



# 2016 Insperity Invitational Advance Media Notes

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**Dates:** May 2 – May 8, 2016

**Course:** The Woodlands Country Club Tournament Course; The Woodlands, Texas

**Par/Yards:** 36-36—72/7,018

**Course Designers:** Bruce Devlin/Robert von Hagge (1978)

**Field:** 81 professionals

**Format:** 54-hole stroke-play event with no cut

**Purse:** \$2,100,000

**Winner's Share:** \$315,000

**Television:** Golf Channel

Friday, May 6: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. (tape-delayed)

Saturday, May 7: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. (live)

Sunday, May 8: 4 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (live)

*\*All times listed are CDT*

**The 2016 Schedule:** The Insperity Invitational is the eighth of 26 official events in 2016, a season that concludes with the Charles Schwab Cup Championship from November 10-13 at the Desert Mountain Club (Cochise Course) in Scottsdale, Ariz. The PGA TOUR Champions' primary purpose is to provide

significant competitive and earnings opportunities for players ages 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. Prize money on the Tour in 2016 is \$55,300,000 million.

**2015 Insperty Recap:** It took a 30-foot birdie putt in a playoff, but former Masters champion **Ian Woosnam** got the job done against **Tom Lehman** and **Kenny Perry** to take the title at last year's Insperty Invitational. It continued a strong stretch of play for Woosnam, who had finished as the runner-up in the TOUR's prior event, the Bass Pro Legends of Golf. Woosnam started the final round three strokes behind **Michael Allen** but birdied three of the first six holes to catch him before taking the lead on No. 13. The win marked Woosnam's first on the PGA TOUR Champions and came in his 36<sup>th</sup> career start. It also marked the first win on the PGA TOUR Champions for any player from Wales, and it made Woosnam the third-oldest first-time PGA TOUR Champions winner in history.

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## Key Storlines...

**Daly's Debut:** The biggest storyline heading into this year's event is that it marks the PGA TOUR Champions debut for **John Daly**, who turned 50 on April 28. Daly, a two-time major championship winner (1991 PGA Championship, 1995 British Open) made 10 starts on the PGA TOUR in 2014-15. He has also committed to play in the Principal Charity Classic in Des Moines, Ia., June 3-5. "It is a new chapter and learning and all," Daly said in March. "Some of the golf courses, I probably played before. Some are going to be kind of new to me, so it's going to be kind of a year of testing the waters and finding places that I'm best at shooting my game and stuff. Like I said, I'm looking forward to it and seeing some of my old buddies out there."

**Woody Austin on Top of the World:** Last week's Bass Pro Legends of Golf marked **Woody Austin's** third win in his last four starts, and with that win, he usurped **Bernhard Langer** atop the money and Charles Schwab Cup lists. Should Austin prevail at the Insperty Invitational, he would become the first player to win three consecutive starts on the PGA TOUR Champions since 2010, when **Fred Couples** won the ACE Group Classic, the Toshiba Classic and the Cap Cana Championship. Austin's first win of 2016 came in March at the Tucson Conquistadores Charity Classic, when he surpassed **Jim Carter** in the final round. After finishing T53 at the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic, he returned two weeks later to win the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in a playoff over **Wes Short, Jr.** One week later, he partnered with **Michael Allen** to beat **David Frost** and **Roger Chapman** by one stroke in the Bass Pro Legends of Golf. That gives Austin three wins in six events this year.

**Will Woosnam Defend His Title?** Since earning his first career PGA TOUR Champions victory in Houston one year ago, Woosnam has been in search of his second victory. The closest he came was at the 2015 Dick's Sporting Goods Open, when he finished in a five-way tie for third. In five events this year,

Woosnam has earned \$44,706 with his best finish a T24 at the Allianz Championship. Last year marked Woosnam's first and only appearance at Insperty.

**How the Charles Schwab Cup Race Will Work in 2016:** Starting this year, at the completion of the SAS Championship (Oct. 14-16), the leading 72 players on the money list will advance to the first Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs event. "Wildcard Weekend" at the SAS Championship allows for one player who finishes in the top 10 but finishes outside the top 72 on the season-long money list to advance to the PowerShares QQQ Championship at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, CA (Oct. 24-30), where a points system will commence. At that time, each player's current money total before the start of the PowerShares QQQ Championship will become the equivalent number of points (e.g. \$330,000 equals 330,000 points). Double points will be earned by each player competing in each of the first two Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs events and added to the existing points earned through the SAS Championship (e.g. if a player has earned \$250,000 through the SAS Championship, then earns \$132,000 – or 264,000 points – at the PowerShares QQQ Championship, his total points will be 514,000 points).

A total of 54 players will advance to the Dominion Charity Classic the following week in Richmond, VA. (Nov. 4-6) before the points are reset for the 36 players competing at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship in Scottsdale, AZ. (Nov. 7-13). The reset will be similar to the PGA TOUR's FedExCup Playoffs, which allows the leading five players the opportunity to claim the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs trophy if they win the season finale, but also mathematically allows for the 36th-ranked player to win, depending on his performance at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship and the results of the remainder of the field.

**Insperty Earns 2015 Players Award:** In December, the PGA TOUR announced that the Insperty Invitational had been designated as the 2015 recipient of the Players Award, which provides recognition for a tournament that goes above and beyond in the experience they provide to PGA TOUR Champions players.

**3M Greats of Golf Returns:** A popular Saturday tradition will return to the Insperty Invitational in 2016, as golf legends **Jack Nicklaus**, **Gary Player** and **Lee Trevino** will tee off in an exhibition match on May 7. That threesome will compete in an 18-hole scramble against two other teams composed of **David Graham**, **Tom Weiskopf** and **Tony Jacklin**, and **Hale Irwin**, **Ben Crenshaw** and **Dave Stockton**. In last year's match, Nicklaus, Player and Trevino prevailed by two strokes over **Charles Coody**, Graham and Weiskopf. The nine-player field includes seven World Golf Hall of Fame members with more than 300 PGA TOUR victories, over 50 major championship titles and more than 190 PGA TOUR Champions wins. The groups will tee off following the official field's final group on Saturday.

**Field Features 5 World Golf Hall of Famers:** In addition to the legends who will participate in the 3M Greats of Golf, this year's official tournament field for the Insperty Invitational features five World Golf Hall of Fame members: **Sandy Lyle**, **Colin Montgomerie**, **Mark O'Meara**, **Tom Kite** and **Curtis Strange**.

**Tour Welcomes Several New Faces in 2016:** In addition to **John Daly**, a number of new faces will begin to dot PGA TOUR Champions tournament fields this year as a number of long-time PGA TOUR performers turn 50. Here are the prospective members along with their 2016 birthdays: **Craig Parry** (January 12th), **Bob Estes** (February 2nd), **Jose Maria Olazabal** (February 5th), **Michael Bradley** (July 17th), **Billy Mayfair** (August 6th) and **Tim Petrovic** (August 16th). Later in the year, **Jerry Kelly** turns 50 on November 23 and will be eligible starting in 2017. Other notable players who turn 50 early in 2017 are **David Toms** (January 4th) and **Steve Stricker** (Feb. 23rd). Parry finished T38 in his debut at the Allianz Championship, while Estes and Olazabal have yet to play in 2016.

**Big-Name Winners:** A handful of PGA TOUR Champions stars have had moments to remember at the Insuperity Invitational, beginning with **Larry Nelson**, who rallied from seven strokes back to win the inaugural event in 2004.

- In 2006, **Jay Haas** shot a second-round 63 and held a five-stroke lead through 17 holes on Sunday before the final round was rained out.
- In 2007, **Bernhard Langer** earned his first Tour victory at Insuperity in only his fourth start. He successfully defended his title one year later and became the first German-born player to ever win on the PGA TOUR Champions.
- In 2010, **Fred Couples** earned a seven-stroke victory after shooting a 63 in the final round that featured an eagle and five birdies on the back nine.
- In 2012, **Fred Funk** sunk a two-foot birdie putt to defeat Tom Lehman by a stroke. He became the first player in five years to win a PGA TOUR Champions event and a PGA TOUR event on the same course.

**2015 Insuperity Notes:** **Ian Woosnam** became one of four players to earn his first PGA TOUR Champions victory at Insuperity, joining **Bernhard Langer** (2007), **Brad Faxon** (2011) and **Esteban Toledo** (2013)... For the third time in Insuperity Invitational history and for the second consecutive year, 11-under proved to be the winning score to par: **John Cook** shot 11-under 205 in 2009, and Langer shot 11-under 205 in 2014... **Joe Durant**, coming off his first career PGA TOUR Champions win at Bass Pro Legends of Golf, took the lead in the Charles Schwab Cup race after eight events following a T21 finish at Insuperity... In Round 3, three players shot bogey-free rounds: Woosnam, **Mark McNulty** and **Nick Price**.

**History of the Event:** In the winter of 2003, conversations percolated between the PGA TOUR Champions (then known as the Champions Tour), ProLinks Sports and Administaff regarding a possible tournament to be held in Houston. Approximately one year later, the Tour announced the Administaff Small Business Classic would take place October 20-24 at Augusta Pines Golf Club in Spring, TX., marking the first time in 10 years that a PGA TOUR Champions event would be held in the Houston area. In the inaugural event, **Larry Nelson** rallied from seven strokes back to defeat **Hale Irwin** for the victory. In the summer of 2005, United Healthcare signed on as a presenting sponsor. In 2007, in only his fourth start, **Bernhard Langer** earned his first PGA TOUR Champions victory in Houston. The tournament moved from Augusta Pines to The Woodlands Country Club Tournament Course in October 2008, and that year, Langer defended his title, becoming the first player in tournament history to do so. In February 2011, Administaff changed its name to Insuperity, and in May of that year, the tournament changed its name to the Insuperity Championship presented by United Healthcare. It became the Insuperity Invitational in December 2013.

## It Happened on This Date...

*Below are some previous highlights of current PGA TOUR Champions players that occurred during the week of May 2-8 in previous years.*

**5/2/92** – **Bob Gilder** shot four consecutive rounds in the 60s and rolled to a five-stroke victory over **Curtis Strange** at the Byron Nelson Classic. His 72-hole total of a 22-under-par 266 was the lowest in the tournament's 16 years at Preston Trail Golf Club.

**5/3/92** – 2012 Insperity Invitational champion **Fred Funk** tied the Shell Houston Open tournament record with a third-round 62 and then closed with a 70 to defeat **Kirk Triplett** for his first PGA TOUR victory.

**5/3/13** – **Tom Kite**, who is in this year's Insperity field, made his first career ace on the PGA TOUR Champions when he sunk a 7-iron from 194 yards in the opening round at the Insperity. It was the 17,674<sup>th</sup> hole he had played in competition.

**5/4/06** – 2006 Insperity champion **Jay Haas** competed in the Wachovia Championship, where he was joined by his sons Jay, Jr. and Bill in Charlotte. He eventually finished T22 at the event.

**5/4/80** – **Lee Trevino** (3M Greats of Golf participant) trailed **Curtis Strange** (member of this year's field) by six strokes at the start of play on Sunday. After shooting a 6-under-par 65 to tie Strange after 72 holes, Strange made birdie on the first extra hole to win the Michelob-Houston Open at The Woodlands Country Club.

**5/5/91** – **Tom Lehman** won the South Carolina Classic on the Nationwide Tour and took over the top spot on that Tour's money list, a position he would hold for the remainder of the year.

**5/5/13** – **Esteban Toledo** (in this year's Insperity field) won his first PGA TOUR Champions event when he captured the Insperity Championship in a three-man playoff with **Gene Sauers** and **Mike Goodes**. The victory also fell on Cinco de Mayo.

**5/6/01** – **Bruce Fleisher** posted three straight rounds in the 60s and won his third straight Home Depot Invitational by three strokes over **John Bland**.

**5/7/78** – **Tom Watson** and **Lee Trevino** (3M Greats of Golf participant) matched final-round 66s, but Watson held off Trevino by one stroke for his second Byron Nelson Golf Classic crown.

**5/7/95** – **Mark Calcavecchia** came from two down in the final round to capture the BellSouth Classic.

**5/8/77** – **Raymond Floyd** shot rounds of 68 and 69 on the weekend to beat **Ben Crenshaw** (3M Greats of Golf participant) by two strokes at the Byron Nelson Golf Classic in Dallas.

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