



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2019 WATSON CHALLENGE TO BE HOSTED AT NEVER BEFORE VENUE

OVERLAND PARK, KS - The 2019 Watson Challenge tournament is set to be hosted at the Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate in Overland Park, Kansas. To add more excitement to an already beloved tournament, The Nicklaus Golf Club will host the annual event at their club for the first time in the history of the Watson Challenge tournament.

"The Nicklaus Golf Club couldn't be happier to be named the host of the 2019 Watson Challenge. It is an honor to have Kansas City's finest players competing at our club. Thank you to the Kansas City Golf Association for choosing Nicklaus Club at Lionsgate for this most prestigious event," said JD Brake, Head Golf Professional of the Nicklaus Club.

Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate opened for play in 2001 and since has hosted premier events such as the Midwest Section PGA Classic and the Web.com Tour event, The KC Golf Classic, since 2011.

"We of the Watson Challenge Committee thank Lionsgate for agreeing to host our 11th Watson Challenge tournament in 2019. Lionsgate has been the host of many top-level golf tournaments, including both PGA Tour Champions and Web.com events and we are honored that they will now include our Watson Challenge to its resume. Our tournament, which is held to determine who is the best player in the Greater Kansas City area for the year, is looking forward with great excitement to putting our skills to the test of Lionsgate's challenging course," said Tom Watson after learning the news.

The tournament is scheduled for June 21-23 and the field will feature 18 of the top club professionals, 16 of the top amateur players, as well as special invitations and players who earn their spot through an 18-hole qualifier. A total of 48 of the highly touted golfers in Kansas City, including Tom Watson, will compete to earn the Watson Challenge title and to be named the "Greatest Golfer in Kansas City".

Early favorites of the 2019 Watson Challenge include the two-time defending Champion, Andy Spencer, and Robert Russell, Assistant Golf Professional at Nicklaus Club and the 2018 Midwest Section Player of the Year.

Spencer, who is in his junior year at Kansas University, is the only player besides Tom Watson to win the tournament two years in a row.

Russell is no stranger to playing in the Watson Challenge, finishing 9th in last year's event at Shadow Glen Golf Club with a three-day, tournament score of 217 (+1). Host club professional and beloved local, Russell has an opportunity to do very well in next year's tournament.

Of course, both players would have to go through Tom Watson himself, who has shown no signs of slowing down after a near win last year, falling to Champion Andy Spencer by one stroke. At the age of 69, Watson continues to compete and compete well and has no intentions of hanging it up just yet.

The golf course at Nicklaus Golf Club's rolling fairways, beautiful views and capability to challenge both the amateur and the seasoned golfer make it a great choice to host the 2019 Watson Challenge.

More information regarding the event will be released early next year, including a press conference held at the Nicklaus Golf Club in early Spring. The Kansas City Golf Association would like to thank the Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate for hosting this great event and we look forward to watching it unfold in 2019.

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