



SAS Championship

Prestonwood Country Club | Cary, North Carolina | October 11-13, 2019

PGA TOUR Champions Media Contact

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Quick Facts

Golf Course: Prestonwood Country Club (Par 72 / 7,237 yards)

Course Designer: Tom Jackson (1992)

Purse: \$2,100,000 (Winner: \$315,000)

Golf Channel Coverage: Friday: 12:30 – 3 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 1:30 – 4 p.m. (all times ET)

Field Overview (as of 10/8/19)

- 46 of the top-50 players in the Charles Schwab Cup standings
- 54 PGA TOUR winners with 333 total career victories
- 51 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 245 total career victories
- 23 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 16 with a PGA TOUR major
- 7 past champions: Bernhard Langer (2012, 2018), Colin Montgomerie (2017), Doug Garwood (2016), Kirk Triplett (2014), Russ Cochran (2010, 2013), Kenny Perry (2011) and Tom Pernice Jr. (2009).
- 8 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame: Fred Couples, Retief Goosen, Bernhard Langer, Davis Love III, Sandy Lyle, Colin Montgomerie, Mark O'Meara and Vijay Singh.

Wildcard Weekend at the SAS Championship

The fourth-annual Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs begin next week, and Wildcard Weekend at the SAS Championship offers another opportunity for players to earn one of the 72 postseason berths. Should a player post a top-10 finish this week but finish the regular season outside the top-72 on the Charles Schwab Cup money list, he will earn the Wildcard and qualify for the Playoffs.

This week's 78-player field includes 14 players that are currently outside the top 72: **Joey Sindelar** (73rd), **Mike Goodes** (75th), **Larry Mize** (78th), **Dan Forsman** (81st), **Fred Funk** (90th), **Skip Kendall** (91st), **Russ Cochran** (93rd), **Loren Roberts** (95th), **Davis Love III** (105th), **Rod Pampling** (110th) and **Neal Lancaster** (212nd), as well as Monday Qualifiers **John Inman** (173rd), **Chris Hockaday** (NR) and **Patrick Sheehan** (NR).

2018 Recap: Langer's Record-Setting Win

Last year, **Bernhard Langer** set a tournament record with a 22-under 194 total and he won by six, matching the tournament's largest margin of victory. Langer holds or shares the tournament scoring record at six tournaments on this year's schedule, and the SAS Championship is one of the 10 tournaments he has won multiple times.

Should he win the SAS Championship again this year:

- It would be the fifth time he has won as a tournament's defending champion (2007, 2008 Insperity Invitational; 2014, 2015, 2016 Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship; 2016, 2017 Regions Tradition).
- He would become the tournament's second back-to-back winner (Bruce Lietzke/2001, 2002).
- It would be the sixth tournament he has won three times or more.

McCarron is the Man to Beat

Scott McCarron has led the [Charles Schwab Cup standings](#) the last 17 weeks, a streak that started after he won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic. Because his lead is greater than this week's first-place prize (\$315,000), McCarron will begin the Playoffs as the top-ranked player. Since McCarron took the lead in April, five different players have been No. 2 in the standings: **Bernhard Langer** (2 weeks), **Kirk Triplett** (3 weeks), **Ken Tanigawa** (2 weeks), Steve Stricker (4 weeks) and current No. 2 **Jerry Kelly** (6 weeks).

Rank	Player	Events	Money	Wins	Trailing
1	Scott McCarron	22	\$2,418,165	3	
2	Jerry Kelly	19	\$1,939,485	2	\$478,680
3	Steve Stricker	9	\$1,534,327	2	\$883,838
4	Kirk Triplett	21	\$1,530,658	2	\$887,507
5	Bernhard Langer	18	\$1,392,639	2	\$1,025,526

Langer is Lurking

Five-time Charles Schwab Cup winner **Bernhard Langer** finished the regular season No. 1 each of the last three years, but he's currently No. 5 and the highest he can climb this week is No. 3. In his 10 full seasons from 2008-2018 (excluding his injury-shortened 2011 season), No. 3 is Langer's worse position in the standings through the SAS Championship. From that position, he went on to win the 2015 Charles Schwab Cup and he finished fourth in 2009.

Langer has been No. 1 in the standings after six of the last nine SAS Championships, and he has gone on to win the Charles Schwab Cup four of those six times. The two times he failed to win the Charles Schwab Cup was when he finished second in 2012 (Tom Lehman) and 2017 (Kevin Sutherland).

Langer's lone Schwab Cup comeback victory was in 2015, when he was No. 3 in the standings through the SAS Championship. In fact, Langer was No. 3 entering the season finale, and he finished second at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship to overtake Colin Montgomerie and ascend to No. 1 for the only time that season.

Langer in the Charles Schwab Cup Standings through the SAS Championship

Year	Langer money/points	Langer position	Langer in relation to lead	Top-ranked other player
2018*	\$1,918,904	1st	Led by \$79,636	2nd – Miguel Angel Jimenez
2017	\$3,012,359	1st	Led by \$577,464	2nd – Scott McCarron
2016*	\$2,697,459	1st	Led by \$1,172,222	2nd – Miguel Angel Jimenez
2015*	2,742 points	3rd	Trailed by 336 points	1st – Colin Montgomerie
2014*	3,762 points	1st	Led by 771 points	2nd – Colin Montgomerie
2012	2,208 points	1st	Led by 69 points	2nd – Tom Lehman
2010*	2,888 points	1st	Led by 672 points	2nd – Fred Couples

*Won Charles Schwab Cup

A Hall of Fame Field

This week's field features eight members of the World Golf Hall of Fame: **Fred Couples**, **Retief Goosen**, **Bernhard Langer**, **Davis Love III**, **Sandy Lyle**, **Colin Montgomerie**, **Mark O'Meara** and **Vijay Singh**. Goosen and Love will each make their tournaments debuts, and Couples will return for the first time since finishing fifth in 2011. While six of these legends are among the top-50 of the Charles Schwab Cup, Lyle (72nd) is on the Playoffs bubble and Love (105th) needs to finish in the top-10 in order to earn the Wildcard.

Peaking for the Playoffs

Five players have improved at least 10 spots in the Schwab Cup over the last four tournaments. This group includes **Steve Flesch** and **Tom Byrum**, who have each posted four straight top-10s for the first time in their PGA TOUR or PGA TOUR Champions careers.

Flesch was the 36-hole leader at the Shaw Charity Classic and PURE Insurance Championship, and though he didn't convert either lead into a win, he has made nearly as much money in his last four starts (\$418,800) than he did in his first 18 starts (\$446,301) this season. Byrum has carded 13 straight rounds of par or better, the longest active streak on Tour, and has a 68.23 average in that span. He has ascended to No. 26 in the Charles Schwab Cup, his highest position since finishing a career-best 16th in 2016.

Player	Rank Change	Current Schwab Cup	Last Four Tournaments
Wes Short, Jr.	+25	19th	Win, T7, T16, T9
Tom Gillis	+24	36th	4th, T7, T18, 4th
Rocco Mediate	+20	25th	T15, T33, Win, T31
Tom Byrum	+17	26th	T5, T7, T7, T5
Steve Flesch	+13	17th	3rd, T3, T5, T9

Two Paths to the Playoffs

After the SAS Championship, the top-72 players will qualify for the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs. This week's field includes 14 players who need to play their way into the Playoffs, which begins Oct. 18-20 at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic in Richmond, Virginia. All 11 players ranked Nos. 62-72 in the [Charles Schwab Cup](#) are in this week's field, including 72nd-ranked **Sandy Lyle** (\$131,375).

For the 14 players outside the top-72, there are two ways to qualify for the Playoffs. First, they can earn enough money to finish the regular season in the top-72 on the money list. This scenario is most possible for **Joey Sindelar**, **Mike Goodes**, **Larry Mize** and **Dan Forsman**. Last year, Forsman finished T56 and improved from No. 74 to 72, primarily because the 73rd- and 72nd-ranked players did not play in the SAS Championship.

Schwab Cup	Player	Money	Behind 72nd
73	Joey Sindelar	\$126,687	\$4,688
75	Mike Goodes	\$117,543	\$13,832
78	Larry Mize	\$107,621	\$23,754
81	Dan Forsman	\$93,858	\$37,517

The second way into the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs is via the Wildcard, which would go to a player who posts a top-10 this week but finishes outside the top-72 on the money list after the SAS Championship. The field includes 10 players that trail the 72nd-ranked player by more than \$54,600 (money for a solo 10th-place finish).

Schwab Cup	Player	Money	Behind 72nd	Finish needed to surpass 72nd
90	Fred Funk	\$69,256	\$62,119	T8 (2-way)
91	Skip Kendall	\$63,846	\$67,529	T7 (2-way)
93	Russ Cochran	\$59,857	\$71,518	7th (solo)
95	Loren Roberts	\$55,189	\$76,186	T6 (2-way)
105	Davis Love III	\$40,720	\$90,655	T5 (2-way)
110	Rod Pampling	\$32,603	\$98,772	5th (solo)
173	John Inman	\$7,040	\$124,335	4th (solo)
212	Neal Lancaster	\$1,312	\$130,063	T3 (2-way)
-	Chris Hockaday	\$0	\$131,375	T3 (2-way)
-	Patrick Sheehan	\$0	\$131,375	T3 (2-way)

SAS Championship History and Record Book

Last year, **Doug Garwood** finished T9 at 9-under (68-68-71) after posting the 37th bogey-free tournament (54- or 72-hole individual events) in PGA TOUR Champions history. At Prestonwood Country Club, Garwood has played his last 62 holes bogey-free, dating back to the final round of the 2017 SAS Championship. Garwood won in 2016 and finished T2 in 2017, and he is a combined 38-under in his last nine rounds at Prestonwood Country Club (67.78 average). Other milestones in the tournament's 18-year history:

- In 2018, **Bernhard Langer**, **Gene Sauers** and Tom Lehman each shot 62 and shared the first-round lead. It was the first time in PGA TOUR Champions history that three players shot 62 or better in the same round.
- Three members of the World Golf Hall of Fame have won the SAS Championship: **Bernhard Langer** (2012, 2019), **Colin Montgomerie** (2017) and Hale Irwin (2005).
- A player has won in his PGA TOUR Champions debut 18 times, and it happened at the SAS Championship twice (Mark Wiebe/2007, **Tom Pernice Jr.**/2009).
- The SAS Championship was the first PGA TOUR Champions win for five players: D.A. Weibring (2003), Mark Wiebe (2007), **Tom Pernice, Jr.** (2009), **Kenny Perry** (2011) and **Doug Garwood** (2016).
- The last time a player won on PGA TOUR Champions with birdies on his last four holes was 2013 champion **Russ Cochran**.
- D.A. Weibring's five-stroke, come-from-behind win in 2003 was the best in tournament history.
- The average margin of victory is 2.61 and there has never been a playoff.

Year	Champion	Scores	To Par	Margin
2018	Bernhard Langer	62-67-65 – 194	-22	6
2017	Colin Montgomerie	69-67-64 – 200	-16	3
2016	Doug Garwood	65-71-64 – 200	-16	4
2015	Tom Lehman	68-71-65 – 204	-12	1
2014	Kirk Triplett	70-63-69 – 202	-14	3
2013	Russ Cochran	66-66-67 – 199	-17	1
2012	Bernhard Langer	68-72-63 – 203	-13	2
2011	Kenny Perry	66-69-70 – 205	-11	1
2010	Russ Cochran	64-67-71 – 202	-14	2
2009	Tom Pernice, Jr.	67-67-69 – 203	-13	1
2008	Eduardo Romero	68-67-66 – 201	-15	3
2007	Mark Wiebe	65-66-67 – 198	-18	3
2006	Tom Jenkins	68-66 – 134	-10	1
2005	Hale Irwin	69-68-66 – 203	-13	2
2004	Craig Stadler	65-68-66 – 199	-17	6
2003	D.A. Weibring	65-72-66 – 203	-13	1
2002	Bruce Lietzke	72-63-67 – 202	-14	4
2001	Bruce Lietzke	69-68-66 – 201	-15	3

By the Numbers: Prestonwood Country Club

Prior to the SAS Championship's first year in 2001, Prestonwood Country Club hosted a Korn Ferry Tour event from 1994-1997. Notable finishers from those Korn Ferry Tour events include **Skip Kendall** (1st/1994), **David Toms** (T3/1995), **Tom Byrum** (T19/1995), **Joe Durant** (T23/1996), **Steve Flesch** (T2/1997) and **Chris DiMarco** (T12/1997).

Hardest hole (2018): No. 1 (par 4, 416 yards) – 4.167 average, 24 birdies, third-hardest opening hole on Tour.

Easiest hole (2018): No. 17 (par 5, 503 yards) – 4.432 average, 11 eagles, 121 birdies, sixth-easiest hole on Tour.

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, England 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:** Scott McCarron posted his ninth win on PGA TOUR Champions and third victory at TPC Sugarloaf, as he won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in wire-to-wire fashion at TPC Sugarloaf, site of two of his PGA TOUR victories. McCarron was the only player to card three rounds under par (68-70-71) and his 7-under total was two shots better than Joe Durant, Jerry Kelly, Kirk Triplett and Kent Jones.
8. **Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge:** Scott Hoch and Tom Pernice Jr. opened the final round with a hole-in-one on the first hole and won with a tournament-record total of 23-under. At 63 years, 5 months and 4 days, Hoch became the oldest player to win on PGA TOUR Champions.
9. **Inspire Invitational:** Three back-nine birdies lifted Scott McCarron to a two-stroke victory over Scott Parel at the Inspire Invitational. It was his second win of the season, extending his streak to four straight years with multiple victories, and he became the 38th player with at least 10 wins on PGA TOUR Champions.
10. **Regions Tradition:** Steve Stricker captured his first major championship title as he closed with a 4-under 68 for a six-shot victory over Billy Andrade, Paul Goydos and David Toms. It was Stricker's fourth win in 18 PGA TOUR Champions starts and he became the 15th player to make the Regions Tradition his first major victory. Due to inclement weather over the weekend, the tournament finished on Monday.
11. **KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship:** Ken Tanigawa overcame a three-shot deficit on the back nine to pass defending champion Paul Broadhurst and win the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship by one stroke. Tanigawa converted a 10-foot par putt on the 72nd hole to secure his first major championship victory.
12. **Principal Charity Classic:** Kevin Sutherland shot a course-record 62 and erased an eight-shot deficit, the third largest in PGA TOUR Champions history, to win on the second playoff hole. Sutherland made eight back-nine birdies to catch first- and second-round leader Scott Parel, who shot a final-round 70 and was unable to match Sutherland's birdie on the second extra hole.
13. **Mastercard Japan Championship:** With three birdies on the back nine, Scott McCarron edged away from the field and won by three over Billy Andrade and Kirk Triplett. It was his third win of the season and his 11th overall, making him the 31st player to win at least 11 titles on PGA TOUR Champions.
14. **American Family Insurance Championship:** Wisconsin native Jerry Kelly defeated tournament host Steve Stricker and World Golf Hall of Fame member Retief Goosen in a three-hole playoff to secure his fourth victory Sunday at the American Family Insurance Championship. Kelly became the tournament's fourth straight come-from-behind winner as he started the day T5.

15. **U.S. Senior Open:** Steve Stricker claimed his first U.S. Senior Open victory and second major championship win of the year with a six-stroke win over Jerry Kelly and David Toms. After building a six-shot lead through 54 holes, Stricker carded a final-round 69 to finish at 19-under 261, the second-lowest score in relation to par in U.S. Senior Open history.
16. **Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship:** With birdies on the last two holes, Retief Goosen won by two strokes with a 6-under total and captured his first senior major title at Firestone Country Club. It marked the 17th time the tournament was won by a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and the first PGA TOUR-sanctioned win for Goosen since the 2009. With the victory, Goosen earned an exemption into THE PLAYERS Championship in 2020.
17. **The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex:** Trailing by three at the start of the final round, Bernhard Langer shot a final-round 66 to win his fourth Senior Open title and his Tour-record 11th senior major. It was his 40th win, second most in PGA TOUR Champions history, and he became the third player to win the same major four times.
18. **DICK'S Sporting Goods Open:** Open qualifier Doug Barron won the DICK'S Sporting Goods Open by two strokes over Fred Couples to secure his first title on PGA TOUR Champions. Barron, who had to go through the tournament's pre-qualifier to earn a spot in the Open qualifier, became the first player in PGA TOUR Champions history to survive both qualifiers and win that same week.
19. **Boeing Classic:** Brandt Jobe overcame a seven-shot deficit on Sunday to close in 63 at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge to capture the second PGA TOUR Champions title of his career. Overnight leader and Seattle native Fred Couples entered the final round with a five-shot lead but bogeyed five of his final 13 holes for a 4-over 76.
20. **Shaw Charity Classic:** Wes Short, Jr.'s second shot caromed off a rock and bounced onto the 18th green, which set-up a two-putt birdie and a one-stroke victory over two-time defending champion Scott McCarron. It was Short's second win on PGA TOUR Champions, and it broke a streak of 125 starts since his last victory (2014 Quebec Championship).
21. **The Ally Challenge:** Jerry Kelly closed with a bogey-free 68 to post a 16-under total and a two-stroke victory over Woody Austin. Kelly played his last 45 holes without a bogey en route to his second win of the season.
22. **Sanford International:** Playing in the fifth-to-last group, Rocco Mediate birdied the last two holes and won with a 9-under total when Ken Duke double bogeyed the 18th hole. Mediate started the day three shots off the lead and tied for ninth, and the win was his first since the 2016 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, a span of 71 starts without a victory.
23. **PURE Insurance Championship:** Kirk Triplett birdied the first playoff hole to defeat Billy Andrade and capture his second title of the season. Triplett joined Jeff Sluman as the tournament's only three-time winners.
24. SAS Championship
25. Dominion Energy Charity Classic
26. Invesco QQQ Championship
27. Charles Schwab Cup Championship