

NEWS



Ascension
CHARITY CLASSIC

presented by **EMERSON**



CHAMPIONS

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Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson announces 2023 Legends Charity Challenge lineup

THIRD EDITION OF EXHIBITION CONTEST FOR CHARITY FEATURES
HALL OF FAMERS HALE IRWIN, OZZIE SMITH AND CHRIS PRONGER,
PLUS CRAIG BERUBE, STEVE OTT AND ROBERT THOMAS OF ST. LOUIS BLUES

*World Golf Hall of Fame member Nancy Lopez to emcee
fan favorite celebrity event returning to Saturday of tournament week*

ST. LOUIS (August 31, 2023) – The Ascension Charity Classic announced today the return of one of the tournament’s fan-favorite events, the Legends Charity Challenge presented by World Wide Technology. For 2023, this marquee exhibition match will feature World Golf Hall of Fame member and Missouri native Hale Irwin, St. Louis Cardinals legend and Hall of Fame shortstop Ozzie Smith, and representing the St. Louis Blues, Hall of Famer Chris Pronger, Stanley Cup winning Head Coach Craig Berube, Steve Ott, and Robert Thomas.

The Legends Charity Challenge will take place on Saturday, September 9—following the final pairing of the Ascension Charity Classic’s second round (3:45 p.m. estimated start time)—and will begin on Hole No. 10 at Norwood Hills Country Club.

Two three-person teams will compete for a \$25,000 purse to benefit First Tee of Greater St. Louis and PGA REACH Gateway. The teams for this exciting competition will be announced on Wednesday, September 6.

The powerhouse group of competitors will play a 7-hole team scramble exhibition match with each hole given a dollar value that will be awarded per hole to the winning team’s charity. The team that has won the most money for its charity at the end of seven holes will be declared the winner of the 2023 Legends Charity Challenge presented by World Wide Technology.

Stepping into the Legends Charity Challenge emcee role this year will be World Golf Hall of Fame member and one of the game’s all-time greats, Nancy Lopez. Also joining the Legends Charity Challenge will be special guest and Charity Challenge Ambassador, Ron Kruszewski the chairman and CEO of Stifel.

HALE IRWIN

Irwin is one of the most accomplished PGA TOUR Champions players of all time. His 45 wins rank second on Tour, and he also holds the No. 2 position on the Tour’s career money list. The two-time Charles Schwab Cup winner recorded 20 titles on the PGA TOUR, including three U.S. Open Championship victories.

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Irwin began his prolific professional golf career in 1968. He captured his first PGA TOUR title in 1971 and the first of his three U.S. Open wins in 1974 at Winged Foot Golf Club. His impressive PGA TOUR Champions win total was the benchmark on the senior circuit for 16 years, until this July when Bernhard Langer won his 46th title.

OZZIE SMITH

Known as “The Wizard of Oz,” 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.

CHRIS PRONGER

Pronger, a five-time National Hockey League (NHL) All Star, was one of the most dominant and feared defencemen in the NHL. The former Blues captain played nine seasons in St. Louis from 1995 to 2005. He won the Hart Memorial Trophy as the NHL's most valuable player for the 1999–2000 season, becoming the first defenceman to win the award since Bobby Orr in 1971–72. Pronger appeared in the Stanley Cup Finals with three different teams (Edmonton, Anaheim and Philadelphia), winning the Cup with the Ducks in 2007. A mainstay on Team Canada, Pronger won Olympic gold medals at the 2002 and 2010 Winter Olympics and is a member of the exclusive Triple Gold Club. His uniform No. 44 was retired by the St. Louis Blues in 2022.

CRAIG BERUBE

Berube was a long-time NHL player with over 1,000 games between 1986-2004 and more than 3,000 penalty minutes (one of only three players in NHL history). Since the end of his playing career, he served as an American Hockey League (AHL) assistant coach, AHL head coach, NHL assistant coach and NHL head coach. Before joining the Blues, he served as the head coach of the AHL's Chicago Wolves. Berube became the Blues head coach in November of 2018 and guided the team from last place in the NHL to that season’s Stanley Cup champions.

STEVE OTT

Ott joined the Blues in the 2013-14 season and played 122 games with St. Louis. He signed on as an assistant coach with the Blues in the summer of 2017 and was on staff for the team’s 2019 Stanley Cup win. Ott played in 848 NHL games from 2002-17, amassing 288 points and 1,555 penalty minutes during his career on the ice.

ROBERT THOMAS

Thomas was a first-round pick of the St. Louis Blues in the 2017 NHL Draft and is currently a standout center for the team. The right-handed forward has scored 60 goals and owns 169 assists in his NHL career, all as a member of the Blues, and the Canadian was a member of the team’s 2019 Stanley Cup title.

The 2023 Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson will be held the week of September 5–10, at Norwood Hills Country Club. The tournament will be one of the premier Regular Season events on the PGA TOUR

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Champions in 2023, 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 presented by Emerson, 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, on Facebook at facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic and Instagram at @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 and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

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