



American Family Insurance Championship

University Ridge Golf Course | Madison, Wisconsin | June 7-13, 2021

PGA TOUR Champions Media Contacts

Maureen Radzavicz, maureenr@pgatourhq.com, 607-624-5200

Connor Stange, connorstange@pgatourhq.com, 402-560-3758

Quick Facts

1. **Golf Course:** University Ridge Golf Course
2. **Designed by:** Robert Trent Jones, 1991 (Par 72, 7,056 yards)
3. **Purse:** \$2,400,000 (Winner: \$360,000)
4. **Golf Channel Coverage:** Friday, 11:00 a.m -1:30 p.m. CT; Saturday & Sunday, 2:00-4:00 p.m. CT
5. **Quick Links:** [Tournament Field](#) | [Tee Times](#)
6. **Social Media:** Twitter ([@AmFamChamp](#)), Instagram ([@amfamchampionship](#)), [Facebook](#)

Field Overview (as of 6/9/21)

Defending champion (2019) **Jerry Kelly** and his fellow Madison resident **Steve Stricker** lead the stellar field of 81 players set to compete at the fifth-annual American Family Insurance Championship. A total of 15 players are competing at the event for the first time, including World Golf Hall of Fame member **Ernie Els**, 17-time PGA TOUR winner **Jim Furyk** and Madison's own **Mario Tiziani**, who will make his PGA TOUR Champions debut this week. Other notables include two-time U.S. Open champion and Wisconsin-native **Andy North** and Hall of Fame pitcher **John Smoltz**, who will make his fifth start of the season.

- 6 World Golf Hall of Famers
 - Fred Couples, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, Vijay Singh
- 56 PGA TOUR winners with 327 total career victories
- 56 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 255 total career victories
- 16 players with a PGA TOUR major victory
- 24 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory

On Wednesday, player-host Stricker and American Family Insurance announced a seven-year extension of the PGA TOUR Champions event through 2027. The Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation will continue to serve as host of the event and the tournament will remain at University Ridge, owned by the University of Wisconsin (UW), for the duration of the contract.

2019 Recap: A Hometown Battle

Wisconsin native **Jerry Kelly** defeated tournament host **Steve Stricker** and World Golf Hall of Fame member **Retief Goosen** in a three-hole playoff to win the American Family Insurance Championship. Kelly became the tournament's fourth straight come-from-behind winner as he started the day T5.

It was the fourth win on PGA TOUR Champions for Kelly and the first in a banner 2019 season that would eventually see him claim two additional titles (The Ally Challenge, SAS Championship).

Stricker's Stellar Season

Tournament host **Steve Stricker** looks to continue his momentum this season when he tees it up this week at a familiar place. Stricker has finished in the top five in six of his nine tournaments on PGA TOUR Champions this season, including a victory at the Chubb Classic in April.

Stricker had finished in the top three in four consecutive events before a T11 at the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship in his last outing. Stricker held the lead entering the final round at the Senior PGA before shooting 77 on the last day. Stricker has broken par in 26 of 30 rounds this season on PGA TOUR Champions.

Tiziani's Debut

Madison native **Mario Tiziani** is set to make his PGA TOUR Champions debut this week at the American Family Insurance Championship. Tiziani, a sponsor exemption this week, played in 38 PGA TOUR events (1995-2006), 75 Korn Ferry Tour events (1993-2007) and 16 tournaments on the Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada (2008-10). Tiziani's best finish among those three tours was T2 at the 2005 LaSalle Bank Open.

Tiziani is one of 15 first-timers in the field, along with major champions **Ernie Els, Jim Furyk, Andy North** and **Mike Weir**. The other players making their American Family Insurance Championship debuts this week are **Doug Barron, Cameron Beckman, Shane Bertsch, Tim Herron, Robert Karlsson, Frank Lickliter II, Rod Pampling, Dicky Pride, Brett Quigley** and **John Senden**.

Oh Canada

Stephen Ames became the second Canadian to win this season on PGA TOUR Champions with his come-from-behind victory at the Principal Charity Classic last week. Ames, who won for the second time in his Champions Tour career, earned the fifth win by a Canadian player on PGA TOUR Champions. **Mike Weir** won the 2021 Insuperity Invitational earlier this season, while Canadians Rod Spittle and Dave Barr won previously on the Champions Tour.

First-Time Winners

The 2020-21 season has produced nine first-time winners on PGA TOUR Champions, tied for the third-most all-time (1992). The record of 11 first-time winners was set in 1999, while the 2001 season saw 10 first-time winners on PGA TOUR Champions.

Going for the Hat Trick

Seven players have two wins during the 2020-21 season, but each of them is looking to become the first three-time winner on Tour this season. Four of them are in the field this week: **Ernie Els, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Jim Furyk** and **Alex Cejka**. The other three players with two wins this season are **Kevin Sutherland, Darren Clarke** and **Phil Mickelson**.

Winners in Wisconsin

All four past champions from the American Family Insurance Championship are in the field this week, including Wisconsin native and defending champion (2019) **Jerry Kelly**.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Champion</u>	<u>Score</u>
2020	<i>No tournament held</i>	
2019	Jerry Kelly*	-15
2018	Scott McCarron	-15
2017	Fred Couples	-15
2016	Kirk Triplett	-17

*-won in a playoff

Eight players in the field won a collective 11 titles at the former Greater Milwaukee Open on the PGA TOUR:

2006	Corey Pavin (2)
2004	Carlos Franco (2)
2003	Kenny Perry
2002	Jeff Sluman (2)
1999	Carlos Franco
1998	Jeff Sluman
1993	Billy Mayfair
1991	Mark Brooks
1987	Gary Hallberg
1986	Corey Pavin
1981	Jay Haas

At the 2004 PGA Championship held at Whistling Straits in Kohler, Wisconsin, **Vijay Singh** picked up his third major victory at the age of 41 by defeating **Chris DiMarco** and **Justin Leonard** in a three-hole playoff.

Charles Schwab Cup Update

With his win at last week's Principal Charity Classic, **Stephen Ames** moved up 16 spots to No. 19 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. The top five remained unchanged, but runner-up **Mike Weir** moved up three spots into the No. 9 position. **Jim Furyk** moved into the top 10 after a T6 at the Principal Charity Classic.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Money</u>	<u>2020-21 Season</u>
1. Bernhard Langer	\$1,856,125	Win at 2020 Cologuard Classic; 15 top-10s
2. Ernie Els	\$1,777,419	Two wins; 11 top-10 finishes
3. Kevin Sutherland	\$1,665,507	Two wins; Top-fives in four of last five starts
4. Jerry Kelly	\$1,567,667	Win at 2020 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS; Top-10s in four of last five starts
5. Miguel Angel Jimenez	\$1,421,554	Two wins; eight top-10 finishes

On, Wisconsin!

Five players in this week's field have ties to the Badger State: **Steve Stricker**, **Jerry Kelly**, **Andy North**, **Mario Tiziani** and **Skip Kendall**.

- **Steve Stricker**, the tournament host, has finished in the top three in all three of his starts at the American Family Insurance Championship. He finished T2 in 2019 after a pair of T3 finishes in 2017 and 2018. Stricker has broken 70 in eight of his nine rounds at University Ridge Golf Course.
- **Jerry Kelly** is making his fourth appearance at the American Family Insurance Championship. The defending champion (2019) finished runner-up in 2018 after finishing T13 in his debut in 2017. Kelly has broken par in all nine rounds at this event, including six rounds in the 60s.
- **Mario Tiziani**, a native of Madison, is making his PGA TOUR Champions debut this week, and his first start on a PGA TOUR-sanctioned tour since 2010.
- **Skip Kendall** is making his fifth appearance at the American Family Insurance Championship after playing in each of the first four editions of the event. He is making his first start this season on PGA TOUR Champions and 58th appearance overall since joining the Tour in 2014.
- **Andy North**, a two-time U.S. Open champion (1978, 1985), is making his debut at this event and his first PGA TOUR Champions start since 2019.