

**NEWS**



**Ascension**  
**CHARITY CLASSIC**

presented by **EMERSON**



**CHAMPIONS**

#1 Norwood Hills Country Club Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63121  
Media Inquires: 614.519.1873

Twitter: @AscensionCCG  
Instagram/Facebook: @AscensionCharityClassic  
Website: [www.ascensioncharityclassic.com](http://www.ascensioncharityclassic.com)

For Immediate Release  
August 1, 2023

## **Top-ranked players commit to third annual Ascension Charity Classic**

BERNHARD LANGER, ERNIE ELS AND INAUGURAL CHAMPION DAVID TOMS JOIN FIELD

*Ascension Ambassadors Justin Leonard and Billy Andrade  
set to compete in PGA TOUR Champions event at Norwood Hills Country Club*

**ST. LOUIS (August 1, 2023)** – Tournament officials announced today that three of the PGA TOUR Champions top-ranked players highlight early commitments to compete at the third annual Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson. Reigning U.S. Senior Open champion Bernhard Langer, three-time PGA TOUR Champions winner Ernie Els, and the inaugural champion of the Ascension Charity Classic David Toms join the world-class field for this year's official PGA TOUR Champions stop—September 5–10—at Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, MO.

Also set to tee it up for the Ascension Charity Classic are Ascension Ambassadors Justin Leonard and Billy Andrade.

Tickets for the 2023 Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson are on sale. The tournament is open to spectators from Thursday (September 7) to Sunday (September 10) and ticket prices start at \$20. For a complete listing of ticket options please visit the tournament website at [ascensioncharityclassic.com](http://ascensioncharityclassic.com).

**Langer**, 65, became the oldest U.S. Senior Open champion and set the record for most PGA TOUR Champions wins (46) with a two-stroke triumph over Steve Stricker last month at SentryWorld in Stevens Point, Wis. Langer's historic victory was his 12<sup>th</sup> senior major since joining PGA TOUR Champions in 2007. This will be the third start at the Ascension Charity Classic for the two-time Masters champion. His best finish was solo fourth in 2022, three strokes behind winner Pdraig Harrington. His tournament scoring average is 68.17 to go with earnings of \$164,857. Langer currently sits at No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings on strength of seven top-10 finishes over 15 events, including two victories. The Germany native was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2002 and is ranked first on the PGA TOUR Champions career money list with \$35,292,920 in earnings.

**Els**, 53, is the owner of 19 PGA TOUR titles, including four major championship victories. "The Big Easy" was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2011 and made his PGA TOUR Champions debut in January of 2020. Els claimed his first PGA TOUR Champions victory in his third start at the SAS Championship. His second title came just seven starts later at the Hoag Classic. The South African is the owner of 41 top-10 finishes over 72 PGA TOUR Champions events. Els has claimed 10 of those top-10s this season, including his third victory and second Hoag Classic title and is ranked No. 6 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. His 10-under-par 203 in last year's Ascension Charity Classic was good for a T-5 finish, his best outing at Norwood Hills.

(more)

**Toms, 56**, is in the midst of his best season on PGA TOUR Champions to date. Toms is currently ranked No. 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings and has collected five top-10 finishes, including two victories at The Galleri Classic and Cologuard Classic, both in March, making him the first two-time winner in 2023. Toms' resume includes four PGA TOUR Champions titles, with his other two victories coming at the 2018 U.S. Senior Open Championship and his 2021 playoff win at the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson. The Louisiana native finished T16 at last year's Ascension Charity Classic. His scoring average at Norwood Hills is 68.17 and he sits atop the career tournament earnings list with \$332,000. Since turning pro in 1989, Toms has recorded 13 victories on the PGA TOUR, including the 2001 PGA Championship, in addition to being a member of three U.S. Ryder Cup teams and three U.S. Presidents Cup teams.

**Leonard's** 2023 season so far includes eight top-25 finishes, with four in the top 10, over 11 starts. The 51-year-old had his best PGA TOUR Champions result in June at the American Family Insurance Championship finishing T4 after carding an opening round 62. Leonard is currently ranked No. 25 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. The Dallas native was inducted into the Texas Golf Hall of Fame in 2012 at San Antonio Country Club. This will be Leonard's second Ascension Charity Classic appearance. He finished T19 last year in his tournament debut. On the PGA TOUR, Leonard has collected 12 victories, most notably the 1997 Open Championship, in addition to being a member of five U.S. Presidents Cup teams and three U.S. Ryder Cup teams.

**Andrade** was named the recipient of the 2022 Payne Stewart Award by the PGA TOUR in recognition of character, sportsmanship, and dedication to charitable giving. The 59-year-old Rhode Island native made his PGA TOUR Champions debut in 2014 before a breakout year the following season that consisted of three wins and a fourth-place finish on the money list. With seven top-25 finishes this season, Andrade is currently ranked No. 34 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. He recorded his best finish at Norwood Hills, T29, in the 2021 inaugural tournament.

The Ascension Charity Classic will be one of the premier Regular Season events on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2023, which will give way to the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, a season-ending, three-tournament series used to determine the TOUR's season-long champion.

For more information about the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, including ticket, pro-am and hospitality availability, visit the Ascension Charity Classic website at [ascensioncharityclassic.com](https://ascensioncharityclassic.com). For the latest news and updates on social media, follow the tournament on Twitter at [@ascensioncgc](https://twitter.com/ascensioncgc), on Facebook at [facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic](https://facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic) and Instagram at [@ascensioncharityclassic](https://instagram.com/ascensioncharityclassic).

#### **About Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson**

The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson is an official event on the PGA TOUR Champions operated by Tournaments for Charity, a 501(c)3 non-profit entity. This 54-hole stroke play golf tournament features 81 PGA TOUR Champions professionals competing for a \$2 million purse at historic Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri. The event is designed to showcase the best golf on the PGA TOUR Champions for the enjoyment of spectators and to benefit local charities in the North St. Louis County area and beyond. All three official rounds will be internationally televised on the Golf Channel. For more information, visit [ascensioncharityclassic.com](https://ascensioncharityclassic.com).

#### **About PGA TOUR Champions**

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers 50 and older, including 33 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. 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 in excess of 170 countries and territories, reaching more than 340 million potential households, and distributed in 15+ markets via GOLFTV. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at [PGATOUR.com](https://PGATOUR.com), at [facebook.com/PGATOURChampions](https://facebook.com/PGATOURChampions), on Twitter [@ChampionsTour](https://twitter.com/ChampionsTour) and on Instagram [@pgatourchampions](https://instagram.com/pgatourchampions).