

BMW Championship 2007

Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, Chicago
06 - 09 September 2007

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Press Information
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Morgan Freeman swings into action at BMW Championship 2007 Oscar-winning actor stars in the Pro-Am

Chicago. Oscar-winning actor and golf devotee Morgan Freeman proved to be one of the stars at the BMW Championship 2007 Pro-Am tournament in Chicago today, joining a very competitive field of BMW invited guests and professionals for a round of golf on the Dubsdread championship course. "It was a thrill to play with Trevor Immelman and our fine team on such a truly challenging, and really great course. I shot a 92 on the practice day (on the Blue-White course at Cog Hill). But it's a very different sort of play when you're walking alongside some of the world's most outstanding players."

One of Freeman's signature roles was in the movie *Driving Miss Daisy*, for which he received his second of four Oscar nominations. At Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, he discussed sustainability with Tom Purves, Chairman and CEO of BMW (US) Holding corp. Freeman, who won the Best Supporting Oscar for his superb role in the *Million Dollar Baby*, came to golf relatively late in life, but quickly became what he describes as "a bona fide addict".

In a charming article he recently wrote in a *Newsweek Magazine*, Freeman noted: "Golf marks a major turning point for me, because I felt like I needed a change. But I never expected golf to be its own religion, a kind of spiritual journey."

Freeman loves the way golf is totally absorbing. "When you are aiming at the golf ball, it's the only thing in the universe of any importance," he observed before adding: "The bigger point here is that golf is a good metaphor for one's life ... It's something you always have to work at; you don't get perfect at golf. It's the never-ending quest for betterment."

Like anybody who has endured golf's ability to seem almost easy one day and then impossible the next, Freeman said it was encouraging to watch the top pros like Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh, Jim Furyk, all of whom are competing in the BMW Championship. "The game frustrates them in the same ways as it frustrates the rest of us," he said. Then, with a wry qualification, he added: "Lucky for them, they're not frustrated nearly as often."

After the Pro-Am, Tom Purves, Chairman and CEO of BMW (US) Holding Corp. said the event had been a great experience for all the participants. "It was exhilarating and humbling to

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play alongside some of the world's best players," said Purves, a long-standing player in his own right.

Also in the field of amateurs was 71-year-old Gary Zimmerman from Hartland, Wisconsin. Zimmerman was the winner of a unique online contest, dubbed "The Ultimate Foursome," in which BMW owners were asked to submit essays via www.bmwusa.com describing which professional player they would most like to team with and why. Selected on the basis of creativity, originality and sincerity, Zimmerman's essay won the top prize, giving him first pick in the Pro-Am draw as well as a trip for two to the BMW Championship with hotel accommodations and VIP access to tournament events.

Media Contact:

For further information please contact:

BMW Sport Communications

Nicole Stempinsky

Tel: +49 89-382 51584

Mobile: +49 151 174 177 25

Fax: +49 89-382 28017

E-Mail: Nicole.Stempinsky@bmw.de

Internet: www.bmw-golfsport.com