



## BERNHARD LANGER TO DEFEND ACE GROUP CLASSIC TITLE

**NAPLES, FL (JAN. 17, 2012)** – Former World No. 1 golfer and two-time Masters champion Bernhard Langer has committed to defend his title at The ACE Group Classic, February 13 – 19. This year will mark the 25th anniversary of Champions Tour golf in Naples and a return to The TwinEagles Club for the first time since 2006.

“We’re excited to start building momentum towards our 25th anniversary with the announcement that our champion will return,” said Tournament Director Lesley Baker. “Langer is eager to recapture the success of his record-setting performance last year and we are thrilled to showcase many of golf’s greatest players in a fantastic setting at The TwinEagles Club.”

Langer’s 2011 ACE Group Classic wire-to-wire victory was nothing short of spectacular, as he posted scores of 64-66-66 to finish four shots ahead of Fred Funk and set a tournament record for lowest score (20-under par). The win was Langer’s 14th on the Champions Tour.

Shortly after his win in Naples, Langer underwent surgery on March 23 to repair an injury to his left thumb suffered during a biking accident. He was out of commission for nearly three months before returning to action in mid-June. The injury derailed his quest for four consecutive Player of the Year awards. Langer competed in 10 tournaments on the Champions Tour after recovering from injury and finished in the top-25 all but once.

From 2008-2010, Langer became the only player in history to win both the Jack Nicklaus Trophy (Player of the Year) and the Arnold Palmer Award (Money List Winner) for three straight years.

Tickets to the 2012 ACE Group Classic are on sale at [www.acegroupclassic.com](http://www.acegroupclassic.com), by phone at (239) 593-3900 or in the Naples’ PGA TOUR Superstore. Children 17 and under are admitted free all week with a ticketed adult.

**SHARE:** Bernhard Langer to Defend ACE Group Classic Title, details here: <http://bit.ly/xoUc3P>

### RESOURCES:

**PHOTOS-** <https://www.facebook.com/media/albums/?id=168458636722>

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### CONTACT:

**Lesley Baker**, The ACE Group Classic Tournament Director  
(239) 300-2231 or [lesley.baker@octagon.com](mailto:lesley.baker@octagon.com)

**Adam Harris**, Marketing & Communications Director  
(919) 531-0500 or [adam.harris@octagon.com](mailto:adam.harris@octagon.com)

**Mallory Beck**, Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
(919) 531-0400 or [mallory.beck@octagon.com](mailto:mallory.beck@octagon.com)





#### **About the ACE Group**

Celebrating 25 years of insuring progress, the ACE Group is a global leader in insurance and reinsurance serving a diverse group of clients. Headed by ACE Limited, (NYSE: ACE) a component of the S&P 500 stock index, the ACE Group conducts its business on a worldwide basis with operating subsidiaries in more than 50 countries. Additional information can be found at: [www.acegroup.com](http://www.acegroup.com).

#### **About The TwinEagles Club**

TwinEagles is conveniently located just 6 miles east of I-75 off Immokalee Road in Naples. Additional information on this premier community and club can be found at: [www.twineagles.com](http://www.twineagles.com).

#### **About Octagon Global Events**

Octagon Global Events is a division of Octagon, the world's largest sports and entertainment representation and marketing agency. Octagon Global Events focuses on premium event/property management and providing strategic corporate solutions. The division currently manages two Champions Tour events, three LPGA Tour events, and the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. For more information, visit [www.octagonglobalevents.com](http://www.octagonglobalevents.com).

#### **About The Champions Tour**

Collectively, the Champions Tour has the most recognizable and accomplished players in the game with many of its 30 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame competing regularly in its events and numerous other major championship winners among its members. The Champions Tour is a 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. Points earned in official Charles Schwab Cup events in 2012 will determine the Charles Schwab Cup champion, the season-long competition designed to recognize the Champions Tour's leading player. The Champions Tour's primary purpose 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, protect the integrity of the game and generate significant charitable and economic impact in communities in which it plays. In 2011, tournaments on all three Tours (PGA TOUR, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour) generated more than \$118 million for local charitable organizations, bringing the TOUR's all-time total of charitable contributions to more than \$1.7 billion. The Commissioner of the PGA TOUR is Tim Finchem. Mike Stevens is President of the Champions Tour. The PGA TOUR's website is [www.pgatour.com](http://www.pgatour.com), the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Follow us at Facebook.com/Champions Tour and on Twitter @ChampionsTour.

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