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Two-Time U.S. Open Winner Retief Goosen To Make PGA TOUR Champions Debut At Oasis Championship



BOCA RATON, Florida – Retief Goosen always had a sense of good timing. His ability to produce clutch shots at key moments helped him win a pair of U.S. Opens and earn induction into this year's World Golf Hall of Fame class. Goosen also is fortunate he turns 50 on Sunday, just in time for the South African to become eligible for the PGA TOUR Champions' first full-field event. Goosen will make his debut at next week's Oasis Championship at The Old Course at Broken Sound.

"I know I'm going to have a blast," Goosen said. "I've been thinking about playing on this tour for a long time."

The Oasis Championship also received commitments from former British Open champions Darren Clarke and Tom Lehman, who won the PGA TOUR Champions' season-opening event in Hawaii for his 12th career win on the 50-and-older circuit. Lehman won the 1996 British Open and captured the 2011 Oasis Championship at Broken Sound.

Goosen has won 33 worldwide events – seven on the PGA TOUR -- and spent more than 260 weeks in the top 100 in the world rankings from 2001-07, reaching as high as No. 3 in 2006. He played in six Presidents Cup competitions for the International Team and would have won more had he not battled chronic back problems that are a thing of the past.

Goosen is still basking in last year's announcement he would be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame the week of the U.S. Open.

"I was standing on the putting green hitting a few putts and then this number rings which I didn't recognize, but thought maybe I'd pick it up, and it was Gary Player on the phone,"

Goosen said. "It's always great hearing Gary's voice, but he sounded extremely excited, and when he told me (about making the Hall of Fame), yeah, I got very excited. We can't wait for the actual day to come around, and getting to that great place, the Hall of Fame."

Goosen, Lehman and Clarke will be joined in the Oasis Championship by two more PGA TOUR Champions newcomers, Gary Nicklaus and Ken Duke. Chris DiMarco, who won three PGA TOUR events and finished second in consecutive major championships, will also be competing in Boca Raton. DiMarco has played in six PGA TOUR Champions events since turning 50.

They all join a stellar Oasis Championship field that already includes two-time major champion John Daly, Hall of Famers Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, Mark O'Meara; Tom Kite, Larry Nelson and Ian Woosnam; former major champions David Toms, Mark Calcavecchia (the defending champion), Corey Pavin, Jeff Sluman and Hal Sutton; as well as Miguel Angel Jimenez, Jesper Parnevik and past champions Scott McCarron, Rocco Mediate, Esteban Toledo, Michael Allen and Paul Goydos.

"This is the best field the Oasis Championship has ever had," tournament director Eddie Carbone said. "The momentum is building each week. They all want to be in Boca Raton in February."

The Oasis Championship (Feb. 4-10) will be played at The Old Course at Broken Sound for the 13th consecutive year. Along with the Women's Day Pro-Am on Monday, there are Pro-Am competitions Wednesday and Thursday, with the 54-hole championship running Friday through Sunday. The 78-player field will compete for a \$1.7 million purse, with all three rounds being televised live on the Golf Channel. For more information about the Oasis Championship, visit www.oasischampionship.com.

OASIS CHAMPIONSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

8 – World Golf Hall of Fame members in the field (Retief Goosen*, Tom Kite, Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Colin Montgomerie, Larry Nelson, Mark O'Meara, Ian Woosnam.)

*--Inducted this year

15 – Former major champions in the field (Mark Calcavecchia, Darren Clarke, John Daly, Retief Goosen, Tom Lehman, Tom Kite, Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Larry Nelson, Mark O'Meara, Corey Pavin, Jeff Sluman, Hal Sutton, David Toms, Ian Woosnam)

9 – Past champions in the field (Michael Allen, Mark Calcavecchia, Paul Goydos, Tom Lehman, Bernhard Langer, Rocco Mediate, Scott McCarron, Corey Pavin, Esteban Toledo)

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About PGA TOUR Champions

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older, including 32 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. In 2019, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 27 tournaments across the United States, Japan, England and Canada, with purses totaling nearly \$58 million. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long champion. 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

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