



Langer is third player to be named Champions Tour Player and Rookie of the Year

HOUSTON – January, 2009—Champions Tour Player/Rookie of the Year Bernhard Langer World Golf Hall of Fame member Bernhard Langer is the third player in Champions Tour history to earn Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year honors in the same season, joining Lee Trevino (1990) and Bruce Fleisher (1999). The native of Germany became eligible for the Champions Tour on his 50th birthday in August 2007. After immediate Champions Tour success in 2007 with one win in five starts, Langer picked up right where he left off in his first full season on the Champions Tour in 2008, collecting three tournament trophies.

Langer's three tournament wins came at the Toshiba Classic, Ginn Championship and Administaff Small Business Classic. He added two runner-ups and posted a total of 14 top-10 finishes. The Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year awards cap off an impressive haul for Langer, who also collected the Arnold Palmer Award as the Champions Tour's leading money winner and the Byron Nelson Award for the lowest scoring average on the Champions Tour. He finished third in the Charles Schwab Cup points race. Langer was selected over nominees Fred Funk, Jay Haas, Loren Roberts and Eduardo Romero.

The other nominees for Rookie of the Year were John Cook, Gene Jones, Jeff Sluman and Mark Wiebe. Langer was eligible for 2008 Rookie of the Year because regulations stipulate that players competing in fewer than six events after turning 50 are still considered "rookies" the following year.

The fifth edition of the Administaff Small Business Classic was conducted at The Woodlands Tournament Course in October. Bernhard Langer became the first player in the tournament's history to successfully defend his title.

The Administaff Small Business Classic will return to The Woodlands Tournament Course next year and is scheduled for October

About the Champions Tour

The Champions Tour is a tax-exempt membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older. Conceived in 1980 as the Senior PGA Tour, it started with just four events and purses

totaling \$475,000. In 2008 the Champions Tour featured 29 official events offering \$55.5 million in prize money and an average purse of \$1.92 million. The Champions Tour operates under the umbrella of the PGA TOUR, which includes the PGA TOUR, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour. The Champions Tour's primary purpose as an entity of the PGA TOUR is to provide significant competitive and earnings opportunities for players age 50 and older; to protect the integrity of the game; and to help grow the reach of the game in the U.S. and around the world. In addition to providing competitive opportunities for its membership, Champions Tour events also generate significant sums of money for charity. The commissioner of the PGA TOUR is Tim Finchem. Mike Stevens is president of the Champions Tour. The PGA TOUR is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Media Contacts:

Jane Wandmacher
Tournament Director
Administaff Small Business Classic
281-357-4653
jwandmacher@championstourgolf.com

Lee Patterson
Tournament Media Director
Administaff Small Business Classic
704-553-4790
leep@wcgolf.org

###