



## The Ally Challenge

Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club | Grand Blanc, Michigan | August 27-29, 2021

### Media Contacts

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### Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club
- **Par:** 72; **Yardage:** 7,085
- **Designed by:** Joe Lee (1957)
- **Purse:** \$2,000,000 (Winner: \$300,000)
- **TV Coverage (Golf Channel):**
  - Friday: 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET
  - Saturday: 3:00-5:00 p.m. ET
  - Sunday: 2:00-4:30 p.m. ET
- **Quick Links:** [Tournament Field](#) | [Tee Times](#)
- **Social Media:** Twitter ([@AllyChallenge](#)), Instagram ([@AllyChallenge](#)), Facebook ([@AllyChallenge](#))

### Field Overview (as of 8/25/21)

PGA TOUR Champions returns to Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc, Michigan this week for The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren. All three past champions of this event are in the field this week, including defending champion **Jim Furyk**, **Jerry Kelly** (2019) and **Paul Broadhurst** (2018). The 82-player field includes 26 of the top 30 in this week's Charles Schwab Cup standings.

- 8 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
  - (Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Bernhard Langer, Davis Love III, Colin Montgomerie, Mark O'Meara, Jose Maria Olazabal, Vijay Singh)
- 59 PGA TOUR winners with 372 total career victories
- 51 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 229 total career victories
- 23 with a PGA TOUR Champions major title
- 20 with a PGA TOUR major title

### 2020 Recap

Making his debut on PGA TOUR Champions, **Jim Furyk** shot a bogey-free 68 in the final round of the 2020 Ally Challenge to win by two strokes over **Retief Goosen** and **Brett Quigley**. Furyk was one shot behind 36-hole leader Quigley at the start of the day. Furyk birdied the 15th hole to take a one-shot lead, and he parred the last three holes to secure the win over Quigley, who bogeyed Nos. 17 and 18.

**Familiar Furyk Goes for Fourth Win of Season**

Defending champion **Jim Furyk** enters the week as the only three-time winner this season on PGA TOUR Champions. After winning each of his first two starts as a rookie (2020 The Ally Challenge, 2020 PURE Insurance Championship), Furyk captured the 2021 U.S. Senior Open in July. In addition to his three wins, Furyk has two runner-up finishes, including last week at the Boeing Classic. He has 11 top-10s in 18 starts during the 2020-21 season and currently sits No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

While on the PGA TOUR, Furyk played in 15 Buick Opens at Warwick Hills and won the event in 2003. He compiled eight top-10s, including runner-up finishes in 2001 and 2006.

**Els Eyes Return to Winner's Circle**

Fresh off three top-10s in his last five starts, **Ernie Els** comes to The Ally Challenge seeking his third win as a rookie. Els won two of his first 10 starts on PGA TOUR Champions (2020 Hoag Classic, 2020 SAS Championship) and has 14 top-10s in 27 starts this season.

Last year during his debut at The Ally Challenge, Els finished T27. While on the PGA TOUR, Els played at Warwick Hills four times for the Buick Open. He finished inside the top six on three occasions, including a runner-up finish in 1997.

**Winners at Warwick Hills**

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 10 players that won 13 total titles at the Buick Open, led by three-time winner **Vijay Singh** and two-time winner **Kenny Perry**.

With his win at the 2020 Ally Challenge, 2003 Buick Open champion **Jim Furyk** became the 19<sup>th</sup> player to claim a PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions victory 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)
1992	Dan Forsman	-12	Steve Elkington, Brad Faxon (playoff)
1988	Scott Verplank	-20	Doug Tewell (-18)

**Local Connections**

Two players from Michigan are in the field this week, **George Bowman** and **Scott Hebert**, as sponsor exemptions.

Bowman was born and raised in Flushing, Michigan and played his collegiate golf at Western Michigan University. He has competed in two National PGA of America Championships and was a member of the NIKE Tour (now Korn Ferry Tour) in 1993. Bowman has served as the head golf professional at Oakhurst Golf and Country Club in Clarkston, Michigan since the Club's inception in 1998.

Hebert is an eight-time Michigan PGA Section Player of the Year and one of just three golfers to win both the PGA Professional National Championship and the Senior PGA Professional National Championship. He has competed in over 10 PGA TOUR events, including four Buick Open appearances and five PGA Championships. The Michigan native is a graduate of Ferris State University and was inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame in 2015. Hebert is currently the head golf professional at Traverse City Golf & Country Club.

### **Tournament Debuts**

A total of 14 players are making their Ally Challenge debut this week, including **Robert Allenby**, 1997 PGA Champion **Davis Love III**, 2003 PGA Champion **Shaun Micheel** and two-time Masters champion **Jose Maria Olazabal**.

Of the 14 first-timers this week, five players are playing their first professional tournament at Warwick Hills: **George Bowman**, **Brian Cooper**, 2021 Senior Open champion **Stephen Dodd**, **Thongchai Jaidee** and **Roger Rowland**. The nine other players making their Ally Challenge debut played at least once in the Buick Open at Warwick Hills on the PGA TOUR.

### **Trend of First-Time Winners Continues**

Last week at the Boeing Classic, **Rod Pamplig** became the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Tournament</u></b>
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 Pamplig	2021 Boeing Classic
Dicky Pride	2021 Mitsubishi Electric Classic
Mike Weir	2021 Insuperity Invitational

### **Charles Schwab Cup Update**

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

**Jerry Kelly** remains in the top spot for the seventh consecutive week. Reigning Ally Challenge champion **Jim Furyk** sits in the No. 2 spot, while **Bernhard Langer**, **Ernie Els** and Miguel Angel Jimenez round out the top five.

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Money</u></b>	<b><u>2020-21 Notes</u></b>
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1. Jerry Kelly	\$2,410,661	Two wins, top-10s in four of his last five starts
2. Jim Furyk	\$2,397,130	Three wins, 11 top-10s in 18 starts
3. Bernhard Langer	\$2,300,895	One win, 18 top-10s in 30 starts
4. Ernie Els	\$2,262,029	Two wins, top-10s in three of his last five starts
5. Miguel Angel Jimenez	\$2,091,798	Two wins, three consecutive top-10 finishes