

the Memorial  Tournament

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Morgan Stanley



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Media Contact: Tom Sprouse
5760 Memorial Drive • Dublin, OH 43017
(Ph) 614.889.6791 • (F) 614.889.6026
E-mail: tsprouse@thememorialtournament.com

2008 MASTERS CHAMPION TREVOR IMMELMAN COMMITS

K.J. Choi to defend Memorial Tournament victory

Tournament field strengthened by exemptions for Ohio natives Bob Sowards and Travis Perkins

Dublin, OH - April 17, 2008 - The Memorial Tournament presented by Morgan Stanley announced today that Masters Champion Trevor Immelman will compete in the 33rd Memorial Tournament May 26-June 1 at Muirfield Village Golf Club. Also committing to the 2008 Memorial are 2007 winner K.J. Choi, while Ohio natives Bob Sowards and Travis Perkins received exemptions into the tournament that legend Jack Nicklaus founded and hosts.

On strength of two top-10 finishes in nine events, including his second career PGA TOUR victory and first major championship at the 2008 Masters Tournament, **Immelman** is ranked ninth in the World and PGA TOUR money lists with more than \$1.5 million. He is ranked 13th on the 2008 FedExCup points list and has moved up to No. 15 in the world rankings. Immelman was the 2006 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year and a member of the International Team in the 2005 and 2007 Presidents Cup. Immelman has competed in the Memorial Tournament presented by Morgan Stanley six of the past seven years, with a tie for seventh in 2006 his best showing.

In 2007, **Choi** enjoyed the best season of his thirteen-year professional career. He collected more than \$4.5 million in earnings and finished fifth on the 2007 FedExCup points list by way of seven top-10 finishes, including victories at the Memorial Tournament and AT&T National. Choi followed up his career year with a victory at the 2008 Sony Open in Hawaii, giving him at least one PGA TOUR win in each of his past four seasons. He is ranked fifth on the 2008 FedExCup points list and sixth in the World and PGA TOUR money lists and world golf rankings. Choi has posted three top-10s in eight Memorial Tournament appearances.

Sowards, a former assistant professional at Muirfield Village Golf Club, is a rookie on the PGA TOUR after earning his card via a tie for 23rd in the 2007 PGA TOUR National Qualifying Tournament. "I'm really honored to receive this exemption," said Sowards. "It's so special to have an opportunity to play in Mr.

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Nicklaus' tournament and tee it up against the best in the world on one of my favorite golf courses." Sowards was the PGA Club Professional Player of the year from 2003-05 and won the 2004 PGA Professional National Championship. This is Sowards' second exemption into the Memorial Tournament; he competed in the 2005 Memorial and finished 79th.

At the 2007 PGA TOUR National Qualifying Tournament, **Perkins**, a native of Springfield, Ohio, made it through all three stages and finished tied for ninth at the final to earn full exemption onto the PGA TOUR for the 2008 season. "This exemption for the Memorial Tournament is a dream come true," said Perkins, a graduate of Olentangy High School 12 miles northeast of Muirfield Village. "It feels great to be able to come home and play in a tournament that has meant so much to me over the years. Even as a fan, just being at the Memorial is an experience that sticks with you forever."

In related news, three-time Memorial Tournament winner and current World No. 1 Tiger Woods announced on his website Tuesday (4/15) that he will miss four to six weeks of tournament play "in recovery and rehabilitation" following arthroscopic knee surgery.

"The Memorial wishes Tiger a complete and speedy recovery," said Executive Director, Dan Sullivan. "We hope that all goes well with his rehabilitation and Tiger is able to return to competitive golf during the week of May 26th – June 1st.

Events of note early in the week at the 2008 Memorial Tournament presented by Morgan Stanley will include Military Appreciation Day on Tuesday. The Opening Ceremonies are scheduled for 3 p.m. EDT, where 2008 Memorial Tournament Honorees Tony Jacklin, Ralph Guldahl, Charles Blair MacDonal and Craig Wood and 2008 Journalism Honoree Ken Bowden will be recognized. Tuesday will conclude with the Jack Nicklaus Clinic at 4:30 p.m. located on the main driving range. The Morgan Stanley Pro-Am Invitational begins at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, featuring 18 PGA TOUR professionals (14 of the top-25 from the 2007 PGA TOUR money list, and four special TOUR invites) and 54 amateurs. Later Wednesday, at 5:30 p.m. the Memorial Tournament will host the Junior Golf Clinic, located at Safari Golf Club.

The Memorial Tournament presented by Morgan Stanley is held annually at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus. The tournament founded and hosted by Jack Nicklaus is conducted each year with three goals in mind: to honor the memory of individuals living and deceased who have distinguished themselves in the game of golf; to showcase the world's best golfers competing 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 614-889-6700 or visit www.thememorialtournament.com.