



PGA

FACT SHEET

**THE 42nd PGA PROFESSIONAL
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**



PGA
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP

Presenting sponsors: Titleist, FootJoy & Cobra; Club Car

Dates: June 28 - July 1

Site: Twin Warriors Golf Club and Santa Ana Golf Club—Santa Ana Pueblo, N.M.

Exclusive Media Partner: *Golf Channel*

Supporting Sponsor: *The PGA Tour*

Defending Champion: Scott Hebert, Traverse City, Mich.

Prize Money and Awards. The 2009 PGA Professional National Championship features a \$550,000 purse. The 2009 Champion's name will be inscribed on the Walter Hagen Cup, which is enshrined at The PGA Historical Center in Port St. Lucie, Fla. The 2009 PGA Professional National Champion receives exemptions for the following:

- 2009 PGA Championship
- 2009 PGA Cup
- Six PGA Tour events over a 12-month period

The Walter Hagen Cup. Presented to the PGA Professional National Champion, the Walter Hagen Cup is named after the legendary golfer, five-time PGA Champion and one of the 35 original founders of The PGA of America. Hagen elevated the role of the PGA Professional throughout his career. The Haig's inspirational career is reflected in today's PGA Professionals competing in the national championship – displaying playing skills under a national spotlight while also serving their respective clubs and golf communities as managers, merchandisers and respected teachers of the game. The PGA Professional National Champion receives a replica of the crystal Walter Hagen Cup, which stands 14½ inches high, 12 inches wide and weighs 17½ pounds.

Method of Play. Stroke play, four rounds, 18 holes daily on two courses. The entire field of 312 will compete on each course at least once in the first two rounds. Following the first 36 holes of play, the field will be reduced to the low 70 scorers and those tied for 70th place. Those players will compete in the final two rounds at Great Waters. In the event of a tie for first place upon completion of play, there will be a sudden-death playoff.

Eligibility. The field of 312 will be limited to those PGA members who are eligibly employed as golf professionals and in certain pre-established membership classifications as of May 14, 2008. The PGA of America reserves the right to determine whether or not any applicant is so employed and to reject any applicant who does not meet the requirements. No player will be eligible if he or she has played in more than 10 combined PGA Tour, Champions Tour, Nationwide Tour, LPGA, PGA European Tour, Canadian Tour, Australia/New Zealand Tour, JPGA Tour, The Sunshine Tour (South Africa), The Asian Tour, The Safari Tour, The PGA Challenge Tour, National Senior Tour, European Seniors Tour, JPGA Senior Tour, WPGT, JLPGA, Grey Goose Gateway Tour, Hooter's Tour, and SBC Futures Tour events between May 12, 2007 and May 13, 2008. (The U.S. Open, U.S. Senior Open, PGA Championship and Senior PGA Championship are not included in the 10-tournament count). The TaylorMade-adidas Golf PGA Assistant Professional Champion will be exempt into the Championship, provided that he or she is eligibly employed or in an eligible PGA classification at the time of entry into the PGA Professional National Championship.

Rules and Regulations. The Rules of Golf, which govern play, are determined by the United States Golf Association and applied by The PGA of America Rules Committee.

For information contact:
Bob Denney, 561-624-8582 or



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History

The PGA Professional's Showcase. The PGA Professional National Championship began in 1968 to provide additional playing opportunities for PGA Professionals. In more than three decades, it has become a showcase event for PGA Professionals, featuring some of the finest players in the Association. Formerly a 360-player field, the format of The PGA Professional National Championship was conducted over three courses and after the golf season had ended across much of the country.

In 1997, the Championship evolved to a live Golf Channel-covered event that featured 156 players at the peak of their games. That same year, The PGA Professional National Championship created Section PGA Professional National Championships, four Regional PGA Professional National Championships, and moved its National Championship date to late June, or a month prior to the PGA Championship. In 2006, The PGA Professional National Championship again changed, removing the Regional Championships and concentrating on 41 Section Championships to form the bulk of a 312-player field that competes on two courses in the National Championship. There is an overall purse of more than \$1.5 million that is awarded in Section and National Championships.

The PGA Professional National Championship has been conducted in 14 states in the previous 41 years: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina and Wisconsin. The list of Champions over the past 39 years includes Sam Snead, Bob Rosburg, Ed Dougherty, Bruce Fleisher and the late Larry Gilbert – the only three-time Champion. Former Tour professionals Rex Baxter Jr., Don Massengale, Laurie Hammer, Larry Webb, Bob Boyd and Brett Upper also have won The National Championship.

In 1997, The 30th PGA Professional National Championship was the first to be televised live by The Golf Channel to millions of viewers in this country, Japan and the Philippines. The PGA Professional National Championship has a potential audience of more than 85 million via The Golf Channel in Canada and the United States.



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Champions through the Years

Year	Champion	Score	Runners-up	Site
1968	Howell Fraser	272	Chuck Malchaski, Bob Rosburg	Century & Roadrunner, Scottsdale, Ariz.
1969	Bob Rosburg	275	Jimmy Wright	Roadrunner & San Marcos, Chandler, Ariz.
1970	Rex Baxter	285	Ernie George, Bob Duden	Sunol Valley CC, Sunol, Calif.
1971	Sam Snead	275	Jerry Steelsmith, Ron Letellier	Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort & CC
1972	Don Massengale	280	Bob Bruno	Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort & CC
1973	Rives McBee	282	Stan Brian	Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort & CC
1974	Roger Watson	284*	Sam Snead	Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort & CC
1975	Roger Watson	279*	David Jimenez	Callaway Gardens Resort, Pine Mountain, Ga.
1976	Bob Galloway	280	George Lanning, Larry Gilbert, Jim Ferriell	Callaway Gardens Resort Pine Mountain, Ga.
1977	Laurie Hammer	282	Steve Benson	Callaway Gardens Resort, Pine Mountain, Ga.
1978	John Gentile	276*	Jim Ferree	Callaway Gardens Resort, Pine Mountain, Ga.
1979	Buddy Whitten	278*	Jack Lewis	Callaway Gardens Resort, Pine Mountain, Ga.
1980	John Traub	283	Jim Albus	PGA National GC, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
1981	Larry Gilbert	285*	Don Padgett II	PGA National GC, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
1982	Larry Gilbert	284	Steve Benson	PGA National GC, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
1983	Larry Webb	283	Bob Ford	La Quinta/Mission Hills, La Quinta, Calif.
1984	Bill Schumaker	284*	Gary Ostrega	PGA National GC, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
1985	Ed Dougherty	277	Jim White	La Quinta/Mission Hills, La Quinta, Calif.
1986	Bob Lenzion	284	Bob Betley	PGA West, La Quinta Mission Hills, La Quinta, Calif.
1987	Jay Lumpkin	279	Jeff Roth, Bob Menne, Gibby Gilbert	PGA West, La Quinta/Mission Hills, La Quinta, Calif.
1988	Bob Boyd	287*	Rick Morton	Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort & CC
1989	Bruce Fleisher	277	Jeff Thomsen	PGA West, LaQuinta/Mission Hills, La Quinta, Calif.
1990	Brett Upper	275	Gibby Gilbert, Larry Gilbert	PGA West, La Quinta/Mission Hills, La Quinta, Calif.
1991	Larry Gilbert	267	Gene Fieger, Ron McDougal	Doral Resort & CC, Miami, Fla.
1992	Ron McDougal	273	Sammy Rachels	PGA West, La Quinta/Mission Hills, La Quinta, Calif.
1993	Jeff Roth	275	John Lee	PGA National GC, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
1994	Sammy Rachels	284*	Darrell Kestner, Ron McDougal	Marriott's Tan-Tar-A Resort, Oaks Course, Osage Beach, Mo., North Port National GC, Lake Ozark, Mo., The Lodge of the Four Seasons, Jones Course, Osage Beach, Mo.
1995	Steve Schneiter	278	John DeForest, Bob Ford	PGA West, La Quinta/Mission Hills, La Quinta, Calif.
1996	Darrell Kestner	271	Dan Bateman	PGA West, La Quinta/Mission Hills, Nicklaus Private, Palmer Private, Weiskopf Private, La Quinta, Calif.
1997	Bruce Zabriski	281	Steve Schneiter, Jay Overton, Mike Burke Jr.	Pinehurst No. 8 (N.C.) Resort & CC
1998	Mike Burke Jr.	281	Bob Gaus	Pinehurst No. 8 (N.C.) Resort & CC
1999	Jeff Freeman	287	Milan Swilor, Christopher Toulson, Brett Upper	Whistling Straits, Kohler, Wis.
2000	Tim Thelen	214*#	Mark Brown	Oak Tree Golf Club, Edmond, Okla.
2001	Wayne DeFrancesco	278	John Aber, Don Berry, Mark Brown, Tim Thelen	Crosswater Club, Sunriver (Ore.) Resort
2002	Barry Evans	281	Mike Gilmore	Valhalla Golf Club, Louisville, Ky.
2003	Tim Thelen	282	Steve Schneiter	Santa Ana Pueblo, N.M.
2004	Bob Sowards	276	Mike Small	Longaberger Golf Club, Nashport, Ohio
2005	Mike Small	289	Travis Long	The Ocean Course, Kiawah Island, S.C.
2006	Ron Philo Jr.	278*	Alan Schulte	Turning Stone Resort & Casino, Verona, N.Y.
2007	Chip Sullivan	281	Mike Small, Ryan Benzel	Sunriver Resort, Sunriver, Ore.
2008	Scott Hebert	276	Sonny Skinner	Reynolds Plantation, Greensboro, Ga.

* Won via playoff

Championship shortened to 54 holes due to inclement weather



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2008 PGA PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Summary

LAKE OCONEE, Ga. - Scott Hebert of Traverse City, Mich., where the legendary Walter Hagen spent his final years, capped a 41st PGA Professional National Championship with a back-nine charge that the Haig would have applauded.

The 39-year-old Hebert, a PGA head professional at Grand Traverse Resort & Spa in Acme, Mich., rallied from a three-stroke deficit with birdies on five of his first seven holes of the back nine. It was the momentum he needed for a closing 4-under-par 68 and a one-stroke victory over Sonny Skinner of Sylvester, Ga., in the showcase event for PGA Professionals.

Hebert, who had endured a personal drama a week earlier with the premature birth of his daughter, was noticeably calm and composed as he crafted a memorable final round for a winning total of 12-under-par 276 on the 7,043-yard Great Waters layout.

Skinner, 47, a cool veteran who had some 300 tour events under his belt before assuming the PGA director of golf post at River Pointe Golf Club in Albany, Ga., finished with a 69. He saw his potential tying birdie putt run past on the 18th hole.

Hebert, who had pitched from 30 yards behind the green to eight feet past the flagstick, lagged to tap-in range for the victory, making him the fourth Michigan PGA Section member to win this National Championship.

Kyle Flinton of Oklahoma City, Okla., who shared the third-round lead, came home with a 72 to finished third at 280. Ryan Benzel of Bothell, Wash., who tied for runner-up last year, had a 67 to share fourth with two-time Champion Tim Thelen of College Station, Texas, who closed with a 69.

Hebert picked up the Walter Hagen Cup for his work and a check of \$75,000 from a total purse of \$550,000. He will be leading a delegation of 20 PGA Professionals to the 90th PGA Championship, Aug. 7-10, at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township, Mich.

"This means everything to me, and it's the greatest thing that I've ever won," said Hebert. "To play there [his home state] will be extra special. That atmosphere is going to be incredible and fun to be around."

Hebert said that he took a long look at the crystal, the Walter Hagen Cup, which he hoisted after the round and realizing that his name will be connected to the big prize.

"That's special," he said. "The name Walter Hagen and what he has done with The PGA and for golf. . . The guy is a legend, so to have your name on it means a lot."

The final round appeared to be in the steady hands of Skinner, who had built a two-stroke lead over Flinton and by three over Hebert after nine holes. But, it was all Hebert's show after that. He birdied the 10, 11 and 12, then birdied the par-4 15th and added a 20-footer on 16 for insurance. Hebert needed 30 putts, hit 15 greens and had the right tempo for the final nine of what appeared to be a putting exhibition.

Yet, the duel wasn't over until the par-5 final hole, where spectators mounted hills and some were perched in their water craft to watch the final moments.

Skinner had set up the closing dramatics by trimming the deficit to a stroke with an eight-foot birdie on the par-3 17th hole. He then hit his tee shot on the 18th tee just into the first cut of rough on the right side of the fairway. His ensuing approach landed 15 yards to the right of the green. Hebert's approach landed safely behind and above right of the green.

Skinner watched Hebert's pitch and then stepped up and hit a soft pitch that caught the fringe of the green and left him with a 20-foot birdie try.

"I knew that Scott was going to get to the green easily, and I wanted to put a little pressure on him by getting my ball as close to the green as I could," said Skinner. "Somehow I missed that little chip. I did make a good run at that last putt, and wished I could have putted like that earlier in the round."

Hebert graciously praised his opponent.

"Sonny is a terrific golfer and a tremendous gentleman," said Hebert. "He could easily have been standing here instead of me, but that's golf."