

ASGA Amateurs Battle Arkansas PGA Chapter Pros in 35th Nike Cup

For immediate release, October 20, 2009 – For more information, contact Jay Fox 501-519-5291

The Arkansas State Golf Association will send 16 top amateurs against the best 16 PGA Professionals from the Arkansas PGA Chapter in the 35th Annual Nike Cup Matches October 24-25 at the Hot Springs Country Club.

The format consists of eight Four-Ball Matches Saturday morning, eight Foursome (Alternate Shot) Matches Saturday afternoon and 16 Individual Matches Sunday. All play is on the Arlington Course at Hot Springs Country Club and all matches are worth one point. Ties are split. The amateurs have won the past three matches by the count of 20-12, 18 ½ - 13 ½, 18-14 and 18 ½ - 13 ½. The amateur team has won 11 of the past 12, and lead what once was a close overall series, 24-10. The pros' last title came in 2004, in a 17-15 victory.

Nicklaus Benton of Cabot, the ASGA's Amateur Player of the Year is ineligible to compete because of NCAA rules as Benton is a freshman on the UALR Golf Team. The amateurs will rely on multi-time players of the year Wes McNulty of Pine Bluff and Chris Jenkins of Little Rock, and Stan Lee, 2009 Senior Player of the Year, to lead the amateur team.

Bob Ralston of Little Rock dethroned five-time champion Tim Zimmerebner of Hot Springs for the Arkansas PGA Chapter Player of the Year and both are competing for the Professional team.

The amateur captain will be Kim Backus of Little Rock, sales representative for Nike Golf. The PGA Chapter will utilize the services of Jeff Hamm, PGA Golf Professional at Longhills Golf Club in Benton.

"The (Nike) Cup Matches are a reward for the guys who have performed during the year and a time to bring together the professionals and amateurs in a friendly, competitive competition to help better the game of golf in Arkansas," Barry Howard, General Manager and Director of Golf at Hot Springs Country Club said.

The Arkansas PGA Chapter awards points to the top finishers in Monday pro-ams March thru September, as well as the PGA Chapter Championship and South Central PGA Section tournaments. Likewise, the ASGA awards points to top ten finishers in 28 ASGA Designated Tournaments from April to October at ASGA member clubs and 80% of these clubs employ a PGA Golf Professional.

"This is a great way to end the season," ASGA Executive Director Jay Fox said. "These players on both teams earned the right to be at Hot Springs Country Club and we owe a debt of gratitude to Barry Howard, his staff and the membership for serving as host of this prestigious event. Also, thanks to Kim Backus of Nike Golf for their support."

In years past, jokes and comments have been common prior to the matches in a friendly spirit and camaraderie. Four years ago, PGA Captain Cimarron Grubbs said the amateurs were "going down like cheap beer in a frat house" which prompted the amateurs to present cheap beer to Grubb at the closing ceremonies. In 2004, amateur team member Chris Jenkins was quoted in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette as "we hope to smoke 'em like cheap Havanas," resulting in the professional (and winning) team distributing cigars to team members at the closing ceremonies.

Pairings for both Four-Ball and Foursomes were determined by a modified "blind draw," where one side announced a team, followed by the other side and so on. Pairings

for the all-important singles matches will be determined in similar fashion at Saturday night's cocktail party. Each team is comprised of 16 players, four of which must be seniors over the age of 50. The amateurs need a tie (16 points) to keep the Nike Cup. The Pros need at least 16 ½ points, or an outright victory to earn back the Nike Cup.

Hot Springs Country Club, which features 36 holes, a short-game area and driving range, is an inaugural member of the Natural State Golf Trail. For more information on the Nike Cup Matches or Hot Springs Country Club, contact the Golf Shop at 501-624-2661. Pairings for Saturday's Four-Ball and Foursome Matches are enclosed.

35th Nike Cup Matches @ Hot Springs Country Club
Four-Ball Matches – Arlington Course – Saturday, October 24, 2009

	<u>Amateurs</u>		<u>Professionals</u>
	Captain: <i>Kim Backus, Little Rock</i>		<i>Jeff Hamm, Longhills GC, Benton</i>
	Uniform: Black Pants/Torquoise shirt		Khaki Pants/Red Shirt
9:00	Stan Lee, Heber Springs Roger Clement, Little Rock	vs.	Fletcher White, Unattached Rick Jenkins, Foxwood GC
9:10	Oscar Taylor, Hot Springs Village Bruce Dickey, Paragould	vs.	Bob Ralston, Burns Park GC Steve Ralston, Burns Park GC
9:20	Wes McNulty, Pine Bluff Chris Jenkins, Little Rock	vs.	Art Romero, Texarkana CC Tim Jenkins, CC of Arkansas
9:30	Chris Elia, El Dorado Trey Schaap, Little Rock	vs.	Barry Howard, Hot Springs CC Jon Zieske, The Alotian Club
9:40	Ron Mangold, Pocahontas Mark Bartlett, Searcy	vs.	Adam Carney, RidgePointe CC Ken Smith, Jr., Harbor Oaks GC
9:50	Neal Westbrook, Russellville Brian Allbright, Hot Springs Village	vs.	Tim Zimmerebner, Hot Springs CC Cary Maddox, Pine Bluff CC
10:00	Tracy Harris, Little Rock John Bragg, Bryant	vs.	Eddie Roethlisberger, Big Creek CC Tom Cannarozzo, Chenal CC
10:10	Nathan Circle, Hardy Justin Burns, Wiseman	vs.	Bruce Baxley, Searcy CC Grant Masson, The Alotian Club

Foursome Matches – Arlington Course – October 24

1:30	Stan Lee & Bruce Dickey	vs.	Fletcher White & Rick Jenkins
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1:40	Oscar Taylor & Roger Clement	vs.	Bob Ralston & Steve Ralston
1:50	Chris Elia & Brian Allbright	vs.	Adam Carney & Ken Smith, Jr.
2:00	Trey Schaap & John Bragg	vs.	Barry Howard & Jon Zieske
2:10	Wes McNulty & Tracy Harris	vs.	Art Romero & Tim Jenkins
2:20	Chris Jenkins & Neal Westbrook Cannarozzo	vs.	Eddie Roethlisberger & Tom
2:30	Ron Mangold & Justin Burns	vs.	Tim Zimmerebner & Cary Maddox
2:40	Nathan Circle & Mark Bartlett	vs.	Bruce Baxley & Grant Masson

1st Day Totals

_____	_____
Ams	Pros

**35th Nike Cup Matches
Hot Springs Country Club**

Individual Pairings – Sunday, October 25, 2009 – Arlington Course

Amateurs

Professionals

Captain: *Kim Backus, Little Rock*

Jeff Hamm, Longhills GC, Benton

Uniform: Khaki Pants/White shirt

Khaki Pants/ Black Shirt

10:00 _____ vs. _____

_____ vs. _____

10:10 _____ vs. _____

_____ vs. _____

10:20 _____ vs. _____

_____ vs. _____

10:30 _____ vs. _____

_____ vs. _____

10:40 _____ vs. _____

_____ vs. _____
10:50 _____ vs. _____
_____ vs. _____
11:00 _____ vs. _____
_____ vs. _____
11:10 _____ vs. _____
_____ vs. _____

Individual Totals

_____ _____
Ams **Pros**

Day 1 Totals

_____ _____
Ams **Pros**

Final Results

_____ _____