

NEWS



Ascension
CHARITY CLASSIC



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HALL OF FAMERS JUDY RANKIN AND OZZIE SMITH TO HEADLINE 2024 LEGENDS BREAKFAST PRESENTED BY CENTENE AND MISSOURI DIVISION OF TOURISM

Fourth annual Legends fundraiser kicks off
2024 tournament events for the Ascension Charity Classic

ST. LOUIS (July 25, 2024) – The Ascension Charity Classic announced today that World Golf Hall of Fame member and LPGA legend Judy Rankin will join St. Louis Cardinals legend and Hall of Fame shortstop Ozzie Smith to headline the tournament's fourth annual Legends Breakfast presented by Centene and Missouri Division of Tourism at Norwood Hills Country Club on Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

This unique and inspiring event brings together sports legends to benefit the tournament's primary charities, including Marygrove, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis and Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

The 2024 Legends Breakfast will showcase Rankin and Smith sharing stories from their legendary careers, which include 26 LPGA Tour wins, two Player of the Year honors, three scoring titles, 13 Gold Glove Awards, three National League pennants and one World Series title.

Tickets for the Legends Breakfast can be purchased by emailing tickets@ascensioncharityclassic.com, or by calling the tournament office at 314.938.2828. Tickets are available in sets of two with a max of 10 seats per table.

Rankin is a St. Louis native who started playing golf at age 6. She won the Missouri Amateur when she was 14 years old and turned professional in 1962 at age 17. She set a LPGA season earnings record in 1976 with \$150,724, becoming the first LPGA player to exceed \$100,000 in season earnings. She was the LPGA's Rolex Player of the Year in 1976 and 1977, and won the Vare Trophy for lowest scoring average in 1973, 1976 and 1977.

Rankin's last victory came in the 1979 WUI Classic. Ongoing back problems forced Rankin to retire in 1983. She captained the United States to consecutive victories in the Solheim Cup in 1996 and 1998, and considers the latter to be the highlight of her career.

Following her remarkable career on the golf course, Rankin became a pioneer in broadcasting as arguably the most successful and respected female TV golf analyst, first for ABC Sports and then as analyst with the Golf Channel and ESPN. She retired from full-time broadcasting in 2022, but still works at events such as the Solheim Cup.

In 1999, Rankin was awarded the Patty Berg Award by the LPGA and the Richardson Award by the Golf Writers Association of America for outstanding service to the game of golf. In 2002, the USGA recognized Rankin with its most prestigious distinction, the Bob Jones Award, for distinguished sportsmanship in golf. Earlier this year, Rankin was named the 2024 recipient of the PGA Lifetime Achievement Award in Journalism, the first woman to receive the honor and only the second ex-touring professional.

(more)

Known as “The Wizard of Oz,” Ozzie Smith combined athletic ability with acrobatic skill to become one of the greatest defensive shortstops of all time. The 13-time Gold Glove Award winner redefined the position in his nearly two decades of work with the San Diego Padres and St. Louis Cardinals, setting major league records for assists, double plays and total chances.

Smith helped lead the Cards to three National League pennants and one World Series title. He retired in 1996, the same year the Cardinals retired his number. Smith was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2002.

An avid golfer and active member of the St. Louis community, Smith is the current president of PGA REACH Gateway.

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 2024 Ascension Charity Classic will be held the week of September 3-8 at Norwood Hills Country Club.

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.

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.