



CHICAGO DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

For Everyone Who Plays the Game

Chicago District Golf Association
Matt Baylor
(630) 685-2302
mbaylor@cdga.org

Bank of America Open
Marianne Caponi
(312) 904-9816
marianne.caponi@abnamro.com

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Mike Natale Wins Bank of America Open Amateur Invitational

CHICAGO, IL – Mike Natale of Darien, Ill. defeated Brian Atkinson of Chicago, Ill. in a one-hole playoff to win the Bank of America Open Amateur Invitational. Natale's victory earned him a spot in the Nationwide Tour's Bank of America Open next month, as well as a \$5,000 donation to the charity of his choice, the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. The one-round tournament was held Monday at Oak Park Country Club in River Grove, Ill featuring 32 amateur players.

Both Natale and Atkinson completed 18 holes at three-under par 69. In the playoff, Natale carded a par on the first playoff hole to secure the victory. John Wright of Elmhurst, Ill. finished third with a 70, while Jonathon Schram of Buffalo Grove, Ill. finished two strokes back.

"Other than the USGA Amateur, this will be the biggest event of my career and I am excited to participate in my first PGA Tour-sanctioned event," said Natale. "It is even more of an accomplishment for me, since I am an amateur and have a full-time job. I have had to become more efficient in my practice, as the time to work on my game doesn't exist anymore."

Bank of America, title sponsor of the Bank of America Open, and Chicago District Golf Association collaborated to host the competition for 32 amateur golfers, 29 of which hail from Illinois. Players were invited according to past performance in CDGA events, while a handful of positions were offered to Bank of America associates with qualifying registered handicaps. Natale earned an invitation based upon his top-five finish in the 2007 Illinois State Mid-Amateur Championship.

"Bank of America has established a long tradition of supporting excellence in sports and developing programs that offer athletic opportunities to athletes of all ages," said Bank of America Illinois Market President David Rudis. "Providing local golfers with a chance to compete in the professional ranks seemed a fitting way to share the excitement of the Bank of America Open with the golf community."

As champion of the Amateur Invitational, Natale has earned an exemption into the Bank of America Open, a PGA sanctioned tournament on the Nationwide Tour. Jones will compete among a full field of 156 golfers for a portion of the \$750,000 prize purse. His charity of choice, the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation, will also receive a \$5,000 donation from the tournament.

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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 Bank of America Open offers weeklong 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.

Chicago District Golf Association

The Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) is a non-profit association of member clubs and individual golfers in Illinois and parts of Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. With nearly 100,000 member golfers at 350 member clubs, the CDGA is one of the largest and oldest golf associations in the United States. The CDGA's Sunshine Through Golf Foundation brings the benefits and resources of the game of golf into the lives of beginners, juniors, individuals with disabilities, minorities and the economically disadvantaged throughout the District. The United States Golf Association named the Foundation's camps the largest grass-roots golf program for individuals with disabilities in the country.

Bank of America

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