

BMW Championship 2009

Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, Lemont, IL
10 - 13 September 2009



Press Information

8th September 2009

BMW Championship 2009: Golfing elite hunts Stricker and Woods.

The fight for the FedExCup comes to a head at the Cog Hill Golf & Country Club.

Lemont/USA. The world's top professional golfers are back at the Cog Hill Golf & Country Club for the BMW Championship (10th to 13th September), the third PGA Tour play-off tournament for the FedExCup. Only the 70 best-placed pros in the FedExCup rankings are invited, including defending champion Camilo Villegas (Columbia) and 2007 champion Tiger Woods (USA). At the end of the tournament, which boasts total prize money of seven million US dollars, this illustrious group will be reduced further still. Only the top 30 players progress to the finale, the Tour Championship, in two weeks. Thanks to a new points system, the successor to Tiger Woods (2007 FedExCup champion) and Vijay Singh (2008 champion) will not be decided until after the season finale in Atlanta.

After two play-off tournaments the winner of the Deutsche Bank Championship, Steve Stricker, finds himself in the best position going into the BMW Championship. Victory last weekend was not only sufficient to move him into second place in the world rankings, but also to replace Tiger Woods at the top of the FedExCup rankings. The world number one struggled to find his form early on in Boston, but recovered with an excellent final round of 63 to finish in eleventh place. Woods' best memory of Cog Hill: 2007, when he won the first BMW Championship here.

Behind Heath Slocum, the surprise winner of the first play-off tournament, The Barclays, Zach Johnson, Scott Verplank and Kenny Perry, Padraig Harrington is the best-placed European in seventh place in the FedExCup rankings. The Irishman, who won two Majors last year, has struggled with his game this year but has found his top form again just in time for the play-offs: Harrington tied for fourth place at the Deutsche Bank Championship with Masters champion Angel Cabrera from Argentina. The second non-American in the top ten of the FedExCup rankings is Australia's Geoff Ogilvy, who finished seventh in Boston to move up to eighth place in the FedExCup rankings.

"For more than 25 years, BMW has been an active member of the international golf community, hosting a variety of golf tournaments around the globe," said Jim O'Donnell, President of BMW of North America.

“We are pleased to be back at Cog Hill because this tournament is much more than just a sponsorship. It is an opportunity to be involved in something that fits perfectly into our company’s DNA. The performance and unwavering determination that is exemplified by the pros here today is something that we are equally passionate about at BMW.”

All proceeds from the BMW Championship, which will run through September 13, will once again benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation, which grants full college scholarships to deserving young caddies. Last year, those proceeds totaled \$3.3 million.

BMW is continuing its support of the Evans Scholars Foundation not only through its donation of the proceeds from the BMW Championship, but also through its internship program. Every summer, Evans Scholars have the opportunity to work for BMW and gain invaluable experience for their post-university careers. The program returned this summer with two new BMW Evans Scholars interns.

Since its founding with two Northwestern University students in 1930, the Evans Scholars Foundation – administered by the Western Golf Association – has provided over 8,900 college scholarships to golf caddies. During the 2008-09 academic year, 845 caddies attended college on Evans Scholarships. The total value of those scholarships was \$8.8 million.

Earlier this year, O’Donnell announced that BMW expanded its hole-in-one promotion so that any player achieving the first hole-in-one on any hole during the tournament, BMW will fund a four-year Evans Scholarship in honor of the accomplishment. Previously, BMW had selected one hole on the course that counted toward the scholarship win.

John Kaczowski, WGA Chief Operating Officer, expressed the Association’s appreciation for BMW’s ongoing support of the Evans Scholars Foundation. “We are grateful for BMW’s keen interest in, and strong backing of, the Evans Scholars Program,” noted Kaczowski. “Now in its third year, BMW’s internship program for Evans Scholars has been very successful for BMW and the Evans Scholars Program. Through our partnership with BMW, the championship continues to be an excellent vehicle to promote the Evans Scholars Program.”

BMW has also encouraged owners of its vehicles to attend and be a part of the BMW Championship by giving away several hundred pairs of complimentary tickets. Additionally, any owner who drives his or her BMW the BMW Championship will have priority parking and owners will be granted exclusive access to the BMW Owners’ Pavilion overlooking the 14th green by simply showing his or her BMW vehicle key.

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BMW Championship 2009: Excitement right down to the final putt. New points system for the FedExCup.

Lemont/USA. Although Camilo Villegas not only won the BMW Championship last year, but also went on to triumph at the Tour Championship, this was still not enough for the Columbian to win the FedExCup. Vijay Singh (Fiji) had already secured this title after the BMW Championship. The points system has now been revised to ensure that any of the 30 players invited to the season finale could, mathematically, still take overall victory.

This guarantees that the fight for the FedExCup crown will still be a tense affair, even after the winning putt at the BMW Championship, which takes place at the Cog Hill Golf & Country Club from 10th September: the top 70 pros on the US PGA Tour, who qualify for the four-day tournament at the par-71 Championship Course, will not only be battling to qualify for the Finale, the Tour Championship in Atlanta, but also for the chance to be crowned FedExCup champion.

The FedExCup is a season-long battle for points, with the goal to be crowned champion of the US PGA Tour. The regular season is followed by four play-off tournaments. The 125 pros with the highest points totals are invited to play at the first of these events. Thereafter, the number of players is reduced from tournament to tournament. In total, 35 million US dollars are up for grabs in the FedExCup, of which the FedExCup Champion receives ten million.

An overview of the rules:

The so-called regular season comprises 37 tournaments, played between the start of January and the middle of August. In the majority of these tournaments, points ranging from 1 (70th place) to 500 (winner) are awarded towards the FedExCup rankings. Extra points are only awarded at the top events (plus twenty percent at the Masters, Players Championship, U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship, and plus ten percent at the World Golf Championships). At all the play-off events the points are multiplied by five, meaning the winner is awarded 2,500 points.

Over the course of the play-offs, the field is gradually reduced, initially to 100 (after the Barclays), then 70 (after the Deutsche Bank Championship) and 30 (after the BMW Championship). Before the grand finale, The Tour Championship, the FedExCup points are reset. The 30 players who qualified for the final tournament are awarded a “starting capital” based on their position in the FedExCup rankings. The leader of the rankings starts the season finale with 2,500 points and the player in second place with 2,250, whilst the player in 30th place receives 210 points.

This procedure guarantees that each of the 30 players at THE TOUR Championship has a mathematical chance to win the FedExCup. The top five players have victory in their own hands: a win at the season finale would be enough to secure the FedExCup, regardless of where the other players finish.

Overview of the points, with which the 30 participants in the The Tour Championship start after the BMW Championship:

1st: 2,500 points	16th: 380 pointts
2nd: 2,250 points	17th: 360 points
3rd: 2,000 points	18th: 340 points
4th: 1,800 points	19th: 320 points
5th: 1,600 points	20th: 310 points
6th: 1,400 points	21st: 300 points
7th: 1,200 point	22nd: 290 points
8th: 1000 points	23rd: 280 points
9th: 800 points	24th: 270 points
10th: 600 points	25th: 260 points
11th: 480 points	26th: 250 points
12th: 460 points	27th: 240 points
13th: 440 points	28th: 230 points
14th: 420 points	29th: 220 points
15th: 400 points	30th: 210 points

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The tournament at a glance.

- Date:** 10th to 13th September 2009.
- Venue:** Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, Lemont, Illinois.
- Tournament Director:** John Kaczowski (Western Golf Association).
- Prize Money:** \$ 7,000,000.
- Participants:** The 70 best ranked players of the FedExCup standings.
- Hole-in-one:** A four-year scholarship to an Evans Scholar is awarded in the name of any player who scores the hole-in-one on each hole.
- Program:**
- Monday, September 7**
Professional Practice Rounds.
- Tuesday, September 8**
Professional Practice Rounds.
Chick Evans Memorial Pro-Am Pairings Party.
- Wednesday, September 9**
46th Chick Evans Memorial Pro-Am (26 groups).
Chick Evans Memorial Pro-Am Awards Dinner.
- Thursday, September 10**
BMW Championship Round I, Holes #1 and #10 (3-somes).
- Friday, September 11**
BMW Championship Round II, Holes #1 and #10 (3-somes)



Saturday, September 12

BMW Championship Round III, Hole #1 (2-somes, 35 groups).

Sunday, September 13

BMW Championship Final Round, Hole #1 (2-somes, 35 groups).

Awards Ceremony, #18 green.

For more information, please contact:

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