



Cologuard Classic

Omni Tucson National | Tucson, Arizona | March 1-3, 2019

PGA TOUR Champions Media Contact

Jackie Servais, Jackieservais@pgatourhq.com, 303-249-6439

Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** Omni Tucson National Catalina Course (7,238 yards / Par 73)
- **Designed by:** Robert Bruce Harris/ Bruce Devlin (1963)
- **Purse:** \$1,700,000 (Winner: \$255,000)
- **Golf Channel Coverage (all times ET):** Friday – 4:30-6:30 p.m.; Saturday – 2:30-5 p.m.; Sunday – 2:30-5 p.m.
- **Social Media:** Twitter ([@CologuardGolf](#)), Instagram ([@cologuard_classic](#)), [Facebook](#)

Field Overview (as of 2/26/19)

The fifth annual Cologuard Classic returns to Tucson, Arizona this week with a field of 78 including defending champion **Steve Stricker** and Cologuard ambassadors **Tom Lehman** and **Jerry Kelly**. Hot off a win at the Chubb Classic, seven-time PGA TOUR Champions winner **Miguel Angel Jimenez** will make his first appearance at the Cologuard Classic. The field includes 33 of the top 36 players from last year's Charles Schwab Cup, as well as seven members of the World Golf Hall of Fame, including **Retief Goosen**, who will be inducted in June.

- 7 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
- 57 PGA TOUR winners with 328 total career victories
- 51 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 230 total career victories
- 20 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 18 with a PGA TOUR major

2018 Recap: Stricker's First PGA TOUR Champions Title

Steve Stricker finally hit the No. 18 fairway on Omni Tucson National's Catalina Course for his first PGA TOUR Champions win. One year after hitting it into the water on the par-4 No. 18 to fall short of a victory in his PGA TOUR Champions debut, Stricker made par and finished two strokes ahead of fellow Madison, Wisconsin native **Jerry Kelly**, **Gene Sauers** and **Scott Dunlap**.

Stricker's two-stroke victory tied the largest in tournament history (Marco Dawson, 2015). Stricker became the third player to post their first PGA TOUR Champions victory at the Cologuard Classic, joining Woody Austin (2016) and Dawson (2015).

Stricker Set to Defend

Steve Stricker will make his third start of the season this week at the Cologuard Classic. He tied for 29th at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, his worst finish in 14 starts on PGA TOUR Champions. In 2018, he won three times and posted top-five finishes in all seven starts, including a victory at the Cologuard Classic. Since joining the Tour in 2017, Stricker has 67.85 scoring average and 39 of his 41 rounds have been under par.

Press conference: Thursday at 11:30 a.m. MT (media center)

Langer Looking for Cologuard Classic Title

With his win at the Oasis Championship, **Bernhard Langer** broke or extended multiple PGA TOUR Champions records.

- Moved to **No. 1 on the Tour's all-time money list** (\$27,324,504 following Chubb Classic). He surpassed Hale Irwin, who has won \$27,123,354.
- **13 straight seasons with a victory** (extended his record).
- **Sixth win at age 60 or older** (extended his record). At the age of 61 years, 5 months, 14 days, Langer became the Tour's eighth-oldest winner.
- **39th win of his career** (second-most in Tour history). He has won 16.5 percent of his starts (39 wins in 236 starts), or one win every 6.05 starts.
- A five-time Charles Schwab Cup champion, Langer is No. 1 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Since 2008 (his first full season on Tour), he has led the standings 130 of 286 weeks (45.45%).

While Langer owns 39 victories on PGA TOUR Champions and has won 10 tournaments multiple times, the Cologuard Classic is one of nine tournaments on Tour he has yet to claim. The others are the Rapiscan Systems Classic, Principal Charity Classic, Mastercard Japan Championship, American Family Insurance Championship, Shaw Charity Classic, The Ally Challenge, The Sanford International and the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Langer will make his fifth start in Tucson and his tournament record includes back-to-back third place finishes (2016, 2017), but he fell down the leaderboard in 2018 to finish T54 after a second-round 4-over 77.

Langer began the 2019 season a T3 finish at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai and then captured his 39th win on Tour with a victory at Oasis Championship. At the Chubb Classic, he was part of a three-man playoff, but his playoff record fell to 6-7 after missing an eight-foot putt on the low side. His 13 playoff appearances are most all-time on PGA TOUR Champions. Langer is the only player this season to finish in the top-10 at each of the first three events.

Press conference: Thursday following his round ~ 1:00 p.m. MT (media center)

Kelly Competes as Cologuard Classic Host

In his first appearance in 2017, **Jerry Kelly** finished T15, but last year secured a runner-up finish to Stricker. Kelly entered the final round six shots back, but with four straight birdies on Nos. 12-15 and another on No. 17 landed him a bogey-free 8-under par 65 on Sunday, the lowest round of the day. His runner-up finish moved him to in the top of the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

This year, Kelly will serve as the host of the Cologuard Classic as a brand ambassador for Cologuard. Kelly ranks 12th in the Charles Schwab Cup standings and will be making his first appearance since finishing T3 at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.

Smoltz to Make First Appearance

Major League Baseball Hall-of-Fame pitcher **John Smoltz** will play the Cologuard Classic as a sponsor exemption in his season debut. Smoltz won the 2019 Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, where he defeated former MLB pitcher Mark Mulder in the 72-hole event in Orlando, Florida. He qualified for the 2018 U.S. Senior Open and carded rounds of 85-77 at The Broadmoor Golf Club. Smoltz has two top-10s at the American Century Championship (10th/2018, T9/2017).

Smoltz will play in the Mitsubishi Electric Classic (April 19-21) in suburban Atlanta and the American Family Insurance Championship (June 21-23) in Madison, Wisconsin.

Press conference: Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. MT (media center)

Jimenez Hot off a Win

Miguel Angel Jimenez defeated **Bernhard Langer** and **Olin Browne** on the first playoff hole to secure his seventh career victory on PGA TOUR Champions two weeks ago at the Chubb Classic. Jimenez posted the only bogey-free round on Sunday, a 5-under 66, and played the last 39 holes (38 regulation, 1 playoff) of the tournament bogey-free.

Jimenez will make his first start at the Cologuard Classic and just his second appearance in Tucson. Jimenez competed at the 2002 Touchstone Energy Tucson Open where he finished T18.

Lehman Loves the Cologuard Classic

Winner of the 2017 Cologuard Classic, **Tom Lehman** returns to Tucson for the fifth time. It will be his second year competing as a Cologuard brand ambassador. This year on PGA TOUR Champions, Lehman won the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, finished T19 at the Oasis Championship and T6 at the Chubb Classic. He is No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings with \$378,022 in earnings.

Austin Living Under Par

After carding rounds of 67-65-69 for a T4 finish at the Chubb Classic, **Woody Austin** extended his streak to 36 consecutive rounds of par or better. He's in position to break the Tour record (38) this week at the Cologuard Classic. Austin won the Cologuard Classic in 2016, and all nine of his rounds have been under par (68.67 average). Austin's streak began with a second-round 67 at the Boeing Classic in August 2018 and his scoring average during the streak is 68.69. In his last 12 starts, he has eight top-10s and won the Dominion Energy Charity Classic.

One year ago, Langer carried the same streak into Tucson. He opened the Cologuard Classic with a 5-under 68, his 37th consecutive round of par or better, but shot a second-round 4-over 77 in his bid to tie the Tour's all-time record.

Quick Hits

- At the Chubb Classic, **Olin Browne** faced Jimenez and Langer in a three-man playoff, but ultimately finished runner-up for his best finish since he was runner-up at the 2016 Regions Tradition. It was his fourth runner-up and 47th top-10 in 222 starts on Tour.
- **Retief Goosen** is coming off his first top-10 in his second start on PGA TOUR Champions. He carded rounds of 68-65-69 to finish T6 at the Chubb Classic.
- In his first two starts of the year, **Darren Clarke** finished T10 at the Oasis Championship at T16 at the Chubb Classic, and he's a career-best 20th in the Charles Schwab Cup.
- By playing this week, **Fred Couples** will play three of the season's first four tournaments for just the third time in his career. He opened his career in 2010 with finishes of 2nd-1st-1st, and in 2017 his first three starts were 2nd-T6-1st. This year, he finished T5 at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai and T8 at the Oasis Championship. This year he also played in the Genesis Open, where he missed the cut after rounds of 73-72.

It's Not Over Until It's Over

Since the tournament began in 2015, the 469-yard, par-4 18th hole has been on of the three toughest closing holes on PGA TOUR Champions. In 2018, it was the toughest closing hole and the sixth-toughest hole overall, playing to a 4.452 scoring average. The field combined to make 15 birdies, 122 pars, 69 bogeys and 24 double bogeys or worse.

Past Champions in the Field

The 78-player field includes all four past champions: **Steve Stricker** (2018), **Tom Lehman** (2017), **Woody Austin** (2016) and **Marco Dawson** (2015). They are joined by six winners of the former PGA TOUR event, the Tucson Open, including **Kirk Triplett** (2006), **Jeff Sluman** (1997), **Larry Mize** (1993), **Lee Janzen** (1992), **Robert Gamez** (1990) and **David Frost** (1988).

Sluman was the only one to win the Tucson Open on this week's host course, the Catalina at Omni Tucson National Resort.

Arizona Connections

The state of Arizona is well represented, with six players in this year's field residing in the state. The players include **Michael Allen** (Scottsdale), **Tom Lehman** (Scottsdale), **Bill Mayfair** (Scottsdale/Arizona State), **Jerry Smith** (Scottsdale), **Ken Tanigawa** (Scottsdale) and **Kirk Triplett** (Scottsdale).

Robert Gamez and **David Berganio Jr** are University of Arizona alums and will play as sponsor exemptions.

PGA TOUR Champions – 2019 Season Overview**Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs**

The 2019 Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will begin with 72 players at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Oct. 14-20). The top 54 will advance to the Invesco QQQ Championship (Oct. 28 - Nov. 3), and the season will conclude with the top 36 players at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Nov. 4-10), where they will compete for the Charles Schwab Cup.

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 Playoffs 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.

The 2019 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 2019 with at least one PGA TOUR win include:

- Shaun Micheel (January 5, 1969)
- Retief Goosen (February 3, 1969)
- Frank Lickliter, II (July 28, 1969)
- Shigeki Maruyama (September 12, 1969)
- Angel Cabrera (September 12, 1969)
- Rod Pampling (September 23, 1969)

Upcoming rookie classes include:

- **2020** – Ernie Els (October 17, 1969), Tim Herron (February 6, 1970), Jim Furyk (May 12, 1970), Mike Weir (May 12, 1970), K.J. Choi (May 19, 1970), Phil Mickelson (June 16, 1970)
- **2021** – John Senden (April 20, 1971), Stuart Appleby (May 1, 1971), Robert Allenby (July 12, 1971), Padraig Harrington (August 31, 1971)
- **2022** – David Duval (November 9, 1971), Brian Gay (December 14, 1971), Y.E. Yang (January 15, 1972), Justin Leonard (June 15, 1972), Notah Begay II (September 14, 1972)

2019 Schedule

The 2019 schedule features 27 official tournaments in Canada, Japan, Scotland and 19 states, with prize money totaling nearly \$58 million. After the 24-event Regular Season, the fourth-annual Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will determine the winner of the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup.

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Tom Lehman closed with a 7-under 65 to erase a four-shot deficit and win the season-opener with a 17-under total. Lehman topped David Toms, who opened with rounds of 65-65 and led by four at the start of the final round. He maintained a three-shot cushion through 12 but was 1-over on his last six holes, including a three-putt bogey on No. 18, and fell one shot shy of Lehman's winning total.

2. **Oasis Championship:** Bernhard Langer became the tournament's first repeat champion, winning with a tournament-record score of 19-under 197. His five-stroke victory over Marco Dawson is the largest margin in the Oasis Championship's 13-year history. With the win, he surpassed Hale Irwin and became No. 1 on the Tour's all-time money list.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Miguel Angel Jimenez defeated Bernhard Langer and Olin Browne on the first playoff hole to secure his seventh career victory Sunday at the Chubb Classic. Jimenez posted the day's only bogey-free round, a 5-under 66, and played the last 39 holes (38 regulation, 1 playoff) of the tournament bogey free.
4. Cologuard Classic
5. Hoag 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. Mastercard Japan Championship
14. American Family Insurance Championship
15. U.S. Senior Open Championship
16. Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship
17. The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex
18. DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
19. Boeing Classic
20. Shaw Charity Classic
21. The Ally Challenge
22. Sanford International
23. PURE Insurance Championship
24. SAS Championship
25. Dominion Energy Charity Classic
26. Invesco QQQ Championship
27. Charles Schwab Cup Championship