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## **2009 U.S. SENIOR OPEN GREG NORMAN COMMITS TO PLAY**

Carmel, IN (May 18, 2009) – Greg Norman, winner of 89 worldwide titles, including two British Open titles in 1986 and 1993, has committed to play in the 2009 U.S. Senior Open at Crooked Stick Golf Club, July 27-August 2. Norman has appeared in the U.S. Senior Open twice – in 2005 and 2008 – finishing fourth in both.

Norman's entry in the field provides U.S. Senior Open spectators with an opportunity to see one of golf's most celebrated players. During the 1990s, Norman held the No. 1 spot in the Official World Golf Rankings for 331 consecutive weeks. He is a three-time team member on the International team in the President's Cup (1998, 2000 and 2002) and will serve as Team Captain for the 2009 President's Cup team which takes place this October.

"One of the most recognizable golfers in the world, Greg Norman appeals to fans of all ages," said Steve Baker, Championship General Co-Chairman. "We're excited to have him at Crooked Stick, and I know the community is proud to be hosting a field that includes many of golf's greatest legends."

A member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, Norman isn't a stranger to Crooked Stick, as Indiana golf fans saw him compete in the 1991 PGA Championship hosted at the same venue. In November of 2008, Norman was the presenter for renowned golf course builder Pete Dye's induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Dye, who serves as Honorary Chairman of the 2009 U.S. Senior Open, has designed more than 90 golf courses throughout the United States. Among those designs is Crooked Stick, which will measure more than 7,300 yards this summer making it the longest in U.S. Senior Open history.

"Greg is both a great player and a great friend," said Pete Dye. "To have him back at The Stick, my home course, competing in a USGA Championship, is a thrill for me and the entire community."

Visit the championship's Web site at [www.2009ussenioropen.com](http://www.2009ussenioropen.com) for complete information regarding tickets, players, volunteers, hospitality options and spectator tips.

About the U.S. Senior Open: The 30<sup>th</sup> U.S. Senior Open to be held July 27 – Aug 2, 2009, will bring a field of 156 of the world's best professional and amateur Senior (over the age of 50) golfers to Crooked Stick Golf Club. Featured players expected to compete include Greg Norman, Tom Watson, Hale Irwin, Fuzzy Zoeller, Tom Lehman, Bernhard Langer, Fred Funk and Mark O'Meara. The U.S. Senior Open will be the sixth USGA championship staged at Crooked Stick; past championships include the 2007 U.S. Women's Amateur, 1993 U.S. Women's Open, 1989 Mid-Amateur, 1983 Senior Amateur and 1982 Junior Amateur. NBC and ESPN will provide more than 16 hours of television coverage of all four rounds of the championship. For more information about the 2009 U.S. Senior Open, visit [www.2009ussenioropen.com](http://www.2009ussenioropen.com).

About the USGA: The USGA is the national governing body of golf in the USA and Mexico, a combined territory that includes more than half the world's golfers and golf courses. The Association's most visible role is played out each season in conducting 13 national championships, including the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open. Ten additional USGA national championships are exclusively for amateurs, and include the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Women's Amateur.

The USGA also writes the Rules of Golf, conducts equipment testing, provides expert course maintenance consultations, funds research for better turf and a better environment, maintains a Handicap System and administers an ongoing "For the Good of the Game" grants program, which has allocated more than \$63 million over 12 years to successful programs that bring the game's values to youths from disadvantaged backgrounds and people with disabilities. For more information about the USGA, visit [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).