



Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson

Norwood Hills Country Club (West Course) | St. Louis, Missouri | September 10-12, 2021

Media Contacts

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Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** Norwood Hills Country Club (West Course)
- **Par:** 71; **Yardage:** 6,992
- **Designed by:** Wayne Stiles
- **Purse:** \$2,000,000 (\$300,000)
- **TV Coverage (Golf Channel):**
 - Friday: 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. ET
 - Saturday: 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. ET
 - Sunday: 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. ET
- **Quick Links:** [Tournament Field](#) | [Tee Times](#)
- **Social Media:** Twitter ([@AscensionCCG](#)), Instagram ([@AscensionCharityClassic](#)), Facebook ([@AscensionCharityClassic](#))

Field Overview (as of 9/8/21)

PGA TOUR Champions travels to St. Louis, Missouri for the inaugural Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson at the renowned Norwood Hills Country Club in North County. The tournament will take place on the West Course, which has hosted several events including the 1948 PGA Championship, the 2001 USGA Senior Amateur Championship and the 2018 USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship. The last PGA TOUR event held in St. Louis was the PGA TOUR Champions Enterprise Rent-A-Car Match Play Championship at Boone Valley Golf Club in nearby Augusta, Missouri, from 1996 through 2001.

The 81-player field includes 26 of the top-30 players in the Charles Schwab Cup standings and eight World Golf Hall of Fame members.

- 8 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
 - (Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Bernhard Langer, Davis Love III, Jose Maria Olazabal, Mark O'Meara, Colin Montgomerie, Vijay Singh)
- 59 PGA TOUR winners with 359 total career victories
- 53 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 241 total career victories
- 19 with a PGA TOUR major title
- 24 with a PGA TOUR Champions major title

Legends Charity Challenge

Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus, MLB Hall of Fame member **Ozzie Smith** and St. Louis Blues Stanley Cup-Winning Head Coach **Craig Berube** will participate in The Legends Charity Classic on Saturday following the final pairing. Nicklaus and Smith will face Watson and Berube in a nine-hole scramble, match-play format starting on No. 10. The two teams will compete for a \$25,000 purse to benefit the First Tee of Greater St. Louis (Watson and Berube) and PGA REACH Gateway (Nicklaus and Smith). Each hole will be given a dollar value that will be awarded per hole to the winning team's charity.

Honoring 9/11

In remembrance of September 11, 2001, Ascension Charity Classic will hold a special ceremony including a moment of silence, a playing of Amazing Grace and comments from Missouri Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe and FDNY Deputy Chief Charles Blaisch.

At the time of the terrorist attacks, the 2001 WGC-AmEx Championship was being held at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis. The tournament was canceled on Tuesday, prior to the first round, in result of the events. Players in this week's Ascension Charity Classic field who were either on-site or were traveling to the 2001 tournament include: Robert Allenby, Darren Clarke, Mark Calcavecchia, Chris DiMarco, Ernie Els, Jim Furyk, Retief Goosen, Jerry Kelly, Bernhard Langer, Tom Lehman, Davis Love III, Billy Mayfair, Rocco Mediate, Colin Montgomerie, Jesper Parnevik, Kenny Perry, Vijay Singh, Jeff Sluman, David Toms, Kirk Triplett and Mike Weir, who was the defending champion.

Missouri Roots

Six players in the field have ties to Missouri including **John Daly**, who attended Helias High School in the state capital of Jefferson City, where he lettered in both football and golf. Daly went on to earn the first significant title of his career at the 1983 Missouri State Amateur Championship as a high school junior.

Two-time Charles Schwab Cup winner **Jay Haas** was born in St. Louis, while six-time PGA TOUR Champions winner **Jeff Maggert** was born in Columbia. **Tom Pernice Jr.**, who won the 2019 Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, Missouri with partner Scott Hoch, hails from Kansas City.

Additionally, St. Louis natives **Jay Delsing** and **Jay Williamson** received sponsor exemptions this week. Delsing, 60, was born and raised in St. Louis and was a caddy at Norwood Hills Country Club before heading to UCLA in 1979 on a golf scholarship. The two-time All-American went on to earn his PGA TOUR card and competed in nearly 700 events, including a number of starts on the Korn Ferry Tour where he recorded two victories. He has played in 12 PGA TOUR Champions events during his career, his most recent at the Shaw Charity Classic earlier this month where he finished T57. He also competed at Bellerive in 2013 at the Senior PGA Championship presented by KitchenAid, recording a T69 finish.

Williamson attended Johns Burroughs High School in St. Louis where he played baseball and hockey. He left his home state for Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut but did not start playing competitive golf until he graduated. He turned pro in 1990 and has since played in more than 400 professional tournaments across the PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions and Korn Ferry Tour. His resumé includes 18 top-10 finishes on the PGA TOUR, with two runner-up results, and one Korn Ferry Tour title. The 54-year-old competed last month at the Shaw Charity Classic where he finished T50 among his five PGA TOUR Champions career starts.

Daly's Day

On Wednesday, Sept. 8, **John Daly** will throw out the first pitch at the Cardinals vs. Dodgers game at 6:45 p.m. Select fans will receive an exclusive John Daly bobblehead and a portion of each ticket sold will be donated to the Gateway PGA REACH Foundation.

Daly moved to Missouri in 1982 for 10th grade and attended Helias High School in the state capital of Jefferson City. In 1983, Daly played a key role as the punter and kicker on Helias' undefeated (10-0) football team and led his high school golf team to a Missouri State Team High School Championship. Later in the year, Daly won the 1983 Missouri State Amateur Championship as a high school junior.

Langer Looks to Continue Success

After his runner-up finish last week at The Ally Challenge, **Bernhard Langer** sits on top of the Charles Schwab Cup leaderboard for the 15th week this season. Langer holds one win (2020 Cologuard Classic), three runner-up and 19 top-10 finishes in 31 starts during the 2020-21 wraparound season. His 41 wins on the Champions Tour ranks as the second-most all-time wins and with a victory this week, he would become the oldest player in PGA TOUR Champions history after turning 64 last week. He would become just the second player this season to win three tournaments.

Furyk Fights for Four

Rookie **Jim Furyk** enters this week as the lone PGA TOUR Champions player with three wins this season. In his 19 starts this season, Furyk has posted back-to-back victories (2020 PURE Insurance Championship, The 2020 Ally Challenge), two runner-up finishes and 12 top-10s. Following his T10 finish last week at the 2021 Ally Challenge, Furyk remains at No. 2 on the Charles Schwab Cup leaderboard, \$35,365 behind **Bernhard Langer**.

Els Eager for Next Win

World Golf Hall of Fame member and rookie **Ernie Els** comes to the Ascension Charity Classic after finishing T10 at The Ally Challenge last week. Els has posted three top-10s in his last six starts and is currently ranked No. 4 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. In his 28 starts this season, Els has earned two victories (2020 Hoag Classic and 2020 SAS Championship) and 15 top-10 finishes.

Trend of First-Time Winners Continues

At the Boeing Classic last month, **Rod Pampling** became the 12th first-time winner on PGA TOUR Champions during the 2020-21 season, setting the single-season record for first-time winners. The previous record of 11 was set in 1999.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Tournament</u>
Cameron Beckman	2021 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
Shane Bertsch	2020 Charles Schwab Series at Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge
Alex Cejka	2021 Regions Tradition
Darren Clarke	2020 TimberTech Championship
Stephen Dodd	2021 The Senior Open Presented by Rolex
Ernie Els	2020 Hoag Classic
Jim Furyk	2020 The Ally Challenge
Phil Mickelson	2020 Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National
Brett Quigley	2020 Morocco Champions
Rod Pampling	2021 Boeing Classic
Dicky Pride	2021 Mitsubishi Electric Classic
Mike Weir	2021 Insperity Invitational

Charles Schwab Cup Update

PGA TOUR Champions is back in action as the race to the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs continues. After this week, there are four tournaments remaining in the regular season before the three-tournament Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs.

Following last week's Ally Challenge, **Bernhard Langer** reclaimed the top spot on the Charles Schwab Cup leaderboard for the 15th week this season following his runner-up finish. **Jim Furyk** remains at the No. 2 spot and sits \$35,365 behind Langer while **Jerry Kelly** dropped to No. 3. **Ernie Els** (No. 4) and Miguel Angel Jimenez (No. 5) round out the top-5 spots of this week's leaderboard.

Player	Money	2020-21 Season
1. Bernhard Langer	\$2,476,895	1 win, 19 top-10s
2. Jim Furyk	\$2,441,530	3 wins, 12 top-10s
3. Jerry Kelly	\$2,424,161	2 wins, 14 top-10s
4. Ernie Els	\$2,306,429	2 wins, 15 top-10s
5. Miguel Angel Jiménez	\$2,091,798	2 wins, 12 top-10s