



Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic  
April 28 – May 2, 2010 | Fallen Oak  
[www.msgulfresortclassic.com](http://www.msgulfresortclassic.com)

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Paul Azinger Commits to Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic Field

Biloxi, Miss. (March 22) – Paul Azinger, who won the 1993 PGA Championship and 11 other times on the PGA TOUR, has committed to play at the inaugural Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic April 28-May 2 at Fallen Oak.

A rookie on the Champions Tour since turning 50 in January, Azinger played full-time on the regular tour from 1982 through 2006 and won at least one tournament in seven consecutive years from 1987-1993. His win at the PGA Championship in a playoff over Greg Norman was one of his three victories that season. He has played on five U.S. Ryder Cup teams and was the victorious captain of the 2008 U.S. team.

Azinger's biggest win, however, was against lymphoma cancer. He underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatments in 1994 and has been cancer free for more than 13 years. He chronicled his battle with cancer in his book that bears his nickname, *Zinger*.

"I love the Gulf Coast and I look forward to playing and seeing everyone there," said Azinger. "I have a fondness for the area. I want to be prepared and play well. I guess I'm expected to play well, but I have to earn it. The Champions Tour is a "Who's Who" in the game of golf."

Azinger joins nine other major golf championship winners already in the field. Six of those golfers are members of the World Golf Hall of Fame.

"We are really excited that Paul has made the decision to make the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic one of the first events that he will ever play on the Champions Tour," said Steve Nieman, tournament director. "With every day that goes by, our field is getting better and better. Undoubtedly, this will be one of the best fields on the Champions Tour this year."

Tickets are on sale through Ticketmaster online for \$15 each and they can be used any day of the tournament. Children age 15 and under will be admitted free of charge when accompanied by a ticketed adult. Order your tickets online now at [www.msgulfresortclassic.com](http://www.msgulfresortclassic.com) or call the tournament office at (228) 896-6365.

The Classic is one of 26 official events on the Champions Tour for 2010, and the field of 78 players will compete for the \$1.6 million purse and a \$240,000 winner's share. Competitive rounds in the 54-hole event are set for Friday through Sunday. The popular pro-am tournaments will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, and they are open to the public with paid admission.

The tournament will be broadcast for 17½ hours by the Golf Channel and the benefiting charity is Habitat for Humanity of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Fallen Oak is the exclusive home course for the guests of Beau Rivage Resort and Casino. The Tom Fazio-designed course, which was opened in 2006, has earned 12 national honors and is ranked the second best gaming resort course in the country.

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

Collectively, the Champions Tour has the most recognizable and accomplished players in the game with 16 World Golf Hall of Fame members actively competing in its events and numerous other major championship winners among its members. The Champions Tour is a tax-exempt membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older. Conceived in 1980 as the Senior PGA Tour, it started with just four events and purses totaling \$475,000. The Champions Tour will conduct 26 official Charles Schwab Cup events in 2010, offering \$51.5 million in official prize money, with the average tournament purse of \$1.98 million. The Champions Tour also generates significant monies for charity.

#### **About the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic**

This Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic is one of three new tournaments on the Champions Tour for 2010. It will be played April 28-May 2 at Fallen Oak. The tournament is uniquely funded by a dozen title sponsors, who see this event as an ideal way to showcase the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The tournament will be administered through the MGRC Foundation, Inc. The tournament will benefit Habitat for Humanity of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Inc.