



Rob Wilkin Captures Midwest Senior PGA Professional Title; Earns Berth in 29th Senior PGA Professional Championship

BLUE SPRINGS, Mo., August 1, 2017 – Rob Wilkin of Overland Park, Ks., winner of the Midwest Senior PGA Professional Championship July 31-August 1 at Mules National Golf Club will lead three Section PGA Professionals to compete Sept. 28 – Oct. 1, in the 29th Senior PGA Professional Championship.

The national Championship, presented by Mercedes-Benz USA and supported by Golf Advisor and John Deere, will be held at Desert Mountain's Cochise and Geronimo Courses in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Wilkin turned in a winning total of 3-under-par 137 to capture the Midwest Senior PGA Professional Championship supported by Golf Advisor and Mercedes-Benz USA. Matt Seitz of Hutchison, Ks. finished one strokes back at 138. They are joined by Mark Meacham of Overland Park, Ks.

The Senior PGA Professional Championship brings together a field of 264 contestants representing the PGA of America's 41 nationwide Sections, and features a total purse of \$300,000. The first two rounds will be conducted on the Cochise and Geronimo Courses. The first cut will be made after 36 holes of play to the low 90 players plus ties. The second cut will be made after 54 holes of play to the low 70 players plus ties. The final two rounds will be played on the Cochise course.

The Cochise and Geronimo Courses, each Jack Nicklaus designs, present a wide-ranging test of skill. The Cochise Course's par-72 layout can be extended to 7,042 yards with the Sonoran desert touching on every side. From 2012-2016, the course was host to the PGA Tour Champions season-ending Charles Schwab Championship, and it is a former site of The Tradition, one of five major championships on the PGA Tour Champions. The Cochise Course features four premier "risk-reward" par-5 holes, along with rolling fairways surrounded by water and dramatic rock outcroppings.

The Geronimo Course is perhaps the most visually intimidating of six courses at Desert Mountain, and chosen one of the Most Challenging Golf Courses in Arizona by the Phoenix Business Journal. The par-72, 7,293-yard layout winds its way through dramatic boulders, deep washes, ravines and lush desert and over stunning plateaus.

Begun in 1989, the Senior PGA Professional Championship is modeled after the PGA Professional Championship, with a field of 50-and-older senior PGA Professionals who advanced through 41 Section Championships conducted from June through August this year.

The top 35 finishers in the national Championship earn a berth in the 79th KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, which will be conducted in May 2018, at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

The top five finishers earn an exemption into the final stage of the 2018 PGA Tour Champions National Finals. Since its debut, many participants in the Senior PGA Professional Championship have used their success in the event as a springboard to a PGA Tour Champions career.

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