



Another Purse Increase At The Franklin Templeton Shootout; Now Up To \$2.6 Million

NAPLES, Fla. (March 15, 2005) – In keeping with the recent trend, the Franklin Templeton Shootout has announced another significant purse increase, improving its pot to \$2.6 million. Thanks to the \$100,000 increase, the 24 professionals competing in the 2005 Shootout will contend for the largest purse in the event's 17-year history. The winners will share \$630,000.

“Continued support from the Southwest Florida community coupled with corporate partners like Franklin Templeton has allowed us to again raise the bar.” Tournament founder and host **Greg Norman** explained. “With the increased purse, we are sure to attract some of the finest professional golfers in the world, thereby improving our ability to put on a superior event and raise significant funds for charity.”

On November 9-13, the Franklin Templeton Shootout, for the fifth consecutive year will be contested at the Norman-designed Tiburon Golf Club on the grounds of The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples. Tickets for the tournament, including the wildly successful *A Taste of WCI* package, which offers purchasers over 40 rounds of golf at 10 WCI championship courses for cart fee only, will go on sale in early September.

Norman and his wife Laura founded the Shootout in 1989 as a result of their desire to create a unique experience for PGA Tour players while raising money for charity, most notably CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation.

“The players look forward to this event each year.” Tournament Director, Taylor Ives said. “With the beautiful Naples surroundings and casual atmosphere, more and more Tour professionals have a desire to participate in the Shootout.”

PGA Tour professionals qualify for their spot in the 2005 Franklin Templeton Shootout field. The top three available players from the 2005 PGA Tour Money List and the top ten available players from the PGA Tour Career Money List will join two-time defending champions Hank Kuehne and Jeff Sluman and the rest of the elite field of 24.

Qualifying for the Shootout will conclude on Monday, August 22nd upon the close of the World Golf Championship's NEC Invitational and the Reno-Tahoe Open.

This year's event will again feature an alternate-shot format during Friday's first round, a better-ball Saturday and a final-round scramble. USA Network will televise Friday's coverage and CBS will handle broadcasting duties over the weekend.

-more-

2-2-2 Shootout Purse Increase

For up-to-date information on all things related to the Franklin Templeton Shootout please visit the official website at www.shark.com/fts. If you would like a ticket brochure mailed directly to you when tickets become available, please call the Franklin Templeton Shootout office at (888) 66-SHARK.

About CureSearch

CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation proudly supports the collaborative research efforts of the world's largest and most prestigious childhood cancer research organization, CureSearch Children's Oncology Group. At more than 200 member institutions—representing every pediatric cancer program and treating 90% of children with cancer in North America—CureSearch is making rapid scientific progress to identify cancer causes and pioneer better treatments and cures. CureSearch is dedicated to reaching the day when every child with cancer can be guaranteed a cure. For more information visit www.CureSearch.org or call 800-458-6223

About Franklin Templeton Investments

Franklin Templeton Investments is a global investment management organization offering investment choices under the Franklin, Templeton, Mutual Series, Bissett, Fiduciary Trust and Darby Overseas names. As of January 31, 2005, we managed nearly \$400 billion in assets, comprising mutual funds and other investment solutions for individuals, institutions, pension plans, trusts and partnerships.

About Tiburon Golf Club

Tiburon, a 36-hole Greg Norman-design course was carved from 800 acres of prime southwest Florida real estate. The courses reflect Norman's appreciation for pristine natural settings and his passion for great golf. The Black and The Gold courses contain a combination of stacked sod-wall bunkers and tricky coquina waste bunkers. Certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by Audubon International, Tiburon reflects a strong commitment to enhancing and protecting the natural resources.

About The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples

The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples is the proud recipient of AAA's highest honor: The Five-Diamond Award, establishing it as one of the greatest resorts in the country. The resort also scored an impressive ranking as the #1 resort in Florida in *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine's annual reader's poll and #3 in Florida by the readers of *Travel + Leisure* magazine. In the November 2004 issue of *Golf Digest* magazine, The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort was ranked as the No. #1 luxury golf resort in Florida and No. #25 in North America, beating out some of the long-standing top golf resorts in the country. The 295-room resort is Florida's finest luxury golf resort and is renowned for its incredible cuisine, outstanding service and luxurious rooms with panoramic views of the Greg Norman-designed golf course.