



NEWS

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FRED COUPLES RECEIVES SPONSOR EXEMPTION TO 2012 WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN

PHOENIX, Ariz. – 2012 Waste Management Phoenix Open Tournament Chairman Alex Clark announced today that winning Presidents Cup Captain Fred Couples will receive the third of five sponsor exemptions for the 2012 Waste Management Phoenix Open, scheduled to be played January 30 – February 5 at the TPC Scottsdale.

“Waste Management and The Thunderbirds are absolutely thrilled to have Freddy Couples back for the 2012 tournament,” said Clark. “Freddy is a fan favorite everywhere he plays, especially in Phoenix and has had great success here.”

The 2012 tournament will mark Couples’ 18th appearance at the Phoenix Open. In his previous 17 starts in Phoenix, he has six top-20 finishes. His best finishes came in 1988 when he lost in a three-hole playoff to Sandy Lyle and 1990 when he finished 3rd.

Since turning professional in 1980, Couples has had a long and successful career, capturing 15 PGA TOUR wins including the 1992 Masters and six Champions Tour victories. In 2011, Couples won twice on the Champions Tour (Constellation Energy Senior Players Championship and the AT&T Championship) while his best PGA TOUR finish was a T7 at the Northern Trust Open. He is a two-time Presidents Cup Captain (2009 and 2011) and has played on five Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup teams.

Clark and The Thunderbirds have a total of five exemptions to handout to the 2012 Waste Management Phoenix Open. The first exemption was given to three-time Phoenix Open Champion Mark Calcavecchia in late December and the second was given to PGA TOUR rookie Harris English on January 9th. The remaining two exemptions will be announced in the coming days leading up to the tournament.

The Waste Management Phoenix Open will be played January 30 – February 5, 2012, at the TPC Scottsdale. The tournament host Thunderbirds have raised more than \$75 million for charities, with more than \$45 million generated since 2004. The 2012 edition will mark the 77th playing of the event, making it one of the five oldest events on the PGA TOUR (not including the major championships). Title sponsor Waste Management, Inc., based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company's customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. For more information on Waste Management visit wm.com or thinkgreen.com. For more information on the Waste Management Phoenix Open, visit wmphoenixopen.com.

