

# MEDIA INFORMATION

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## Nationwide extends sponsorship through 2012

**Columbus, Ohio – July 25, 2009** – Nationwide, The Ohio State University, the PGA TOUR and Nationwide Children's Hospital announced today that the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational will be played through 2012 at The Ohio State University Golf Club - Scarlet Course. This year the event is scheduled for July 27 - August 2, 2009.

"We are excited to renew our partnership with The Ohio State University, PGA TOUR and Nationwide Children's Hospital," said James Lyski, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Champions of the Community, Inc. and Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Nationwide. "The event has grown tremendously in its first three years and we are thrilled to invite the community to join us through 2012 for this premier stop on the Nationwide Tour. This event is another great example of our ongoing partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital and a wonderful opportunity for Central Ohio sports fans to see some of the best and brightest young PGA TOUR stars in action."

Renovated in May of 2006 under the direction of Jack Nicklaus, The Ohio State University Golf Club - Scarlet Course has quickly become a favorite stop on the Nationwide Tour and is rated as the top collegiate golf course in the country by Golf Digest.

"We are proud to represent the collegiate community and host the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational through 2012," said Eugene Smith, Director of Athletics at The Ohio State University. "We are equally proud to continue our association with Nationwide, the PGA TOUR and Nationwide Children's Hospital. They have always been incredible supporters of the University and we are eager to help maintain the growth of this premier event on that strong foundation."

(more)

The event's primary beneficiary, Nationwide Children's Hospital, was founded in 1892 as a local charity to serve a dozen very ill children. Today, that tiny community-funded mission has matured into the fifth largest Children's Hospital in the country, with the Nation's largest neonatal network. Children's also has a century-long tradition with The Ohio State University as home to the College of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics. Children's and the University work together to advance education, research and clinical care for the benefit of those they serve.

"Nationwide's commitment to Children's Hospital and our patients and families is remarkable. This community's generosity helps make everything we do at Nationwide Children's Hospital possible," said Children's Chief Executive Officer, Steve Allen, MD. "Nationwide Foundation's gift will help build a new main hospital and expand programs in pediatric healthcare and research. The Tournament's support of our cancer program over the past two years has changed lives and will continue to do so years to come."

"The Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational in Nationwide's hometown of Columbus, Ohio has been a fantastic addition to the Nationwide Tour schedule," said Nationwide Tour president Bill Calfee. "Nationwide, Ohio State University, Nationwide Children's Hospital and the PGA TOUR have formed a very strong foursome. Golf fans of Columbus, who are no strangers to great golf, will continue to witness the superb talent of the Nationwide Tour players as they strive to transition to the PGA TOUR. The players love coming to Columbus and playing the Scarlet Course, one of the toughest tests they face all year."

#### **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 world and is rated A+ by A.M. Best. Nationwide ranks #124 on the Fortune 500 list. The company provides a full range of 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).

*Nationwide, Nationwide Insurance, the Nationwide Framemark, Life Comes at You Fast, On Your Side, of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.*

### **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 July 20<sup>th</sup>, Tour alumni have won 252 PGA TOUR titles, including 13 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. Recognizing the Tour's growing stature, Nationwide Insurance has renewed its umbrella sponsorship of the Nationwide Tour through 2012. 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 PGATOUR.COM.

### **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.

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