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## RENO-TAHOE OPEN EXTENDS UNRESTRICTED EXEMPTION HAWAII'S 16-YEAR-OLD TADD FUJIKAWA

**RENO, Nev. (April 19, 2007)**—Tadd Fujikawa, a Hawaiian high school sophomore, amateur golfer and the youngest player to make the PGA TOUR cut in 50 years, accepted one of the Reno-Tahoe Open's unrestricted sponsor exemptions for the July 30 – Aug. 5 tournament held at Montrêux Golf & Country Club in Reno, Nev.

Captivating audiences with his PGA TOUR debut and tie for 20<sup>th</sup> place at the Sony Open in Hawaii in January, he continues to capture the spotlight and the attention of tournament attendees. Born Jan. 8, 1991 in Honolulu, Fujikawa qualified for the 2006 U.S. Open making him the youngest player to do so since 1941. He missed the cut and finished 140<sup>th</sup> after shooting 81-77.

"Each year we extend one of our exemptions to younger players that are breaking out of the ranks and are really looking at a professional golf career," said Jim Kline, tournament director for the Reno-Tahoe Open. "Our course is challenging and we always have a strong field of TOUR professionals. We're hoping Tadd views this as another career building opportunity."

In February, he won the Hawaii Pearl Open, a tournament started in 1979 that's been called Hawaii's most lucrative annual local golf event. With his win, Fujikawa became the first amateur since 1992 to take the first place bragging rights. In addition to the Reno-Tahoe Open, Fujikawa will debut on Japan's pro tour April 26 – 29 at the Chunichi Crowns.

The Reno-Tahoe Open has seen some of the biggest players on the TOUR, with nearly 40 players who have won major championships and many Ryder Cup and President's Cup players including: Fred Couples, John Daly, Scott McCarron, Sergio Garcia, Mark O'Meara and Nick Faldo. Vaughn Taylor, two-time Reno-Tahoe Open Champion (2004 and 2005), is currently ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in the regular season FedExCup points series. The tournament is the only PGA TOUR event in northern Nevada and features a field of 132 PGA TOUR professionals competing for a \$3 million purse.

Save \$50 with the Reno-Tahoe Open's new ticket booklet complete with daily ticket vouchers and merchandise and dining credits. To purchase the new Reno-Tahoe Open ticket booklets or for more information on the 2007 Reno-Tahoe Open, log on to [www.RenoTahoeOpen.com](http://www.RenoTahoeOpen.com) or call the tournament office at 775-322-3900.

*The 2007 Reno-Tahoe Open PGA TOUR is scheduled for July 30 – Aug. 5 at Montrêux Golf & Country Club in Reno, Nev. and is broadcast nationally on the Golf Channel. Now in its 9th year, the tournament is the only PGA TOUR event in northern Nevada and features a field of 132 PGA TOUR professionals competing for a \$3 million purse. comprised of its members including Eldorado Hotel Casino, Employers Holdings, Inc., Montrêux Development Group, Reno-Tahoe, America's Adventure Place and Sierra Pacific Resources.*

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