

NEWS



Ascension CHARITY CLASSIC

presented by EMERSON.



CHAMPIONS

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Top-ranked players commit to second annual Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson

STEVE STRICKER, ERNIE ELS, RETIEF GOOSEN, DARREN CLARK,
AND SCHWAB CUP LEADER STEVEN ALKER JOIN FIELD

Payne Stewart Award winner Billy Andrade and fellow Ascension Ambassador Jay Williamson set to compete in PGA TOUR Champions event at Norwood Hills Country Club

ST. LOUIS (August 31, 2022) – Tournament officials announced today that five of the PGA TOUR Champions top-ranked players have committed to compete at the second annual Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson. Steve Stricker, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Darren Clark, and Charles Schwab Cup leader Steven Alker join the world-class field for next week's official PGA TOUR Champions stop—September 6–11—at Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, MO.

Also set to tee it up for the Ascension Charity Classic is recent Payne Stewart Award winner Billy Andrade and fellow Ascension Ambassador Jay Williamson.

The list of top-10 players competing in the 2022 Ascension Charity Classic from the Charles Schwab Cup Money List has now grown to seven, featuring Alker (1), Jerry Kelly (3), Stricker (5), Stephen Ames (6), Thongchai Jaidee (7), Bernhard Langer (8), and Els (9). The field also includes previously released Ascension Ambassador and PGA TOUR Champion's rookie Justin Leonard and fan favorite John Daly.

Stricker, 55, is coming off his second win of the season at The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren. The Wisconsin native has recorded four consecutive multi-win seasons since grabbing his first senior title in 2018 at the Cologuard Classic and boasts nine career PGA TOUR Champions victories. Stricker is currently ranked No. 5 on the Schwab Cup Money List on strength of seven top-10 finishes in nine starts this season. He will be making his Ascension Charity Classic debut next week in St. Louis.

Els, 52, is the owner of 19 PGA TOUR titles, including four major championship victories. A two-time PGA TOUR Champions winner, "The Big Easy" was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2011. The South African has recorded eight top-10 finishes over 16 starts this season and is ranked No. 9 in Schwab Cup money. His 2-under-par 211 in last year's Ascension Charity Classic was good for a T-33 finish.

Goosen, 53, burst onto the PGA TOUR Champions scene in 2019 and finished the season with 12 top-10 finishes over 23 starts, including two runner-ups and his first senior title at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, resulted in the Tour's best scoring average (69.14) and Rookie of the Year honors. The South

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African is currently ranked No. 11 on the Charles Schwab Cup Money List with six top-10s over 14 starts, including his second PGA TOUR Champions victory at the Hoag Classic. Goosen's PGA TOUR resumé consists of seven wins, including two U.S. Open Championship titles. This will be his second Ascension Charity Classic start and his scoring average at Norwood Hills is 71.67.

Clarke, 54, has recorded three PGA TOUR victories, including the 2011 Open Championship, and 15 international wins. Since turning 50 in 2018 he has won four times on PGA TOUR Champions, his most recent title coming this July at The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex for his first senior major. The Northern Ireland native currently sits at No. 13 in the Charles Schwab Cup rankings. This will be his second start at the Ascension Charity Classic after a T-70 finish last year.

Alker, 51, burst onto the PGA TOUR Champions scene in August of 2021 with a T-7 finish in his inaugural senior start. He went on to record eight more top-10 finishes over 10 events last season. The New Zealand native has continued his impressive play in 2022 with 12 top-10s in 16 starts, including three wins, two runner-ups, and four third place efforts. Alker's third title was good for his first senior major at the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship. He has held the top spot in the Schwab Cup standings since his win at the Insperity Invitational in May—13 straight tournaments. This will be Alker's second start at the Ascension Charity Classic. He finished T-9 at 6-under-par last year with rounds of 71-68-68.

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 58-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 two top-10 finishes this season, Andrade is currently ranked No. 40 on the Charles Schwab Cup Money List. The Ascension Ambassador recorded a T-29 finish at Norwood Hills in his tournament debut last September.

St. Louis native Jay Williamson, 55, made his first PGA TOUR Champions start in February of 2017 after a successful PGA TOUR career that accounted for 18 top-10 finishes and nearly \$6 million in earnings. The Ascension Ambassador has also logged 86 Korn Ferry Tour starts as a professional, including 12 top-10 efforts and a victory at the 2007 Fort Smith Classic. This will be Williamson's second Ascension Charity Classic start.

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

Tickets for the tournament can be purchased at ascensioncharityclassic.com. Two types of weekly admission options are available, a Clubhouse Ticket as well as a Grounds Ticket. Daily tickets are also offered. Tickets start at \$20, and kids 16 and under can attend for free with a ticketed adult.

All three rounds of the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson will be broadcast on Golf Channel. Internationally, telecasts air in excess of 170 countries and territories, reaching more than 340 million potential households, and distributed in 15+ markets via GOLFTV.

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For more information about the Ascension Charity Classic, including ticket, 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](https://twitter.com/ascensionccg), on Facebook at 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.

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](https://twitter.com/ChampionsTour) and on Instagram [@pgatourchampions](https://instagram.com/pgatourchampions).

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