30TH SENIOR PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
presented by Golf Advisor

October 25–28, 2018
PGA Golf Club
Port St. Lucie, Florida
FACTS & FORMAT

Purse and Honors A purse of $300,000 will be distributed to the field of 264 competitors. The 2018 Senior PGA Professional Champion will receive $21,500.

Exemptions The top 35 finishers will earn a berth in the 2019 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York. The top eight finishers, including ties, will be exempted into the 2019 Senior PGA Professional Championship.

Method of Play Stroke play, 18 holes daily. Following the first 36 holes of play, the field will be reduced to the 70 players having the lowest scores and those tied for 70th place. These players will then compete in the final two rounds. In the event of a tie for first place upon completion of 72 holes, there will be a hole-by-hole playoff.

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. PGA Professionals at least 50 years of age, as of the Championship, may attempt to qualify through one of the 41 PGA Sections.

Championship History What began as an idea in early 1989 became reality in December of the same year when 144 players teed off in the inaugural Senior PGA Professional Championship at PGA National Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. The Championship was built from the same mold as the “regular” PGA Professional Championship. Since 2000, the low 35 scorers receive an automatic invitation to compete in the following year’s KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship.

Newly-titled in 2016, the Senior PGA Professional Championship is one of the Association’s more popular national member events. Since its debut, the participants have included several players who have gone on to outstanding Tour careers, including Jim Albus (runner-up in 1990) and Tom Wargo (runner-up in 1992).

From 1993 to 2000, the Senior PGA Professional Championship was played at Ibis Golf & Country Club’s Legend Course in West Palm Beach, Florida. In 2001, the Championship shifted north to PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Also in 2001, the PGA Board of Directors approved an expanded national field of 264 competitors who compete on two courses at PGA Golf Club.

THE LEO FRASER TROPHY

The Senior PGA Professional Champion will have his name inscribed on the Leo Fraser Trophy, named in honor of the 16th president of the PGA of America, a member of the Philadelphia PGA Section, who served as PGA President from 1969-70.

Fraser, who died in 1986, three years before the Championship debuted, was one of the most energetic leaders in the Association. A licensed pilot, Fraser traveled nationwide to meet PGA Professionals in an effort to advance many programs to benefit his fellow members.

The crystal spire trophy named in his honor measures 16 inches high and weighs 5 pounds.
### SENIOR PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### YEAR | CHAMPION | SCORE | RUNNER-UP (S) | SITE
---|---|---|---|---
Inaugural 1989 | Stan Thirsk\# | 286 | Bob Reith | PGA National Golf Club, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
2nd 1990 | Tom Joyce | 278 | Jim Albus | Ballenisles Country Club, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
3rd 1991 | Tom Joyce | 281 | Mike Joyce | Ballenisles Country Club, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
4th 1992 | Roger Kennedy | 278 | Tom Wargo | Ballenisles Country Club, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
5th 1993 | Bob Carson | 277 | Tom Joyce | Ibis Golf & Country Club, West Palm Beach, Fla.
7th 1995 | Bob Irving* | 209 | Randy Glover | Ibis Golf & Country Club, West Palm Beach, Fla.
8th 1996 | John Brott | 279 | Tom Joyce | Ibis Golf & Country Club, West Palm Beach, Fla.
9th 1997 | Ed Everett# | 283 | Joe Huber, Billy King | Ibis Golf & Country Club, West Palm Beach, Fla.
13th 2001 | Ed Sabo | 275 | John Traub, Jay Overton | PGA Golf Club (South Course) Port St. Lucie, Fla.
14th 2002 | Mike San Filippo# | 280 | Bob Ralston | PGA Golf Club (North & South Courses) Port St. Lucie, Fla.
15th 2003 | Jeff Thomsen# | 282 | Jon Fiedler | PGA Golf Club (North & South Courses) Port St. Lucie, Fla.
16th 2004 | Jim White | 274 | Bob Ford | PGA Golf Club (North & South Courses) Port St. Lucie, Fla.
17th 2005 | Mike San Filippo*** | 280 | Darrell Kestner | PGA Golf Club (South and Dye Courses) Port St. Lucie, Fla.
18th 2006 | Jeff Coston#** | 271 | Chris Starkjohann, John Mazzu | PGA Golf Club (Ryder & Wanamaker Courses) Port St. Lucie, Fla.
19th 2007 | Bill Loeffler | 276 | David Lundstrom | PGA Golf Club (Ryder & Wanamaker Courses) Port St. Lucie, Fla.
21st 2009 | Bill Britton | 270 | Perry Arthur | PGA Golf Club (Wanamaker and Dye Courses)
25th 2013 | Gene Fieger | 275 | Don Berry | PGA Golf Club, Port St. Lucie, Fla.
26th 2014 | Frank Esposito Jr. | 272 | Steve Schneiter, Rick Schuller, James Maso | PGA Golf Club, Port St. Lucie, Fla.
28th 2016 | Steve Schneiter | 275 | Rick Schuller | PGA Golf Club, Port St. Lucie, Fla.
29th 2017 | Frank Esposito Jr. | 276 | Jim Schuman | Desert Mountain, Scottsdale, Ariz.

#Won sudden-death playoff *Rain-shortened to 54 holes **72-hole record ***Won on second playoff hole
## Rescheduled from Oct. 2013

### 2018 CHAMPIONSHIP HOST SITE

**PGA Golf Club – Port St. Lucie, Florida**

The world’s first Audubon Sustainable Golf Facility, PGA Golf Club serves as the winter home to PGA Professionals, with 54 holes of Championship golf by architects Tom Fazio and Pete Dye. There also is a six-hole Short Course designed for families and beginners. The facility renovated its Tom Fazio courses in 2006, renaming the North and South Courses as the Ryder and Wanamaker Courses, respectively. The Dye Course completed a restoration project by its namesake in 2007.

Extensive advancements to the entire facility have also been made in recent years. In October 2015, a contemporary 20,000-square-foot clubhouse, designed by Tom Hoch, was opened. The new clubhouse features elements of style throughout the building to reflect the PGA of America’s rich history. As a result, the PGA has relocated significant artifacts that trace its first 100 years to the new “PGA Gallery” area of the PGA Golf Club Clubhouse. Among the new clubhouse features: The Taplow Pub; Captain’s Room; the Nineteen-Sixteen Bar & Grille; President’s Board Room; Wanamaker Pavilion and expanded locker rooms.

**The Wanamaker Course**

Designed by Tom Fazio and opened for play in 1996, the Wanamaker Course is the first golf course named in honor of department store magnate Rodman Wanamaker, whose vision in 1916 to organize a national association of golf professionals inspired the birth of the PGA of America. A classic Florida layout, the Wanamaker Course is set against a backdrop of wetlands, palm trees and palmettos, and is considered one of Florida’s most beautiful courses. Among recent upgrades, the Wanamaker Course now features a hybrid Bermuda, with some common Bermuda genes; bunker faces are filled with Empire zoysia, which has outstanding density; and the bridges at the Nos. 3 and 16 tees were rebuilt.
When you arrive at Desert Mountain, you know you're in for a real test. Jack Nicklaus designed these courses framed by the Sonoran Desert and he left more than a few Golden Bear footprints.

Frank Esposito Jr. understood all that and left an imprint of his own Sunday to collect his second national title in four years. The 54-year-old PGA Teaching Professional at Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township, New Jersey, posted a 4-under-par 68, capped by chipping in for eagle from in front of the 18th green, to win the 29th Senior PGA Professional Championship presented by Mercedes-Benz.

“My father congratulated me for the win,” said Esposito. “I called back to tell him, ‘It’s not over yet.’ What are you trying to do, jinx me?’

“My dad is a nervous Nellie, and such a big fan. He introduced me to the game and is my inspiration. I did it for him today and I texted him as soon as I finished. I had the nerves going from the first tee to the 18th tee and knowing all the shots you had to hit. But I also had a calming feeling knowing he was on my side. It’s pretty neat.”

Esposito finished with a 72-hole total of 12-under-par 276, good for a five-stroke triumph and became the sixth player in event history to win multiple titles.

How good was Esposito’s focus? Just go back 24 hours when he turned on his cell phone after clinging to a one-stroke lead after 54 holes. One of his phone messages was from his biggest fan – his father, Frank Esposito Sr.

He left no doubt that he would power his way to the finish by making a 40-foot birdie putt on No. 11; then hit 7-iron to the fringe on the 504-yard No. 12 hole and chipped to five feet and made that birdie putt. His lone bogey came at No. 16, when he mishit an approach over the green from an awkward angle.

The first time he knew where he stood on the scoreboard was when a PGA Rules official alerted him on the 18th fairway. “I found out I was up by four,” said Esposito. “From there, I hit 6-iron from 211 yards as close to the front edge of the green as I could. That chip in for eagle was just a bonus. I was just trying to hit it up close.”
## Championship Summary

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# Won hole-by-hole playoff  **72-hole record  *** Won on second playoff hole
Steve Schneiter had something come over him, he said, which carried him to a piece of PGA of America history at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Facing a must-make 15-foot left-to-right downhill par putt on the 18th green, Schneiter surveyed his task, stepped up and rolled the ball home. The final-hole dramatics lifted the Assistant PGA Professional at Schneiter's Pebblebrook in Sandy, Utah, to a final-round 3-under 69 and 13-under 275 total. It was enough for a one-stroke triumph over Rick Schuller of Chester, Virginia, in the 28th Senior PGA Professional Championship presented by Golf Advisor and Mercedes-Benz USA.

Schneiter, the only player to complete the week with four sub-70 rounds, earned $21,500 from a $300,000 purse. With his victory, he became the first PGA Member to claim both a PGA Professional Championship (1995) and a Senior PGA Professional Championship.

After beginning the day trailing Gene Fieger’s lead by three strokes, Schneiter erased the margin in a matter of three holes with a birdie-eagle-birdie start. He holed out for eagle from 115 yards on the 423-yard, par-4 second hole with a sand wedge, but cooled off with a bogey at the fifth and seventh holes, the latter when his tee shot drew mud covering half the ball.

Schneiter separated himself from his challengers with birdies at the 11th and 15th, but a bogey on 16 cut his lead to a stroke, which he carried to the 18th. After hitting the fairway on the closing hole, Schneiter pushed his approach from 163 yards. His ball came to rest just below the right portion of the green and on the hazard line. Schneiter chipped up to 15 feet above the hole. “I stopped for a moment, and felt something come over me. I just stroked it. When I hit it, and I saw it going, I thought, ‘that’s in the hole,’” said Schneiter, whose eyes filled with tears at the award ceremony as he both described his final putt and mentioned his late father and grandfather, both PGA Professionals. “This one’s for you both,” he said looking skyward.

LOWEST FIRST-ROUND SCORE
64  Roy Vucinich, Moon Township, Pa., 2008
  Bob Ford, Oakmont, Pa., 2007
  Frank Esposito, Old Bridge, N.J., 2014

LOWEST SECOND-ROUND SCORE
65  Chip Johnson, Hingham, Mass., 2013
  Jim Woodward, Oklahoma City, Okla., 2007
  Jeff Coston, Blaine, Wash., 2006
  Mike Lawrence, Easley, S.C., 2006
  John Mazza, Beaver Falls, Pa., 2006
  Ed Sabo, Tequesta, Fla., 2001

LOWEST THIRD-ROUND SCORE
65  Jeff Coston, Blaine, Wash., 2006
    Buddy Harston, Lexington, Ky., 2005

LOWEST FOURTH-ROUND SCORE
65  Chris Kaufman, Coral Springs, Fla., 2017
  Tom Herzan, La Crosse, Wis., 2007
  Rick Karbowski, Worcester, Mass., 2005

LOWEST 72-HOLE SCORE BY WINNER
270  Bill Britton, Rumson, N.J., 2009
271  Jeff Coston, Blaine, Wash., 2006

LOWEST 36 HOLES
134  Reed Hughes, Senatobia, Miss., 2006

LOWEST 54 HOLES
201  Jeff Coston, Blaine, Wash., 2006

HIGHEST FINAL-ROUND SCORE BY WINNER
75  Kirk Hanefeld, Acton, Mass., 2011

HIGHEST 72-HOLE SCORE BY WINNER
287  Jim Woodward, Oklahoma City, Okla., 2012

GREATEST MARGIN OF VICTORY
10  Ed Sabo, Tequesta, Fla., 2000

MOST VICTORIES
2  Frank Esposito, Old Bridge, N.J., 2014, 2017
  Mike San Filippo, Hobe Sound, Fla., 2002, 2005
  Roger Kennedy, Pompano Beach, Fla., 1992, 1994
  Tom Joyce, Huntington, N.Y., 1990, 1991