

2012 ACE GROUP CLASSIC MEDIA INFORMATION

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Dates: February 13-19, 2012

Course: The TwinEagles Club (Talon Course)

Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,155 **Year Opened:** 1999

Course Designers: Jack Nicklaus/Jack Nicklaus II

Where: Naples, Florida

Field: 81 players **Format:** 54-hole stroke-play event with no cut.

Charles Schwab Cup (points to winner): 240; **Purse:** \$1,600,000; **Winner's Share:** \$240,000

Television: GOLF CHANNEL; Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Sunday, 7:00-9:30 p.m. All times ET and each broadcast is tape-delayed.

A Quick Look At The 2012 Champions Tour

- This year marks the 33rdnd anniversary of the PGA TOUR's Champions Tour. The official-money schedule features 23 events, concluding with the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (October 29-November 4).
- Tom Lehman defends his Charles Schwab Cup title, as the 2012 season marks the 12th for the Schwab Cup competition, the season-long points race that has provided a strong, compelling conclusion to the golf season.
- Both Tom Lehman and John Cook won three times last year and Lehman went on to be voted as the Champions Tour Player of the Year. As a result, Lehman became the first to ever earn Player of the Year honors on all three Tours – Nationwide Tour (1991), PGA TOUR (1996).
- This year's rookie class on the Champions Tour includes: Kirk Triplett (March 29), Andrew Magee (May 22), Duffy Waldorf (August 20) and Gene Sauers (August 22).
- Defending major champions in 2012: Tom Watson (Senior PGA Championship), Tom Lehman (Regions Tradition), Russ Cochran (Senior British Open), Olin Browne (U.S. Senior Open), Fred Couples (Constellation Energy Senior Players Championship).
- The PGA TOUR and its tournaments donated more than \$118 million to charity in 2011, bringing the all-time charitable contributions total to more than \$1.8 billion.

2012 ACE Group Classic Storylines

25th Anniversary: This year marks the 25th anniversary of a Champions Tour event in Naples. In Champions Tour history, just seven other tournaments have been played 25 years or longer – Senior PGA Championship (72 years), Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf (34 years), U.S Senior Open (32 years), Constellation Energy Senior Players Championship (29 years), Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai (29 years), AT&T Championship (27 years) and the defunct Bank of America Classic (27 years). Of those events currently on the 2012 schedule, this tournament has the second longest span in one metropolitan area. Only the AT&T Championship in San Antonio has been played longer in the same city. When Gary Player won the inaugural tournament in Naples at

The Club at Pelican Bay in 1988, he edged Dave Hill by one stroke and collected \$45,000 from the \$300,000 purse.

Stellar Field On Hand In Naples: This year's field at the ACE Group Classic currently has 17 different players who have won major championships on the PGA TOUR committed to play and six members of the World Golf Hall of Fame are scheduled to appear this year.

A Return To TwinEagles: For the first time in tournament history, the ACE Group Classic will go back to a venue that previously hosted the event. The TwinEagles Club hosted the tournament from 2002-2006 and Tom Watson finished second three times at this location. Previous winners here include: Hale Irwin (2002), Vicente Fernandez (2003), Craig Stadler (2004), Mark James (2005) and Loren Roberts (2006), When Roberts won this event the last time it was held at The TwinEagles Club, he made Champions Tour history, becoming the first player to win the first three events to start a season. This venue also hosted the Office Depot Father/Son Challenge in 1999 and Jack Nicklaus and his son Gary defeated Raymond Floyd and his son Robert in a playoff.

Langer Defends ACE title, Attempts To Regain Form: Bernhard Langer will defend a title on the Champions Tour for the 13th time when he plays in Naples this year. Langer has been successful in defending one title thus far in his Champions Tour career – 2007/2008 Administrators Small Business Classic. Shortly after winning last year in Naples, Langer underwent left thumb surgery and was out of action until the summer. He has not won an event since claiming last year's ACE Group Classic title.

Charles Schwab Cup Race Now In Its 12th Year: The 2012 season will once again feature the Charles Schwab Cup race, the 12th consecutive year players will compete for the coveted crown and \$1 million annuity that is awarded to the winner. The Charles Schwab Corporation has been a sponsor on the Champions Tour since 2001 and annually awards \$2.1 million in tax-deferred annuities to the top-five finishers in the season-long point's race. Tom Lehman won the 2011 title by just 74 points over Mark Calcavecchia. Designed to recognize the Tour's leading player, all top-10 finishers earn points each week with one point awarded for each \$1,000 won. (\$270,000 = 270 points). Players are awarded double points for top-10 finishes in each of the season's five major championships and the entire field receives double points at the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

New Faces In Naples: Several former winners on the PGA TOUR are scheduled to make their first appearances in Naples as members of the Champions Tour. Among the group are: Corey Pavin (15 wins), Kenny Perry (14 wins), Brad Faxon (8 wins), Mark Brooks (7 wins), John Huston (7 wins/5 in Florida), Steve Pate (6 wins), Jim Gallagher, Jr. (5 wins) and Jim Carter (1 win).

The First Tee of Naples/Collier To Receive Proceeds: The First Tee of Naples/Collier has been designated as the official host charity for The ACE Group Classic this year and 2012 marks the fifth year for this chapter. The local First Tee chapter has been a beneficiary of the tournament since 2008 but this is the first year it will be the primary charity. Last year, the event donated over \$200,000 to charity.

Haas Still Striving To End Drought – Jay Haas is still trying to end a significant dry spell in the state of Florida. Haas has now gone 0-119 in the Sunshine State in his TOUR career

(0-19 on the Champions Tour). His best efforts on the Champions Tour were runner-up finishes at the 2007 Allianz Championship and T2s at both the 2007 and 2008 Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am near Tampa. On the PGA TOUR, Haas' best finish in Florida was a T2 at the 2003 PLAYERS Championship.

The ACE Group Classic Tournament Notes

- Germany's Bernhard Langer set a tournament record in winning last year's ACE Group Classic title. His 20-under-par total was four strokes better than Fred Funk and gave him his 14th career victory on the Champions Tour. Langer's 54-hole score bettered Jimmy Powell's total in 1992 by one. He became the 20th different tournament champion and the fourth international winner of this event.
- There have only been three playoffs in the 24-year history of this event. In 2000, Lanny Wadkins bested Tom Watson, Jose Maria Canizares and Walter Hall in overtime, becoming just the ninth player to win in his debut. In 2004 at TwinEagles, Craig Stadler made a 27-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole to nip Tom Watson and Gary Koch. The most recent playoff came in 2008 when Scott Hoch birdied the 54th hole and then the first playoff hole to defeat Tom Kite, Tom Jenkins and Brad Bryant.
- There have been just two wire-to-wire winners (no ties) in the history of this event – Lee Trevino (1990) and Allen Doyle (1999). Trevino led start-to-finish in claiming his second career title at The Club at Pelican Bay. He then followed his Naples victory up with another wire-to-wire triumph in his next start at the Vintage Chrysler Invitational near Palm Springs. It marked the last time on the Champions Tour that a player has claimed back-to-back events in wire-to-wire fashion.
- 13 of the previous 24 events in Naples have been decided by either a playoff or a single stroke. A player has come from behind in the final round to win 12 times, including six of the last 10 years. Eight of 24 first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win the Naples event.
- The winner of The ACE Group Classic has come out of the final grouping in each of the last 11 years. The last time it didn't happen was in 2000 when Lanny Wadkins needed a final-round 64 to rally from three strokes back and eventually triumphed in a playoff.
- Loren Roberts' victory in Naples in 2006 made him the first player in Champions Tour history to open a season with three consecutive victories.
- Loren Roberts has never had a score above par in Naples, a streak of 18 straight rounds. Roberts' scoring average during this run is 68.89 and has led to a pair of victories. Of those 18 rounds, 11 have been in the 60s but his lowest score a 65 (Rd. 1, 2008).
- A total of nine players have won the ACE Group Classic in their first attempt – Gary Player/1988, Lee Trevino/1990, Hale Irwin/1997, Allen Doyle/1999, Lanny Wadkins/2000, Craig Stadler/2004, Mark James/2005, Loren Roberts/2006 and Fred Couples/2010.
- Five players have won the ACE Group Classic twice, including Lee Trevino (1990-91) and Mike Hill (1993-94), who successfully defended titles in Naples. Hale Irwin also claimed

this event in 1997 and 2002. Gil Morgan won in 1998 and then again in 2001. Loren Roberts was the latest to do so, winning in 2009 after claiming his first Naples title in 2006.

- Gene Littler (1989) is the oldest winner of this event – 58 years, 7 months, 5 days. Lanny Wadkins (2000) is the tournament's youngest champion – 50 years, 2 months, 8 days.
- Allen Doyle's five-stroke, wire-to-wire victory in 1999 made him the first player to claim titles on both the Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour.
- Bobby Wadkins' 2007 victory, coupled with older brother Lanny's win in 2000 made the Wadkinses the first set of brothers to claim titles in Naples. Dave and Mike Hill also won the same tournament on the Champions Tour on two different occasions.
- There have been nine holes-in-one in tournament history, including Jim Dent's first career ace on the Champions Tour in 2004. Tom Watson also recorded his first ace as a member of the Champions Tour during the 2002 event. Denis O'Sullivan was the last to make an ace at this event when he holed out a 5-iron shot at the 12th hole at Quail West during the second round of the 2008 event.