

## **2016 BMW Championship raises \$2.8 million for Evans Scholars Foundation**

**Golf, Illinois (Nov. 29, 2016)** – Strong support from Indiana golf fans, Crooked Stick Golf Club and BMW helped the 2016 BMW Championship raise \$2.8 million for the event's sole charity, the Evans Scholars Foundation.

Conducted by the Western Golf Association, the 2016 BMW Championship attracted more than 120,000 spectators to Crooked Stick from September 6-11 to see the PGA TOUR's best compete in the penultimate event of the FedExCup Playoffs. All proceeds from the BMW Championship help support the Evans Scholars Foundation's mission of sending deserving caddies to college. Since 2007, the BMW Championship has raised \$24.4 million for the Evans Scholars Foundation.

Evans Scholars and Evans Scholars Alumni were featured prominently throughout tournament week. Current Scholars and Alumni – some of whom graduated from college decades ago – worked as caddies in Monday's Evans Scholars Cup and Wednesday's playing of the Gardner Heidrick Pro-Am. Scholars and Alumni donated their tips back to the Evans Scholars Program and helped raise more than \$1 million.

Evans Scholars also interacted with spectators at a putting challenge inside the BMW Experience, and were introduced between tee times for the final groups on Saturday and Sunday. Purdue Evans Scholars David Fahnbulleh and Hayden Bauschka were featured in television segments produced by NBC and Golf Channel that exposed millions of golf fans worldwide to the Program and its mission. Bauschka received his full tuition and housing Evans Scholarship as a result of Jordan Spieth's hole-in-one during the 2015 BMW Championship.

"We are proud to once again contribute to a cause that does so much good for so many deserving caddies and their families," said Vince Pellegrino, WGA Senior Vice President of Tournaments. "The tremendous support we received from Indiana golf fans and the local and regional corporate communities helps ensure the Evans Scholars Foundation is able to continue awarding full tuition and housing scholarships to young men and women."

"For 10 years now, it has been an honor to support the Evans Scholars Foundation," said Trudy Hardy, Vice President of Marketing, and BMW of North America. "It's extremely gratifying to know

that so many deserving young men and women will be afforded the opportunity to continue their education thanks to the \$2.8 million raised during the 2016 BMW Championship.”

The 2017 BMW Championship is set for September 12-17 at Conway Farms Golf Club in Lake Forest, Illinois.

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#### **About the BMW Championship**

The BMW Championship dates back to 1899 when it debuted as the Western Open, making it the third-oldest tournament on the PGA TOUR schedule, behind only the British Open and U.S. Open. BMW has sponsored the tournament since 2007 when it became the penultimate event of the PGA TOUR’s FedExCup Playoffs. The BMW Championship features a field of 70 players to determine the final 30 players for the FedExCup finale at the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola in Atlanta.

All net proceeds from the BMW Championship benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation, which grants full college scholarships to deserving young caddies. Since BMW became title sponsor in 2007, the tournament has contributed over \$24.4 million to the Evans Scholars Foundation.

#### **About the Western Golf Association**

The Western Golf Association conducts three national golf championships and sponsors the nationally acclaimed Evans Scholars Foundation. Headquartered in Golf, Illinois, the organization was founded in 1899 by 11 Chicago-area golf clubs to promote their interests in golf. In addition to the BMW Championship, the WGA conducts two prestigious amateur championships, the Western Amateur and the Western Junior.

#### **About Evans Scholars Foundation**

The WGA champions education through golf by supporting the Evans Scholars Program, the sole charitable beneficiary of the BMW Championship. Established by the WGA and famed amateur golfer Charles “Chick” Evans Jr., the program provides full housing and tuition scholarships to deserving caddies across the country. This fall, 935 caddies are attending 20 major universities on Evans Scholarships, and there are more than 10,400 Evans Alumni. The WGA’s Board of Governors has set a goal of having 1,000 Evans Scholars enrolled in college annually by 2020. The Evans Program is funded by contributions from more than 28,700 donors across the country, including many Evans Alumni, and by proceeds from the BMW Championship.

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