



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **PERNICE, JR. CAPTURES SAS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE IN THRILLING FASHION**

**CARY, N.C.** – Fresh off his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 5, Tom Pernice Jr. had a memorable debut on the Champions Tour at the SAS Championship presented by BusinessWeek. Pernice (67-67-69=203) made a 36-foot birdie on the final hole to win by one stroke over World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Price and David Frost in one of the most competitive tournaments in the event's nine year history.

"I had heard good things about the SAS Championship. I hit lots of quality iron shots this week," said Pernice.

Pernice entered the final round with a one stroke lead on the competition and managed to hold off a horde of challengers with a final round 3-under 69. Playing in the final group, he approached the 18<sup>th</sup> hole in a three-way tie with Price and Frost, both already in the clubhouse. Huge galleries crammed the bleachers and lined the edge of the green as they awaited the conclusion to the tournament. They were not disappointed as Pernice gave a big fist pump to the crowd after his long birdie putt rolled around the edge of the cup and dropped home.

During a trophy ceremony on the 18<sup>th</sup> green, Pernice thanked all the sponsors, volunteers and especially the fans that were supportive all week. The final round was graced with sunny skies after several days of intermittent rain. Fans turned out in droves to enjoy the beautiful day and exciting competition.

"Proud of myself today. I really wasn't aware of what the other guys were doing. Thought I had to get to 13-under. I knew where I stood on 18. You don't expect to make 35-footers. I guess it was my time to win," said Pernice.

Pernice becomes the 15<sup>th</sup> Champions Tour player to win in his debut and the third this year. He earned \$315,000 for his efforts and 315 Charles Schwab Cup points.

Price was hopeful for his second career Champions Tour victory following a decorated playing career on the PGA TOUR in which he won 18 tournaments. He was four-under on the day including a strong stretch run with birdies on holes 14, 16 and 17.





Frost, competing in only his second Champions Tour event after turning 50 on September 11, turned a T2 performance one week after finishing T9 in his debut in Hickory. He was five-under on Sunday and made clutch putts down the stretch for birdie on 15, 16 and 17 but could not reach the magic number of 13-under.

The SAS Championship and Triangle area have become one of the most popular stops on the Champions Tour, annually drawing elite fields and tremendous community support. Visit [www.saschampionship.com](http://www.saschampionship.com) for more information.

#### **About SAS**

SAS is the leader in business analytics software and services, and the largest independent vendor in the business intelligence market. With innovative business applications supported by an enterprise intelligence platform, SAS helps customers at 44,000 sites improve performance and deliver value by making better decisions faster. Since 1976 SAS has been giving customers around the world THE POWER TO KNOW®.

#### **About the Champions Tour**

The Champions Tour collectively, has the most recognizable and accomplished players in the game with 15 World Golf Hall of Fame Members actively competing in its events and numerous other major championship winners among its members. Conceived in 1980 as the Senior PGA Tour, it started with just four events and purses totaling \$475,000. The Champions Tour will feature a minimum of 25 official events offering \$48.8 million in prize money in 2009 and its highest average purse ever of \$1.95 million. The Champions Tour is a division of the PGA TOUR, Inc., a tax-exempt membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older and as such operates under the umbrella of the PGA TOUR which includes the PGA TOUR, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour. The Champions Tour's primary purpose as an entity of the PGA TOUR is to provide significant competitive and earnings opportunities for players age 50 and older; to protect the integrity of the game; and to help grow the reach of the game in the U.S. and around the world. In addition to providing competitive opportunities for its membership, Champions Tour events also generate significant sums of money for charity. The commissioner of the PGA TOUR is Tim Finchem. Michael D. Stevens is president of the Champions Tour. TOUR headquarters is in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

#### **About Octagon Golf & Outdoors**

Octagon Golf & Outdoors is a division of Octagon, the world's largest sports and entertainment representation and marketing agency. Octagon Golf & Outdoors focuses on premium event/property management, developing key player relationships and providing strategic corporate solutions. The division currently manages two Champions Tour events, two LPGA Tour events, one Nationwide Tour event, the 2009 U.S. Amateur and the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. Additionally, Octagon Golf & Outdoors represents famed teaching professional Hank Haney and numerous PGA TOUR, LPGA Tour and Champions Tour professionals. For more information visit [www.octagongolf.com](http://www.octagongolf.com).

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