



LINCOLN LAND
CHARITY CHAMPIONSHIP

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Springfield native one of four sponsor exemptions named for 2016 Lincoln Land Charity Championship

Springfield, Ill. – A Springfield, Illinois native will be in the field at the Web.com Tour’s inaugural Lincoln Land Charity Championship the week of July 11-17, 2016 at Panther Creek Country Club.

Jake Marriott, a senior at Augusta (Ga.) University, was awarded one of the tournament’s sponsor exemptions and will compete in the \$550,000 event.

Marriott grew up at Panther Creek, winning the men’s club championship in 2011. The 22-year-old rising senior led the Jaguars with a 10th-place finish at the NCAA Stillwater Regional, starting all 13 events and compiling 35 rounds throughout the 2015-16 season.

Former Web.com Tour Player of the Year Casey Wittenberg, University of Illinois men’s golf coach Mike Small and 2011 Illinois State Amateur champion Brad Hopfinger were also named as recipients of sponsor exemptions into the first-year event.

“We are excited to announce three more outstanding golfers that will be joining our field for this year’s tournament,” said Lincoln Land Charity Championship Tournament Director Alex McCarty. “With three of the four exemptions having Illinois roots, we hope fans from all over Central Illinois will enjoy watching them compete in their home state.”

Wittenberg played college golf at Oklahoma State University, and finished runner-up in the 2003 U.S. Amateur, as well as T13 in the 2004 Masters Tournament – the lowest finish by an amateur in tournament history.

Wittenberg turned professional later that year, and has played on the PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour since. In 2012, he won his first event on a major tour at the Web.com Tour’s Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by NACHER on his way to securing Player of the Year honors that same season.

Small, a native of Aurora, Ill., has been the Illini golf coach since 2000, leading the team to the finals of the NCAA Championship in 2013 before earning an induction into the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame later that same year.

The 50-year-old Small has won the Illinois PGA Championship 10 times, the Illinois Open four times, and has competed in 12 major championships – including the last five PGA Championships.

Hopfinger attended high school in Lake Forest, Ill. and graduated from the University of Iowa in 2011 before claiming the Illinois Amateur title that summer. The success continued for Hopfinger in 2014 when he won the Illinois Open, becoming just the seventh player to win both the Illinois Open and Illinois

Amateur. In 2015, Hopfinger excelled on the Web.com Tour by playing in 21 tournaments and securing four top 25 finishes.

For additional information on the Lincoln Land Charity Championship or Panther Creek Country Club, visit www.lincolnlandcharitychampionship.com.

About the Lincoln Land Charity Championship and Panther Creek Country Club

The Lincoln Land Charity Championship is in its first year on the Web.com Tour. The Championship will consist of 156-player field, competing for a purse of \$550,000 at Panther Creek Country Club in Springfield, Illinois. Proceeds from all ticket sales generated by the tournament will benefit local charities. World Golf Hall of Fame Member Hale Irwin designed Panther Creek's 7,244-yard course in 1992. The course has hosted several notable tournaments including the LPGA's State Farm Classic from 2007-2011 and this year was the host site of the NCAA Division II Super Regionals and the Great Lakes Valley Conference Golf Championship.

About the Web.com Tour

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Web.com Tour continues to identify those players who are ready to compete and win on golf's biggest stage. In 2013, the Web.com Tour became The Path to the PGA TOUR with all 50 available PGA TOUR cards coming through the Web.com Tour and the season culminating at the four-event Web.com Tour Finals. Web.com became the Tour's umbrella sponsor on June 27, 2012, with a 10-year agreement in place through 2021. This season marks the 27th year of competition on the Web.com Tour. Three out of four PGA TOUR members are Web.com Tour alumni. Tour alumni have won more than 425 PGA TOUR titles, including 21 majors and five PLAYERS Championships. The PGA TOUR, through the efforts of its Tours and their tournaments, sponsors, players and volunteers, has surpassed \$2 billion in charitable giving. To learn more about the PGA TOUR, the Web.com Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit PGATOUR.COM, or follow the Tour on social media via Twitter ([@WebDotComTour](https://twitter.com/WebDotComTour)), Facebook (facebook.com/WebDotComTour) and Instagram (Instagram.com/WebDotComTour).

About Web.com

Web.com Group, Inc. (Nasdaq:WWW) provides a full range of Internet services to small businesses to help them compete and succeed online. Web.com is a global domain registrar and further meets the needs of small businesses anywhere along their lifecycle with affordable, subscription-based solutions including website design and management, search engine optimization, online marketing campaigns, local sales leads, social media, mobile products, eCommerce solutions and call center services. For more information, please visit www.web.com; follow Web.com on Twitter [@webdotcom](https://twitter.com/webdotcom) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/web.com. For additional online marketing resources and small business networking, please visit Web.com's Small Business Forum.

About Bruno Event Team

Bruno Event Team (BET) is a Birmingham, Ala., based sports marketing and event management company formed in 1995 by Ronald Bruno and Gene Hallman. Bruno Event Team is experienced in all facets of event management, employing a year-round staff of 70+ employees in nine offices around the United States and Canada. Bruno Event Team services each client with expertise in strategic planning, marketing, advertising, public and media relations, ticket and merchandise sales, sponsor relations, hospitality consulting, event operations, event financial planning and accounting, as well as volunteer coordination. Visit www.brunoeventteam.com for additional information.

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