

## MEDIA INFORMATION

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# Charitable giving surpasses \$1 million mark and counting

## Coach Jim Brown to serve as 2009 Honorary Chairman

*Local collegians, Vaughn Snyder and Bo Hoag receive sponsor exemptions*

**Columbus, Ohio – July 1, 2009** – Based on the strength of its successful charity ticket platform, Tournament officials from the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational announced today that the event has surpassed the \$1 million mark in charitable giving. The announcement comes just one month shy of the third playing of the only Nationwide Tour stop in Ohio, scheduled for July 27 - August 2, 2009 at The Ohio State University Golf Club - Scarlet Course.

"It is our great pleasure to be in position to contribute these dollars to central Ohio charities, principally Nationwide Children's Hospital," said John Aman, president of Champions of the Community, Inc., the tournament's host organization. "We thank our corporate sponsors and golf fans in central Ohio for their support and look forward to more opportunities in the future to build on our successes and to continue to give back to the community."

The introduction of The Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational Charity Ticket Program in 2008, whereby 100 percent of all general admission ticket revenue is returned to charity, has been an integral component in the tournament's ability to increase the amount of assistance provided to participating non-profit organizations and truly make a difference in the central Ohio community.

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational Charity Ticket Program not only provides participating non-profit entities with 100 percent of the revenue from all tickets sales generated by, or designated for, their organization. It also includes an additional \$20,000 bonus pool which will be distributed at the end of the year and allow the non-profit organizations to benefit above and beyond what their own organization generates. Each of the 51 participating non-profit organizations receives customized order forms as well as an internet presence at [www.nchigolf.com](http://www.nchigolf.com). Customers purchasing tickets online, or at the gate during tournament

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week, will be required to select a charity from the available list. So far for 2009 over \$410,000 has been raised through the charity ticket program.

In related news it was announced that the Ohio State University's long-time Men's Head Golf Coach, Jim Brown, will serve as Honorary Chairman for the 2009 Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational. At the conclusion of the 2008/2009 season Coach Brown stepped down after 36 seasons at the helm of the Ohio State men's golf team. He is the longest tenured head coach in Ohio State history and the longest tenured men's golf coach in Big Ten history. Since coming to Ohio State in 1973, Brown led the Buckeyes to a league-record 17 Big Ten championships and the 1979 National Championship. He is a three-time Big Ten Coach of the Year (1995, 1996 and 2004) and received National Coach of the year honors in 1979 and 1986. Brown was inducted into the Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Ohio State Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991. A native of Martins Ferry, Ohio, Brown is a 1966 graduate of The Ohio State University where he earned letters in both golf and basketball.

"This is a great honor for me," said Coach Brown. "Especially holding this position following two of the best golfers ever to play at Ohio State in Jack Nicklaus and John Cook. I always look forward to this tournament each year because I've coached for or against many of the participants while they were in college. It's also very exciting to see players from around the world compete on Scarlet, especially former Buckeyes."

"Aside from the world class golf," continued Brown, "the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational does so many wonderful things for central Ohio charities that I'm truly humbled to be a part of giving back."

In addition, the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational announced today the first two of its six sponsor exemptions. **Vaughn Snyder** just completed his senior season at The Ohio State University where he was a tri-captain and finished second on the team with a 73.57 stroke average. He claimed three victories during the 2008/2009 season, including the Ohio State Amateur. Snyder, a native of Massillon, Ohio, was named a PING All-Region award winner by the Golf Coaches Association of America as well as the Ohio Golfer of the year by *Ohio's Golf Magazine*.

Upper Arlington native, **Bo Hoag** is coming off a successful sophomore campaign at The Ohio State University in which he led his team with a stroke average of 72.59 while playing in all 37 rounds of the season. He was also named a PING All-America Honorable Mention Selection, was a First Team All-Big Ten Selection and recorded nine top-10 finishes in 12 events. During his first year as a Buckeye Hoag was the only freshman to receive All-Big Ten honors. He recorded four top-10 finishes and was one of only two players to compete in every event.

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### **ABOUT THE NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL INVITATIONAL**

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational is owned and operated by Champions of the Community, Inc., an Ohio non-profit corporation. The event is the only tournament on the Nationwide Tour to operate as an "invitational", providing a unique platform in which the best players on the Nationwide Tour will be joined by a select number of the country's top collegian/amateur golfers in a limited field of 144 players. Featuring a purse of \$775,000 the tournament is conducted to showcase the best golf on the Nationwide Tour on one of the most challenging venues in the world for the enjoyment of spectators and to benefit charitable organizations in central Ohio. For more information, call 614-764-GOLF or visit our website at [www.nchigolf.com](http://www.nchigolf.com).

### **ABOUT NATIONWIDE**

Nationwide, based in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the largest and strongest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the U.S. and is rated A+ by A.M. Best. The company provides a full range of personalized insurance and financial services, including auto insurance, motorcycle, boat, homeowners, life insurance, farm, commercial insurance, administrative services, annuities, mortgages, mutual funds, pensions, long-term savings plans and health and productivity services. For more information, visit [www.nationwide.com](http://www.nationwide.com).

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### **ABOUT THE NATIONWIDE TOUR**

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Nationwide Tour identifies those players who are ready to compete and win on golf's biggest stage. As the official proving ground of the PGA TOUR, two out of three PGA TOUR members are Nationwide Tour alumni. As of June 22, 2009, Tour alumni have won 249 PGA TOUR titles, including 12 majors and three PLAYERS Championships. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards and total prize money of \$18.5 million will be at stake over the course of 29 events in 2009. The PGA TOUR, through the efforts of its three tours and their tournaments, sponsors, players and volunteers, supports over 2,000 local charities and has surpassed \$1.3 billion in charitable giving. To learn more about the PGA TOUR and Nationwide Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit [www.PGATOUR.COM](http://www.PGATOUR.COM).

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### **ABOUT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT**

The Ohio State University Department of Athletics is completely self supporting and receives no university monies, tax dollars or student fees. The Department of Athletics sponsors 36 fully funded varsity teams – 17 for women, 16 for men and three that are co-educational – and is committed to providing the very finest in academic and athletics support in an effort to provide its more than 1,000 student-athletes with a quality, life-changing experience at Ohio State.