions and first official victory since 2013. Parel entered the final-round trailing by five strokes behind Kevin Sutherland and Ken Tanigawa before setting a new 18-hole and 54-hole career-low to secure the victory at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge.
20. **Shaw Charity Classic:** Scott McCarron aced the 14th hole, carded a final-round 63 and turned a three-shot deficit into a one-shot victory the Shaw Charity Classic. The win was the eighth of his career and second of the season, and he became the first player to successfully defend a title on PGA TOUR Champions since Bernhard Langer (2016, 2017 Regions Tradition).