



Classic



CHAMPIONS

Mitsubishi Electric Classic

TPC Sugarloaf | Duluth, Georgia | April 19-21, 2019

Media Contact

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Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** TPC Sugarloaf (Par 72, 6,987 yards)
- **Designed by:** Greg Norman (1997)
- **Purse:** \$1,800,000 (Winner: \$270,000)
- **Golf Channel Coverage (all times ET):** Friday: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 3-6 p.m.
- **Social Media:** Twitter ([@MEClassicGolf](https://twitter.com/MEClassicGolf)), Instagram ([@mitsubishielectricclassic](https://www.instagram.com/mitsubishielectricclassic)), [Facebook](#)

Field Overview (as of 4/16/19)

After a two-week hiatus, the PGA TOUR Champions season resumes with the seventh-annual Mitsubishi Electric Classic in suburban-Atlanta. **Steve Flesch** will look to defend his title, while **Bernhard Langer**, **Miguel Angel Jimenez**, **Olin Browne**, **Woody Austin** and **Stephen Ames** also will be vying for a second tournament title at TPC Sugarloaf. The field features nine members of the World Golf Hall of Fame – including **Tom Watson**, **Colin Montgomerie** and 2019 inductee **Retief Goosen** – as well as one member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Former Atlanta Braves pitcher **John Smoltz** will make his second start of the season, as he finished T53 in his season debut at the Cologuard Classic.

- 31 of the top 36 players from last year's final Charles Schwab Cup standings
- 9 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame (including Retief Goosen, who will be inducted in June)
- 5 players that played in the Masters (Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Larry Mize, Jose Maria Olazabal, Vijay Singh)
- 53 PGA TOUR winners with 313 total career victories
- 48 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 233 total career victories
- 18 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 15 with a PGA TOUR major

2018 Recap: Flesch Tallies First Win in Three-Man Playoff

Last year, **Steve Flesch** survived a 38-hole Saturday – the second and final rounds, plus two holes in a sudden-death playoff – to capture his first title on PGA TOUR Champions and become the sixth champion of the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. Playing in the day's final group, Flesch birdied the 18th hole to get into the three-man playoff at 11-under, and then birdied it twice more to defeat Augusta-resident **Scott Parel** and five-time Charles Schwab Cup champion **Bernhard Langer**. It was Flesch's first win since 2007, breaking a winless streak of 169 pro starts, and he is one of just 15 players with wins on the Web.com Tour, PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions.

The week after his victory, Flesch played through pain in his back and through his left arm, and when he met with his doctor, imaging tests and X-rays showed that he had herniated C6 and C7 discs. He posted just one top-20 in 10 individual starts after his victory, and his 2018 season ended when he underwent surgery on Sept. 6.

Flesch took the recommended three months off and resumed play in early December, and he returned to action in January at the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. This year, his best finish has been a T5 at the Hoag Classic and he's currently No. 31 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

From Augusta to Atlanta

This week's field includes five players that played in the Masters. **Bernhard Langer** was the only PGA TOUR Champions member to make the cut, as the 61-year-old played the weekend for the fifth time in the last seven years. In all, it was his 26th made cut in 36 starts in Augusta.

- T62, Bernhard Langer (71-72-75-78 – 296)
- MC, Sandy Lyle (73-75 – 148)
- MC, Larry Mize (77-74 – 151)
- MC, Vijay Singh (80-76 – 156)
- MC, Jose Maria Olazabal (78-79 – 157)

Langer's Legend Grows

Bernhard Langer won the inaugural Mitsubishi Electric Classic in 2013 and he'll look to become the tournament's first repeat winner. The five-time Charles Schwab Cup champion has top-five finishes in all four starts this season, including a win at the Oasis Championship in his hometown of Boca Raton, Florida. In March, he missed two tournaments due to injury (rib/stomach), but two weeks before the Masters, he returned and finished T5 at the Rapiscan Systems Classic.

- After winning the Oasis Championship, Langer passed Hale Irwin and became No. 1 on the Tour's all-time money list (current total: \$27,390,637)
- 13 straight seasons with a victory (Tour record)
- 39 wins (second-most in Tour history)
- Six wins at age 60 or older (Tour record)
- Won the Oasis Championship at the age of 61 years, 5 months, 14 days (eighth-oldest in Tour history)
- He has won 16.46 percent of his starts (39 wins in 237 starts), or one win every 6.08 starts
- Since 2008 (his first full season on Tour), he has led the Charles Schwab Cup 133 of 289 weeks (46.02%), including each of the last five weeks this season

Langer pre-tournament interview: 1 p.m. Wednesday (media center)

Smoltz on Deck

John Smoltz has accepted three sponsor's exemptions into PGA TOUR Champions events this season, and the Mitsubishi Electric Classic will be his second start of the year. He tied for 53rd (73-74-73 = 220/+1) at the Cologuard Classic in March, and his third start will be in June at the American Family Insurance Championship in Madison, Wisconsin.

In January, Smoltz won the Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, where he defeated another former 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, and his resume also includes two top-10s at the American Century Championship (10th/2018, T9/2017).

In 22 MLB seasons, Smoltz was an eight-time All-Star, won the 1996 NL Cy Young Award and won the 1995 World Series with the Atlanta Braves. He is the Braves' all-time leader in strikeouts (3,011) and games pitched (708), and he tallied a 15-4 record with a 2.67 ERA in 41 career postseason games. Smoltz is the only pitcher in MLB history to record 200 wins and 150 saves, and he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015, his first year of eligibility.

Smoltz pre-tournament interview: 11 a.m. Wednesday (media center)

New Nine in the Rotation

TPC Sugarloaf was Greg Norman's first designed course in the United States and it features three nine-hole courses: Pines (tournament front nine), Meadows (tournament back nine) and Stables. This year, Pines will be used for the first time while Stables (typically the tournament's front nine) is renovated. The Pines and Meadows have already been renovated, which included resurfaced greens, tees, fairways, rebuilt bunkers and a new irrigation system.

Atlanta Winners Return

The PGA TOUR held regular season events in Atlanta from 1966 until 2008, and East Lake has annually hosted the TOUR Championship since 2004. This week's field includes nine players that won PGA TOUR-sanctioned events in Atlanta. Of this group, Scott McCarron and Retief Goosen both won at TPC Sugarloaf.

- Larry Nelson (1980 Atlanta Classic at Atlanta Country Club, 1981 PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club, 1988 Georgia-Pacific Atlanta Golf Classic at Atlanta Country Club)
- Tom Watson (1981 Atlanta Classic at Atlanta Country Club)
- John Daly (1994 BellSouth Classic at Atlanta Country Club)
- Mark Calcavecchia (1995 BellSouth Classic at Atlanta Country Club)
- Scott McCarron (1997 BellSouth Classic and 2001 BellSouth Classic at TPC Sugarloaf)
- David Toms (2001 PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club)
- Bart Bryant (2001 TOUR Championship at East Lake)
- Vijay Singh (2002 TOUR Championship at East Lake)
- Retief Goosen (2002 BellSouth Classic at TPC Sugarloaf)

Past Champions in the Field

All six past champions are in the field and will look to become the tournament's first repeat champion.

- If Steve Flesch wins, he would be the first player to successfully defend a title since Scott McCarron won the Shaw Charity Classic in 2017-18.
- If Bernhard Langer wins, the Mitsubishi Electric Classic would be the 11th tournament he has won multiple times.

Year	Champion	Total	To Par
2018	Steve Flesch ²	205	-11
2017	Stephen Ames	201	-11
2016	Woody Austin ¹	205	-11
2015	Olin Browne	132	-12
2014	Miguel Angel Jimenez	202	-14
2013	Bernhard Langer	206	-10

1. Woody Austin defeated Wes Short Jr. with a par on the second playoff hole.
2. Steve Flesch defeated Bernhard Langer and Scott Parel on the second playoff hole. Langer parred the first extra hole and was eliminated, and Flesch birdied the second extra hole to eliminate Parel.

Charles Schwab Cup Lead on the Line

This week's champion will win \$270,000, which means Bernhard Langer's [Charles Schwab Cup](#) lead is within reach for the eight highest-ranked players in the field.

Player	Money	Season Summary	2018 Mitsubishi
1. Bernhard Langer	\$569,133	Won Oasis Championship, four top-five finishes	T2
2. Kevin Sutherland	\$506,200	Won Rapisan Systems Classic	T8
3. Kirk Triplett	\$441,466	Won Hoag Classic	T14
5. David Toms	\$378,811	Three top-10s	T51
6. Scott McCarron	\$354,118	Three top-10s	T14
7. Woody Austin	\$350,962	Three top-10s	T34
9. Miguel Angel Jimenez	\$334,367	Won Chubb Classic	T34
10. Mark O'Meara	\$313,288	Won Cologuard Classic	T34

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:** Mark O'Meara ended an eight-year winless drought when he won the Cologuard Classic by closing with a 7-under 66 for a four-shot victory. At 8 years, 4 months and 21 days, it is the second-longest gap between victories on Tour. The 62-year-old became the fourth-oldest winner in PGA TOUR Champions history.
5. **Hoag Classic:** Kirk Triplett defeated Woody Austin on the second playoff hole when he made a 12-foot eagle putt to claim his seventh victory on PGA TOUR Champions. It was Triplett's second playoff in his career, improving his record to 2-0.
6. **Rapiscan Systems Classic:** Kevin Sutherland birdied the seventh playoff hole Monday morning and defeated Scott Parel to win the Rapiscan Systems Classic. Sutherland led by three after 36 holes, but a 3-over 75 on Sunday left him tied at 7-under with Parel, who erased a six-shot deficit with a final-round 69. The two players played five extra holes Sunday evening before play was suspended due to darkness.
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