



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Ernie Els Headlines 10 World Golf Hall of Famers Taking Aim at 2021 Insperity Invitational Title
*Goosen, Kite, Langer, Lyle, Montgomerie, O'Meara, Olazabal, Singh and Woosnam add names to tee
sheet***

THE WOODLANDS, TX—Ernie Els will be joined by nine of his fellow World Golf Hall of Fame Members when he makes his first trip to the Insperity Invitational presented by UnitedHealthcare, April 26 – May 2, 2021.

Inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2011, Els is an eight-time Presidents Cup team member for the International squad who boasts 72 professional victories – having won in South Africa, Europe, United States, Asia, the Far East, the Middle East and Australasia. His impressive resume includes 19 PGA TOUR titles, four major titles (two U.S. Opens and two Open Championships), two World Golf Championship victories and a record seven World Matchplay titles.

“One of the most compelling characteristics of the PGA TOUR Champions is golf’s big names turn into rookies each year,” said Bryan Naugle, Executive Director, Insperity Invitational. “We obviously missed the chance to welcome Ernie for the first-time last spring due to the cancellation of our event. We’re glad to have him this year. He is a great addition to our field.”

The Big Easy has made an immediate impact on the PGA TOUR Champions since turning 50 in October 2019. The South African legend racked up two victories in his shortened rookie season on the 50 and over Tour, along with a fairway full of top-10 finishes.

“I’m a pure rookie, green as they come,” said Els. “I haven’t seen most of the golf courses, including The Woodlands, which is exciting because you really have to get a feel for what you need to do. On the PGA TOUR, I’ve seen the golf courses so many times, so I get excited now.”

“It has been so great to come and play with these guys, seeing the faces that I’ve grown up with. And what I’ve found early on this Tour is, you’d better be on your game to compete with these guys. The competition is more than I realized.”

Els will need to be on his game this spring when he shows up at The Woodlands Country Club Tournament Course with nine other World Golf Hall of Famers including **Retief Goosen; Tom Kite; Bernhard Langer; Sandy Lyle; Colin Montgomerie; Mark O’Meara; Jose Maria Olazabal; Vijay Singh and Ian Woosnam.**

The marquee group adding their names to the Insperity Invitational field bring with them eight Green Jackets, five U.S. Open titles, four Claret Jugs, and two Wanamaker Trophies.

“This incredible group of legends in our game who have combined to win more than 110 times on the PGA TOUR and nearly 70 times on the PGA TOUR Champions in addition to providing us with countless memorable Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup appearances,” added Naugle. “They rekindle special moments for all of our spectators, but equally as important, they create new memories for young golf fans who take our event in each year.”

The Tradition of Excellence returns to The Woodlands after the 2020 edition of the Insperity Invitational was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's week of tournament activities will include the Woodforest National Bank Pro-Am (April 28-29), followed by the 17th edition of the Insperity Invitational championship play which will take place April 30 – May 2.

Spectators will not be permitted access to the golf course during practice rounds and Pro-Am days, however, the tournament is welcoming golf fan to The Woodlands Country Club Tournament Course Friday through Sunday to enjoy FREE admission to watch the 54-holes of competition play. **Face masks will be mandatory for ALL spectators on-site.** Parking and transportation information will be released in the coming weeks.

About the Insperity Invitational presented by UnitedHealthcare

A PGA TOUR Champions event, the Insperity Invitational presented by UnitedHealthcare features the world's premier golfers age 50 and older. Managed and operated by Pro Links Sports, in 2008, the tournament received the prestigious Presidents Award as the best event on the Champions Tour, and in 2011 received the President's Award for Excellence in Achievement. In 2012 and 2015, the tournament received The Players Award for having the "best of everything" for the players, sponsors and spectators. Interfaith of The Woodlands, one of the local charities benefitting from the tournament, was named the 2016 PGA TOUR Champions Charity of the Year. Past champions include Larry Nelson, Jay Haas, Mark McNulty, four-time winner Bernhard Langer, John Cook, Fred Couples, Brad Faxon, Fred Funk, Esteban Toledo, Ian Woosnam, John Daly and Scott McCarron. For more information about the Tradition of Excellence at the Insperity Invitational, visit www.insperityinvitational.com, on Instagram @insperityinvitational, Twitter @InsperityInvtnl, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/InsperityInvitational.

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