



The Ally Challenge

Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club | Grand Blanc, Michigan | July 31 – August 2, 2020

PGA TOUR Media Contacts

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Quick Facts

Golf Course: Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club (Par 72 / 7,085 yards)

Course Designer: Joe Lee (1957)

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

Golf Channel Coverage (all times ET): Friday, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2-4 p.m. ET; Sunday, 3-5 p.m. ET

Field overview (as of 7/30/20)

The 2020 PGA TOUR Champions season resumes this week with The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren, the Tour's first event since March when the season was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 81-player field includes three players that turned 50 since the Tour's last tournament, as **Jim Furyk**, **Mike Weir** and **K.J. Choi** are set to make their PGA TOUR Champions debuts. **Ernie Els** won the last event before the hiatus and he'll make his tournament debut, while **Jerry Kelly** has returned to Warwick Hills to defend his Ally Challenge title. The field also features the winners of the last 14 Charles Schwab Cups, including five-time winner **Bernhard Langer** and reigning champion **Scott McCarron**.

- 7 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
 - Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Tom Kite, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, Mark O'Meara and Vijay Singh
- 73 of 81 players played in the PGA TOUR's Buick Open at Warwick Hills
 - In all, the field made 773 starts at the Buick Open, totaling 117 top-10s and \$23.4 million in winnings
- 11 players that won 14 total titles at the Buick Open
- 63 PGA TOUR winners with 405 total career victories
- 50 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 249 total career victories
- 23 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 18 with a PGA TOUR major

2019 Recap: Kelly wins second-annual Ally Challenge

Last year, **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 of three wins on the season.

Since joining PGA TOUR Champions in 2017, Kelly has six wins and 35 top-10s in 72 starts. This week is Kelly's third opportunity to defend a title on PGA TOUR Champions. In his first two chances, he finished T3 at the 2019 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai and T11 at the 2018 Boeing Classic.

Furyk, Weir, Choi make PGA TOUR Champions debuts

Jim Furyk, Mike Weir and **K.J. Choi** turned 50 in May, and all three players will make their PGA TOUR Champions debuts at The Ally Challenge. The threesome will play together in Friday's first round (11:45 a.m. off No. 10).

- Furyk and Weir both turned 50 on May 12, while Choi turned 50 on May 19.
- Furyk (2003 U.S. Open) and Weir (2003 Masters) will become the first pair of major winners to debut at the same tournament since Corey Pavin and Fred Couples at the 2010 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.
- The last player to win in his first start on PGA TOUR Champions was Miguel Angel Jiménez at the 2014 Mitsubishi Electric Classic.

Furyk is a 17-time PGA TOUR winner and he will join **Vijay Singh** as FedExCup champions competing on PGA TOUR Champions. In 15 starts at the Buick Open at Warwick Hills, Furyk had eight top-10s and won in 2003. He has two top-25 finishes in 11 starts on the PGA TOUR this season, and most recently he finished T48 at the Memorial Tournament. A resident of Jacksonville, Furyk will host a PGA TOUR Champions event in Northeast Florida next year, as the Constellation Furyk & Friends tournament will be contested at Timuquana Country Club the week of October 4-10, 2021.

Weir is the only Canadian to win a PGA TOUR major and has eight wins total. This season, he has made five starts on the Korn Ferry Tour, with his best finish being T17 at the LECOM Suncoast Classic.

Choi won THE PLAYERS Championship in 2011 and is the most successful Asian player on the PGA TOUR with eight victories. He has made nine starts on the PGA TOUR this season and is coming off a 61st-place finish at the 3M Open.

Choi and Weir combined to make eight appearances for the International Team at the Presidents Cup and were teammates in 2003 and 2007.

Rookie winners

Two of the year's first five tournaments were won by rookies. **Ernie Els** turned 50 on October 17, 2019, and in his Tour debut he lost in a playoff and finished T2 at the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Two starts later, he won the Hoag Classic in March and moved to No. 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup. He will make his tournament debut this week in his first trip back to Warwick Hills since he finished sixth at the 1999 Buick Open.

Brett Quigley turned 50 on August 18, 2019, and in his second career start on Tour, he closed with weekend rounds of 66-66 to win the Morocco Champions. He followed it up with a T9 finish at the Chubb Classic and a T3 at the Cologuard Classic, and he is currently No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Langer still the man to beat

While Els and Quigley notched wins No. 1 on PGA TOUR Champions, five-time Charles Schwab Cup winner **Bernhard Langer** notched win No. 41 when he won the Cologuard Classic in March. With the victory, the 62-year-old extended his streak to 14 consecutive years with a win and he became the fifth-oldest winner in Tour history. In all, Langer has four top-10s in five starts this season and he currently leads the Charles Schwab Cup with \$528,137.

While Langer has top-10 finishes in the first two editions of this event (T7/2019, T8/2018), The Ally Challenge is one of 10 tournaments on Tour he has not won. The others are the Morocco Champions, Rapiscan Systems Classic, Principal Charity Classic, Mastercard Japan Championship, American Family Insurance Championship, Shaw Charity Classic, Sanford International, Ascension Charity Classic (new event) and the Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

Warwick Hills connections

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). This week's field features 11 players that won 14 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 11 Buick Open winners, it would be the 19th time a player has won a PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions event on the same golf course.

| Year | Buick Open Champion | Score | Runner(s)-up |
|------|---------------------|-------|---|
| 2008 | Kenny Perry | -19 | Woody Austin, Bubba Watson (-18) |
| 2005 | Vijay Singh | -24 | Zach Johnson, Tiger Woods (-20) |
| 2004 | Vijay Singh | -23 | John Daly (-22) |
| 2003 | Jim Furyk | -21 | Tiger Woods, Chris DiMarco, Briny Baird, Geoff Ogilvy (-19) |
| 2001 | Kenny Perry | -25 | Chris DiMarco, Jim Furyk (-23) |
| 2000 | Rocco Mediate | -20 | Chris Perry (-19) |
| 1999 | Tom Pernice Jr. | -18 | Tom Lehman, 2 others (-17) |
| 1998 | Billy Mayfair | -17 | Scott Verplank (-15) |
| 1997 | Vijay Singh | -15 | Russ Cochran, 5 others (-11) |
| 1995 | Woody Austin | -18 | Mike Brisky (playoff) |
| 1993 | Larry Mize | -16 | Fuzzy Zoeller (-15) |
| 1991 | Brad Faxon | -17 | Chip Beck (playoff) |
| 1988 | Scott Verplank | -20 | Doug Tewell (-18) |
| 1980 | Peter Jacobsen | -12 | Billy Kratzert, Mark Lye (-11) |

Great golf in the Great Lakes State

In addition to the past champions of the Buick Open, three players in the field have won the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship in Michigan, as **Colin Montgomerie** (2014), **Rocco Mediate** (2016) and **Paul Broadhurst** (2018) won when it was played at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor. Additionally, **Peter Jacobsen** (2005) won the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship when it was played at TPC Michigan, which hosted the event from 1990-2006.

Prior to The Ally Challenge, 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.

Charles Schwab Cup standings

The season's five winners occupy the top five spots in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, led by five-time Charles Schwab Cup champion **Bernhard Langer**. Reigning Charles Schwab Cup champion **Scott McCarron** is No. 14, while defending Ally Challenge winner **Jerry Kelly** is No. 40.

| Player | Money | Season Summary |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Bernhard Langer | \$528,137 | Won Cologuard Classic |
| 2. Brett Quigley | \$481,687 | Won Morocco Champions |
| 3. Ernie Els | \$450,030 | Won Hoag Classic |
| 4. Miguel Angel Jiménez | \$443,732 | Won Mitsubishi Electric Championship |
| 5. Scott Parel | \$435,737 | Won Chubb Classic |

Best scoring averages at the Buick Open (minimum 4 starts)

Jim Furyk made the cut in all 15 of his starts at Warwick Hills, and only one of his 60 rounds were over par.

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.

| Player | Starts | Top-10s | Best | Average | Money |
|--------------|--------|---------|------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Jim Furyk | 15 | 8 | Win (2003) | 68.70 | \$2,292,130.63 |
| Ernie Els | 4 | 3 | T2 (1997) | 68.81 | \$236,735.00 |
| 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 |

Most Money Won at the Buick Open (minimum \$1,000,000)

| Player | Starts | Top-10s | Best | Average | Money |
|----------------|--------|---------|------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Jim Furyk | 15 | 8 | Win (2003) | 68.70 | \$2,292,130.63 |
| 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 |

Most Starts at the Buick Open

| Player | Starts | Top-10s | Best | Average | Money |
|----------------|--------|---------|------------|---------|----------------|
| Jeff Sluman | 23 | 3 | T3 (1995) | 70.08 | \$553,128.29 |
| Scott Verplank | 22 | 5 | Win (1988) | 69.76 | \$1,097,373.14 |
| Tom Byrum | 22 | 3 | T2 (1997) | 70.24 | \$426,252.23 |
| Russ Cochran | 20 | 1 | T2 (1997) | 70.88 | \$183,088.98 |
| Rocco Mediate | 19 | 3 | Win (2000) | 70.23 | \$730,963.74 |

Most Top-10s at the Buick Open

| Player | Starts | Top-10s | Best | Average | Money |
|----------------|--------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Jim Furyk | 15 | 8 | Win (2003) | 68.70 | \$2,292,130.63 |
| Woody Austin | 15 | 7 | Win (1995) | 68.89 | \$1,642,195.23 |
| Fred Funk | 18 | 6 | T2 (2002) | 69.45 | \$703,936.00 |
| Scott Verplank | 22 | 5 | Win (1988) | 69.76 | \$1,097,373.14 |
| Brad Faxon | 18 | 5 | Win (1991) | 70.47 | \$435,588.93 |
| Tom Kite | 16 | 5 | 2nd (1982) | 69.72 | \$200,797.61 |
| 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 |

PGA TOUR Champions combines 2020-21 seasons

Due to the circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, 12 PGA TOUR Champions tournaments have been canceled from the original 27-tournament schedule. In an effort to uphold the competitive integrity of the Charles Schwab Cup, PGA TOUR Champions has combined the 2020 and 2021 seasons and formed a singular 2020-21 season.

In addition, other measures were taken to offset some of the impact made by the cancellation of tournaments.

- In 2020, the field size of tournaments will increase from 78 to 81 players.
- In 2020, the three Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs events will be converted into 81-player fields.
- The Charles Schwab Cup Championship will be reduced from 72 to 54 holes.

Players will retain their 2020 eligibility in 2021, except for the five players in the Q-School category, who will play their guaranteed events. Additionally, the 2020 PGA TOUR Champions Qualifying Tournament will not be conducted, and player awards will not be presented at the end of 2020.

PGA TOUR Champions schedule and tournament recaps

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Miguel Angel Jiménez birdied the second extra hole to win the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai for the second time in his career. Jiménez became the tournament's eighth repeat champion (2015, 2020) and he extended his streak to seven consecutive years with a victory, the Tour's second-longest active streak.
2. **Morocco Champions:** Brett Quigley won the inaugural Morocco Champions in Marrakech in his second PGA TOUR Champions start, saving par on the final two holes on Saturday to hold off Stephen Ames by one stroke. Winless in 408 career starts on the PGA TOUR, Quigley's win was his first in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since 2001 on the Korn Ferry Tour.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Scott Parel closed with an 8-under 63 to erase a three-shot deficit and win the Chubb Classic by two with a tournament record-tying 17-under total. It was the third win of his career and he moved to No. 1 in the Charles Schwab Cup for the first time in his career.
4. **Cologuard Classic:** Bernhard Langer came from four strokes back to claim his 41st victory on PGA TOUR Champions, just four wins short of all-time leader Hale Irwin. The victory marked Langer's 14th straight year with at least one win as he became the fifth oldest to claim a title.
5. **Hoag Classic:** Ernie Els birdied two of the last four holes to win the Hoag Classic with a 15-under total. Making his third start on Tour, Els won for the first time since the 2013 BMW International Open on the European Tour and he became the 30th World Golf Hall of Fame member to win on PGA TOUR Champions.
6. **The Ally Challenge**
7. **Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship**
8. **Charles Schwab Series at Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge**
9. **Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National**
10. **Sanford International**
11. **PURE Insurance Championship**
12. **Regions Tradition**
13. **Ascension Charity Classic**
14. **SAS Championship**
15. **Dominion Energy Charity Classic**
16. **Boca Raton Championship**
17. **Charles Schwab Cup Championship**