



## 2017 Insperity Invitational Advance Media Notes

### Contacts:

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**Dates:** May 1-7, 2017

**Course:** The Woodlands Country Club Tournament Course; The Woodlands, Texas

**Par/Yards:** 36-36—72/7,002

**Course Designers:** Bruce Devlin/Robert von Hagge (1978)

**Field:** 79 professionals

**Format:** 54-hole stroke-play event with no cut

**Purse/Winner's Share:** \$2,150,000/\$322,500

**Television:** Golf Channel

Friday, May 5: 5:00-7:00 p.m. (tape-delayed)

Saturday, May 6: 2:00-5:00 p.m. (live)

Sunday, May 7: 2:00-4:30 p.m. (live)

*\*All times listed are CDT*

**The 2017 Schedule:** The 14th annual Insperity Invitational is the eighth of 26 official events in 2017, a season that concludes with the Charles Schwab Cup Championship from November 9-12 at Phoenix Country Club in Phoenix, AZ.

**About PGA TOUR Champions:** PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of golf's most recognizable and accomplished players, age 50 and older, including 32 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour's mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. In 2017, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 26 tournaments in 18 states, Japan, Wales and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$55 million, an average of \$2.1 million per event. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long champion. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air live, tape-delayed or in a highlights-package format in excess of 206 countries and territories, reaching more than 145 million households. The PGA TOUR's web site is PGATOUR.COM, the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Follow PGA TOUR Champions at [facebook.com/PGATOURChampions](https://www.facebook.com/PGATOURChampions), on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

**2016 Recap: Jesper Parnevik** was the only player in the field to post three consecutive rounds in the 60s and his final-round 5-under-par 67 was good enough to give him a four-stroke victory over David Frost, Jeff Maggert and Mike Goodes. It was the first win of his PGA TOUR Champions career. Parnevik and Maggert were tied after 36 holes and Maggert opened a two-stroke lead with birdies on his first two holes, but was

unable to maintain his momentum, making just one birdie over his final 16 holes. Meanwhile, Parnevik's strong play in the middle of the final round proved decisive. Starting at No. 5, he birdied five of his next eight holes to take control. Other than a three-putt bogey at No. 14, it was a near-perfect finish for Parnevik, winning for the first time since the 2001 Honda Classic, a span of 15 years, 1 month and 27 days.

**The 2017 Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs:** In 2016, Bernhard Langer won the inaugural Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs and won the Charles Schwab Cup for the third year in a row, and fourth time overall. This year's three-tournament playoff series begins in Richmond, Virginia, before heading west to Thousand Oaks, California, and concluding in Phoenix.

- October 16-22 | Dominion Charity Classic (The Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia)
- October 23-29 | PowerShares QQQ Championship (Sherwood Country Club, Thousand Oaks, California)
- November 6-12 | Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Phoenix Country Club, Phoenix, Arizona)

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 first two playoff 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 Charity Classic, the top 54 players will advance, and after the PowerShares QQQ Championship, the top 36 players will qualify for the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

Points will be reset for the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, similar to the reset in the FedExCup Playoffs before the TOUR Championship. Any of the top-five players will win the Charles Schwab Cup with a victory in the season finale, and all 36 players are mathematically capable of winning the Charles Schwab Cup, depending on his performance and the results of the rest of the field.

**Where the Charles Schwab Cup Race Stands:** After seven events, Bernhard Langer remains in the lead in the season-long race with \$750,250 followed by Fred Couples with \$592,533. Miguel Angel Jimenez is third with \$500,842 and Scott McCarron is currently fourth with \$464,949. Carlos Franco, fresh off a victory with Vijay Singh at the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge, is fifth with \$421,676.

**About Insperity:** Insperity, a trusted advisor to America's best businesses for more than 31 years, provides an array of human resources and business solutions designed to help improve business performance. Insperity® Business Performance Advisors offer the most comprehensive suite of products and services available in the marketplace. Insperity delivers administrative relief, better benefits, reduced liabilities and a systematic way to improve productivity through its premier Workforce Optimization® solution. Additional company offerings include Human Capital Management, Payroll Services, Time and Attendance, Performance Management, Organizational Planning, Recruiting Services, Employment Screening, Financial Services, Expense Management, Retirement Services and Insurance Services. Insperity business performance solutions support more than 100,000 businesses with over 2 million employees. With 2016 revenues of \$2.9 billion, Insperity operates in 61 offices throughout the United States. For more information, visit <http://www.insperity.com>.

## Insperity Invitational Storylines...

**A Look at the 2017 Field:** The 2017 Insperity Invitational will again have a star-studded field. Below is a rundown on the makeup of the tournament field.

- 61 players in the field have won 369 PGA TOUR titles
- 55 players have won 268 PGA TOUR Champions victories
- 19 players have won 27 major titles on the PGA TOUR
- 22 players have won 43 major victories on PGA TOUR Champions
- All 30 players in the top-30 on the 2016 money list are entered
- There are 4 former U.S. Ryder Cup captains (Kite, Lehman, Pavin, Sutton) and 4 former International captains (McGinley, Langer, Woosnam, Montgomerie) in the field.
- There are two former United States Presidents Cup captains – Jay Haas & Fred Couples

**3M Greats of Golf Returns:** A popular Saturday tradition will again return to the Insperity Invitational in 2017, as golf legends **Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player** and **Lee Trevino** will tee off in an exhibition match on May 6. That threesome will compete in an 18-hole scramble against three other teams composed of **David Graham, Tom Weiskopf** and **Tony Jacklin, Hale Irwin, Charles Coody** and **Dave Stockton** as well as **Fuzzy Zoeller, Ben Crenshaw** and **Bill Rogers**. A year ago, the trio of **Ben Crenshaw, Hale Irwin** and **Dave Stockton** prevailed in the 18-hole scramble event with a score of 10-under-par. The 12-player field includes seven World Golf Hall of Fame members with 213 PGA TOUR victories and 49 major championship titles. The groups will tee off following the official field's final group on Saturday.

**Field Features 7 World Golf Hall of Famers:** In addition to the legends who will participate in the 3M Greats of Golf, this year's official tournament field for the Insperity Invitational features seven World Golf Hall of Fame members: **Fred Couples, Sandy Lyle, Colin Montgomerie, Bernhard Langer, Mark O'Meara, Tom Kite** and **Larry Nelson**. In addition, **Ian Woosnam**, the 2015 Insperity Invitational champion, will be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame later this year.

**Success for International Players:** So far in 2017, four of the first seven PGA TOUR Champions events have been won by international players, including the last three events. International winners this year include **Bernhard Langer** (Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai), **Miguel Angel Jimenez** (Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic), **Stephen Ames** (Mitsubishi Electric Classic) and **Carlos Franco/Vijay Singh** (Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge). Should an international player claim this week's event, it will mark the fourth tournament in succession this has happened. A year ago, four international players won successive events – Bernhard Langer (Boeing Classic), Carlos Franco (Shaw Charity Classic), Paul Broadhurst (Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach) and Colin Montgomerie (Pacific Links Bear Mountain Championship). International players have won over 200 events on PGA TOUR Champions, including 17 in 1987 and 15 in 1988. Bernhard Langer leads all international players in career wins with 30, seven more than Bob Charles and eight more than Chi Chi Rodriguez.

**International Players Enjoying Impressive Run Here:** Starting with **Esteban Toledo's** victory in 2013, the last four events have been won by international-born players. Following Toledo's win, **Bernhard Langer (Germany), Ian Woosnam** (Wales) and **Jesper Parnevik** (Sweden) posted victories.

**Field Has International Flavor:** Including the United States, 14 countries will be represented this week. The others are Canada, Wales, Australia, Germany, South Africa, England, Mexico, Thailand, Paraguay, Spain, Scotland, Ireland and Sweden.

**Couples Set to Return for First Time Since 2014:** For the first time in three years, former Houston Cougar **Fred Couples** will compete in the Insperity Invitational. The 2010 champion, Couples finished second to Bernhard Langer in his last appearance here and was T10 in defense of his title at the rain-shortened 2011 event. Couples is off to a fast start this year after being sidelined for most of the 2016 campaign with back issues. In five starts, he owns a win (Chubb Classic), a second (Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai), a fourth, fifth and sixth-place finish. All 11 of his rounds have been below par.

**Toms and Jimenez Highlight First-Timers:** Long-time PGA TOUR player David Toms and Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez, already a four-time winner on PGA TOUR Champions, highlight the players making their first starts here. Joining the pair will be Billy Mayfair, Paul Broadhurst, Carlos Franco, Doug Garwood, Thingon Jansomboon, Paul McGinley, Scott Parel, Phillip Price and Scott Verplank.

**Big-Name Winners:** A handful of PGA TOUR Champions stars have had moments to remember at the Insperity Invitational, beginning with **Larry Nelson**, who rallied from seven strokes back to win the inaugural event in 2004.

- In 2006, **Jay Haas** shot a second-round 63 and held a five-stroke lead through 17 holes on Sunday before the final round was rained out.

- In 2007, **Bernhard Langer** earned his first Tour victory at Insperity in only his fourth start. He successfully defended his title one year later and became the first German-born player to ever win on the PGA TOUR Champions.
- In 2010, **Fred Couples** earned a seven-stroke victory after shooting a 63 in the final round that featured an eagle and five birdies on the back nine.
- In 2012, **Fred Funk** sunk a two-foot birdie putt to defeat Tom Lehman by a stroke. He became the first player in five years to win a PGA TOUR Champions event and a PGA TOUR event on the same course.
- In 2013, **Esteban Toledo** defeats Mike Goodes and Gene Sauers in a playoff to win his first PGA TOUR Champions victory. The Mexican-born Toledo, claims the victory on May 5<sup>th</sup>, Cinco de Mayo.

**Monty is Back:** After being sidelined since March with a left foot injury, former Houston Baptist product and World Golf Hall of Famer **Colin Montgomerie** will make his first start in a PGA TOUR Champions event since the Chubb Classic in mid-February. His best finish this year was a T6 at the Allianz Championship.

**First Wins Came Here:** Five players broke through for their first victories on PGA TOUR Champions here including the previous two winners – **Jesper Parnevik** (2016) and **Ian Woosnam** (2015). Other first-time winners here include **Bernhard Langer** (2007), **Brad Faxon** (2011) and **Esteban Toledo** (2013).

**Field Includes Former Shell Houston Open Winners:** Six players in this year's field earned PGA TOUR victories in the Shell Houston Open or its predecessors. They include **Corey Pavin** (1984), **Jay Haas** (1987), **Fred Funk** (1992), **Mark Brooks** (2006), **Hal Sutton** (2001) and **Fred Couples** (2003). The wins by Pavin and Funk were the first of their PGA TOUR careers. The wins by Haas, Funk, Brooks and Sutton were at this course.

**They've Played Them All:** Just two players have now competed in all 13 Insperity Invitationals – Bob Gilder and Tom Kite.

**Aces Have Been Rare:** There have been just four holes-in-one in the history of the Insperity Invitational. When **Tom Kite** aced the 16th hole in the opening round of the 2013 Insperity Invitational (7-iron, 194 yards), it was his first career hole in one on the Champions Tour. The ace came in his 17,674<sup>th</sup> shot on the Champions Tour. **J.L Lewis** made the first hole-in-one in Insperity Invitational history in 2012. Lewis holed a 4-iron shot from 189 yards on the 16th hole. It was his first ace on the Champions Tour after making two aces in his PGA TOUR career. **Dan Forsman** made the third on No. 8 in 2015 with a 3-iron from 209 yards in the opening round. **Todd Hamilton** aced No. 3 in the final round last year with an 8-iron from 135 yards.

**Oldest, Youngest:** **Bernhard Langer's** win in 2007 came just 1 month and 17 days after he turned 50, making him the youngest winner in event history. **Larry Nelson**, the tournament's inaugural winner in 2004, claimed his Insperity Invitational title at 57 years, 1 month and he's still the oldest winner at this tournament.

**Three Were Among Most Difficult:** Three holes at The Woodlands CC course ranked among the most difficult on Tour last year. No. 14 ranked as the 11<sup>th</sup> hardest, while Nos. 8 & 17 were tied for 33<sup>rd</sup>. Overall, the course was the sixth-hardest course on Tour in 2016.

## 25 Years Ago This Week..

5/3/92 – **Fred Funk** ties the Shell Houston Open tournament record with a third-round 62 and then closes with a 70 to defeat Kirk Triplett for his first PGA TOUR victory.