



## NEWS

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### **PGA National's Champion Course Ranked Toughest on the PGA TOUR in 2007**

Famed layout edges past Pebble Beach, Torrey Pines and Riviera Country Club

**Palm Beach Gardens, FL (March 16, 2007)** – The results are in, and PGA National's Champion Course, the new home of the PGA TOUR's Honda Classic, has shown itself to be a real "monster test of golf." The course played to a stroke average of 1.958 over par for the week of the tournament, edging out Pebble Beach (average 1.397 strokes over par), Torrey Pines (average 1.033 strokes over par) and the Riviera Country Club (average 1.055 strokes over par) to become the toughest course on the PGA TOUR so far this season.

In addition to the highest stroke average over par to date this season, an amazing 6 holes on the Champion Course rank among the toughest 50 in the nation, according to statistics provided by the PGA TOUR. The 10<sup>th</sup> hole yielded almost half as many bogeys (143) as pars (256), making it the sixth-hardest hole on TOUR in 2007.

During the recent tournament, only one player, Steve Stricker, managed to shoot par or better on the Champion for all four rounds. Stricker finished tied for fifth. Mark Wilson won the tournament after a three hole playoff with Camilo Villegas, Boo Weekley and Jose Coceres that ran into the Monday morning after the usual Sunday finish.

Among the pros, there were no complaints about the course, which was renovated by Jack Nicklaus prior to this year's tournament. "It was difficult but fair," said Jim Furyk,

currently ranked number two among the world's top golfers. "There was always a place to hit the ball, though it wasn't always easy to get there." NBC analyst Johnny Miller was effusive about the course and Nicklaus' renovations throughout the tournament. "I think this event goes up several notches in status, just because of the course," Miller said during the broadcast.

Located in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, PGA National Resort & Spa offers a complete resort experience for its guests and club members with a full array of amenities and services that speak to a wide range of interests and agendas. Developed as the centerpiece of a 2,340-acre luxury residential community, the 339-room resort boasts five master-designed golf courses. PGA National also features a multi-million dollar, 40,000 square foot Spa with the renowned *Waters of the World* collection of outdoor mineral pools, an extensive program of tennis instruction and competition on its 19 Har-Tru tennis courts, a 33,000 square foot Health & Racquet Club with personal trainers and a wide range of classes, five professional croquet lawns, multiple dining options, 34,000 square feet of meeting facilities and a resort pool which fronts a 26-acre lake.

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