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**Bank of America Open Welcomes 2007 U.S. Amateur Champion
Colt Knost to 2008 Field**

CHICAGO, IL — In its first official announcement regarding the 2008 golf tournament, the newly named Bank of America Open has added 2007 U.S. Amateur Champion Colt Knost to its 2008 field. Knost officially accepted the tournament's first of six exemptions indicating he will forego the opportunity to compete in the PGA TOUR's Memorial Tournament the same weekend.

"It is an honor and a career achievement for me to have the opportunity to play in both the Bank of America Open and Jack Nicklaus' Memorial Tournament," said Knost. "Mr. Nicklaus has been one of my role models my entire life and it is unfortunate that I cannot play in both of these events this year. But my career focus right now is the Nationwide Tour and as the Bank of America Open is one of its top events, it is one that I cannot afford to miss."

Knost, a native of Pilot Point, Texas, played collegiate golf for Southern Methodist University before winning both the 2007 U.S. Amateur Championship and U.S. Public Links. Only the second golfer in history to earn both titles in the same year, Knost is arguably the best up-and-coming golfer in America.

"This is a great opportunity for a rising golfer like Colt, who embodies the talent, dedication and desire to compete at golf's highest levels," said David J. Rudis, president, Bank of America Illinois. "With strong caliber golfers in the field, fans, many of whom are our customers, could catch a glimpse of golf's next super star."

The Bank of America Open, previously titled the LaSalle Bank Open, recently changed its name due to the acquisition of LaSalle by Bank of America. The full-field Nationwide Tour tournament will return to The Glen Club in Glenview, Ill. for its sixth year, May 29-June 1. With a \$750,000 prize purse (\$135,000 award for the champion), the Bank of America Open is one of the most targeted tournaments by players on the Nationwide Tour. Each year, the top 25 Nationwide money leaders earn cards to compete on the PGA TOUR.

More

Bank of America Open

PGA TOUR golf will make its annual Chicago appearance as the Nationwide Tour's Bank of America Open arrives in suburban Glenview, Ill. May 29-June 1. The tournament, whose original roots stem back 70 years to the Chicago Open, will welcome a full field of 156 professional golfers ranging from the up-and-comers to seasoned PGA TOUR veterans. The hands-down best sports bargain in Chicago, the Bank of America Open offers week-long tournament passes for only \$10, free parking and the best opportunity to obtain front row seats to professional golf. Held at The Glen Club, the Bank of America Open offers a \$750,000 prize purse – one of the largest on the Nationwide Tour which sends its top 25 money leaders to the PGA TOUR each year. For more information, visit pgatour.com.

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