

NEWS



Ascension
CHARITY CLASSIC



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

Twitter: @AscensionCCG
Instagram/Facebook: @AscensionCharityClassic
Website: www.ascensioncharityclassic.com

For Immediate Release
August 1, 2024

Steve Flesch set to defend title at Ascension Charity Classic

MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS STEWART CINK, BERNHARD LANGER
AND RETIEF GOOSEN JOIN EARLY COMMITMENTS

Special events and fan destinations highlight exciting 2024 tournament week

ST. LOUIS (August 1, 2024) – Tournament officials announced today that the Ascension Charity Classic has accepted the commitment of four-time PGA TOUR Champions winner Steve Flesch to defend his title the week of September 3-8 at Norwood Hills Country Club.

Joining Flesch in this year's field are major championship winners Stewart Cink, Bernhard Langer and Retief Goosen for the fourth edition of the official PGA TOUR Champions stop.

Tickets for the fourth annual Ascension Charity Classic are now on sale. The tournament is open to spectators from Thursday (September 5) to Sunday (September 8) and ticket prices start at \$20. Children ages 16 and under are admitted free with a ticketed adult. For a complete listing of ticket options please visit the tournament website at ascensioncharityclassic.com.

Flesch, 57, will make his fourth Ascension Charity Classic appearance next month as he attempts to be the first player to claim back-to-back victories at Norwood Hills. His tournament scoring average is 67.89 with \$338,720 in earnings. The Ohio native is coming off his fourth consecutive season with more than 10 top-25 finishes. He has five so far in 2024 over 13 starts. Since Flesch turned professional in 1990 he has won a total of nine PGA TOUR sanctioned tournaments, one on the Korn Ferry Tour, and four each on the PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions.

Cink, 51, will make his Ascension Charity Classic debut at this year's tournament. He competed in four PGA TOUR Champions events last season after becoming eligible for the senior circuit on his birthday in May 2023. Cink finished solo third at the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship in his first start on Tour and went on to add two more top-10s and a T16 to his rookie resume. In five starts so far this season, the Alabama native has recorded four top-10 finishes, with a T3 at the Regions Tradition counted among them. Cink has won eight times on the PGA TOUR during his nearly 30-year professional career, including The Open Championship in 2009.

Langer, 66, 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 year at SentryWorld in Stevens Point, Wis. Langer's historic victory was his 12th senior major since joining PGA TOUR Champions in 2007. This will be the fourth 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. He finished T9 in 2021 and T10 last year. His tournament scoring average is 68 to go with earnings of \$212,857. This season Langer has recorded five top-25 finishes over eight events, including three top-10s. 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 \$36,327,106 in earnings.

(more)

Goosen, 55, will make his third start at the Ascension Charity Classic this year. The South African finished T40 in 2023 and his tournament scoring average is 70.83. The two-time U.S. Open Champion has collected three PGA TOUR Champions wins since joining the TOUR in 2019. Goosen grabbed his first title and first senior major in just his 12th start at the SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. He picked up his second win at the 2022 Hoag Classic and won The Galleri Classic this March, the first of his three top-10 finishes so far this season. Goosen is currently ranked No. 15 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

In 2024, Ascension Charity Classic will not only feature world-class competition, but fans will also be treated to a full slate of events and activities taking place at the tournament through Sunday's final round.

The tournament's special events begin on Tuesday, September 3, with the **Charity Putting Challenge presented by Compliance Solutions**. This special event, which is entering its third year, will team up PGA TOUR Champions professionals and amateurs in a scramble-format putting match. The teams will compete over a specially designed nine-hole miniature golf course on the main Norwood Hills putting green to benefit charities across St. Louis.

The tournament's Official Pro-Am kicks off the 2024 public events calendar at the Ascension Charity Classic on Thursday, September 5, with tee times beginning at 7 a.m. Fans will witness the fun as amateur participants play alongside the pros on the tournament course at Norwood Hills.

Thursday morning also includes the second annual **Women's Leadership Breakfast presented by Accenture**, gathering top women leaders from across St. Louis for exclusive and engaging discussions focused on celebrating inclusive growth. The breakfast will feature a keynote address, fireside chat and panel discussion.

Thursday afternoon features the fourth annual **Accenture Youth Golf Clinic** at 4:30 p.m. on the driving range at Norwood Hills Country Club. The Youth Clinic will provide a group of more than 75 young golfers the opportunity to learn and develop chipping, putting and iron skills and receive tips from a PGA TOUR Champions and local golf organization leaders. Participating youth will represent local organizations, including Diversity Golf, First Tee of Greater St. Louis, PGA REACH Gateway, and Special Olympics Missouri.

On Friday, September 6, celebrate the tournament's newest initiative, **Folds of Honor Friday presented by Compliance Solutions**. The special day recognizes the commitment and sacrifice of military service members and first responders who guard our freedoms and protect our communities. Friday begins with the start of competition at the Ascension Charity Classic and a Folds of Honor enhanced Opening Ceremony. Fans will witness a ceremonial first tee shot as well as a performance of the National Anthem and Presentation of Colors. All are encouraged to wear red, white and blue on Friday as an outward display of unity and an inward commitment to meeting sacrifice with hope for the families of America's fallen or disabled military and first responders. Additionally, official Folds of Honor ribbon pins will be proudly distributed and displayed throughout the inspirational day.

Saturday features the **Legends Charity Challenge presented by World Wide Technology**. This exhibition match will follow the final pairing of the tournament's second round (3:30 p.m. estimated start time) and will begin on Hole No. 10 at Norwood Hills Country Club. Details will be announced soon regarding the 2024 celebrity lineup, competition format and charitable impact.

Saturday will be capped off with live entertainment on the Norwood Hills Clubhouse Patio from 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Details regarding the 2024 musical act for this free concert event will be announced in the coming weeks.

Sunday is championship day at the Ascension Charity Classic, featuring the final round of tournament competition and the trophy presentation. The **Closing Ceremony** celebrates the end of a wonderful week with speeches from the winner, as well as the tournament's title sponsor, and—of course—the Ascension Charity Classic trophy being officially awarded to the tournament's fourth champion.

The Closing Ceremony and trophy presentation will be held immediately following the conclusion of the third round of competition on the 18th green.

There's something for everyone at the Ascension Charity Classic thanks to the tournament's Fan Destinations, all open to the public, ranging from enjoyable ways to view the competition—to fun for the kids—to food trucks. See below for the full list.

2024 FAN DESTINATIONS AT THE ASCENSION CHARITY CLASSIC

All Fan Destinations open at 7 a.m. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday; at 8:30 a.m. on Friday and close daily one hour after the conclusion of play

- **Fan Zone**

Located between the tee boxes on Hole Nos. 14 and 18, the Fan Zone features a family atmosphere with food trucks, expo tents, picnic tables and a jumbo screen showing tournament coverage, Cardinals games and college and NFL football. New for 2024 the Fan Zone will include a golf simulator experience with Rapsodo mobile launch monitor technology.

- **National Car Rental Public Viewing Deck**

This public area offers patrons premium views of the green at the Ascension Charity Classic's closing hole and the tournament's driving range.

- **Merchandise Shops**

Official Ascension Charity Classic apparel, merchandise, and souvenirs are available at the tournament's official Pro Shop next to the Main Entrance Gate.

- **Welcome Center presented by Missouri Division of Tourism**

Located next to the Main Entrance Gate, stop by the Welcome Center to get the 411 on all things Ascension Charity Classic.

- **ADA Viewing Area**

This special ADA-only viewing deck is located near the 18th green.

- **ADA Shuttle Stops**

With five locations available on the tournament grounds, the ADA Shuttle provides access to all the exciting PGA TOUR Champions competition to patrons who would like a ride to the action. Visit the tournament website (www.ascensioncharityclassic.com) to see available locations.

- **Public Bleachers**

Conveniently located near the green on Hole Nos. 13 and 18 with access to concessions, restrooms, and all of the exciting golf action on these two pivotal holes on the inward nine.

- **ATB Technologies Charging Station**

Keep your devices charged and ready to capture and follow the action at the ATB Technologies Charging Station conveniently located near the Fan Expo and driving range.

- **Marcone Military & First Responder Tent**

U.S. Armed Forces and veteran admission to the tournament includes access to the **Marcone Military & First Responder Tent** located on the 18th fairway at Norwood Hills, conveniently adjacent to the Fan Zone, with premium golf viewing , TVs, fans and seating.

Visit ascensioncharityclassic.com for additional information about the tournament's fan destinations, including daily hours of operation.

(more)

The Ascension Charity Classic has established a legacy of giving in St. Louis and beyond. The tournament has generated more than \$2.6 million in giving for charitable organizations since its inception in 2020.

The Ascension Charity Classic will be one of the premier Regular Season events on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2024, 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, including volunteer opportunities, Pro-Am and hospitality availability, visit the Ascension Charity Classic website at ascensioncharityclassic.com. For the latest news and updates on social media, follow the tournament on Twitter at @ascensionccg, on Facebook at facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic and Instagram at @ascensioncharityclassic.

About Ascension Charity Classic

The Ascension Charity Classic 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 78 PGA TOUR Champions professionals competing for a \$2.1 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 Golf Channel. For more information, visit 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, at facebook.com/PGATOURChampions, on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

About HNS Sports Group

HNS Sports Group is a Dublin, Ohio-based LLC founded in 2000. The company offers over 125-plus years of collective experience and is committed to providing professional, efficient and effective client representation in the categories of sponsorship consultation, event management, hospitality management, sales representation and tournament operations within the golf market. To learn more about HNS Sports Group, visit www.hnssports.com.

###