

**COUNTDOWN – 6 WEEKS**



**FRED FUNK SETS NEW MARK WITH WIN IN HAWAII:**

**Fred Funk** blitzed the first full-field tournament of the young season and the Palmer Course at Turtle Bay over the weekend. Funk shot back-to-back 64s on Saturday and Sunday to win by 11 strokes, the largest margin of victory ever on the Champions Tour, topping the previous best mark by two strokes. Funk played all 54 holes without a bogey in posting his score of 193, as five players finished in a tie for second. Included in that group of second-place finishers was **Tom Kite**, the defending champion of the **AT&T Champions Classic**, who stumbled over the last two holes with a double bogey and bogey to join **Loren Roberts**, **Tom Purtzer**, **Denis Watson** and **Kiyoshi Murota** at 12-under. Purtzer is also a former winner of the **AT&T Champions Classic**, claiming the top spot in 2003. The win by Funk was his second in his last three Champions Tour starts. He won last year's final full-field tournament, the AT&T sponsored AT&T Championship in San Antonio and finished 28<sup>th</sup> in the 2007 season-opening MasterCard Championship, which is a 41-player field.

**UP NEXT ON THE CHAMPIONS TOUR:**

The Champions Tour will take a one-week break before resuming play in Florida with the Allianz Championship at The Old Course at Broken Sound in Boca Raton February 9-11. It will mark the first of three straight events in the Sunshine State before the tour heads west again.

**THE YEARS ARE ADDING UP:**

This year's **AT&T Champions Classic** will be the seventh played at Valencia Country Club. A Champions Tour, formerly known as the Senior PGA Tour, event has been played in the Greater Los Angeles area since 1990, making this the 18<sup>th</sup> installment of this prestigious tournament. With Valencia Country Club playing host to its seventh Champions Tour event this year, it marks the longest run of any of the previous golf courses used – Rancho Park GC (1990-94), Wilshire CC (1995-2000), Valencia CC (2001 to present).

**SPEAKING OF YEARS:**

According to stats recently released by the Champions Tour, over the last five seasons, 36 percent of the wins on tour have come from players 55 and over. **Hale Irwin**, 61, started the 2007 Champions Tour with a win. Of course, **Fred Funk**, at age 50, made a statement for the younger set last week. It will be interesting to see how things play out leading up to the **AT&T Champions Classic** as the competition on the tour intensifies each year.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

The push to secure local volunteers to assist in the operation of the tournament is ongoing. Community members interested in aiding the operation of this year's tournament can check out the event website at [www.attchampionsclassic.com](http://www.attchampionsclassic.com) and hit the volunteer link for more information.

**TICKET SALES:**

Tickets for this year's 54-hole stroke play event are available for purchase online at [www.attchampionsclassic.com](http://www.attchampionsclassic.com) with a variety of ticket packages available. Tickets, which start as low as \$15, can also be purchased by calling 661-260-1897. A third option is to purchase a ticket through one of the Champions for Charity partners, including the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, Special Olympics Southern California/Santa Clarita Chapter, Domestic Violence Center of Santa Clarita, Santa Clarita Committee on Aging, the Santa Clarita Food Pantry and the SCV Youth Project.

**“ROOMS” WITH INCREDIBLE VIEWS:**

You don't have to go to Staples Center to enjoy a well-appointed luxury suite. The **AT&T Champions Classic** offers a unique blend of hospitality options, including Corporate Skyboxes, a Fairway Chalet or new for 2007, an Executive Suite. The Skyboxes are positioned strategically around the 18<sup>th</sup> green and fairway, overlooking the action on this magnificent Par-5. Skybox amenities include 24 skybox credentials each day, food and beverage service, 10 daily parking passes and 25 general admission tickets. A Fairway Chalet offers guests a table of ten inside one of the fairway tents. Included with the 10 guest credentials per day is food and beverage service and six daily parking passes. The Executive Suite is located near the green on the Par-3 14<sup>th</sup>, providing a skybox view. For more information or to purchase one of these hospitality options, call the Tournament Office at 661-260-1897.