



PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER HASKINS AWARD WINNER CHRIS GOTTERUP RECEIVES THIRD SPONSOR EXEMPTION FOR 2024 WM PHOENIX OPEN PRESENTED BY TAYLOR MORRISON

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – Tournament Chairman George Thimsen announced today former Haskins Award winner and Oklahoma Sooner alum Chris Gotterup will receive the third of five available sponsor exemptions for the 2024 WM Phoenix Open presented by Taylor Morrison, set to tee it up February 5-11 at TPC Scottsdale.

“We take great pride in offering opportunities to emerging PGA TOUR players, and we have quite the track record of past exemptions that’ve gone on to become very successful on TOUR,” WM Phoenix Open Tournament Chairman George Thimsen said. “With Chris entering the professional scene as a fresh face, we can’t wait to witness his debut at ‘The People’s Open.’”

Gotterup Finished 23rd on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List as a rookie to earn his PGA TOUR card. That season he posted three top-10s – all of which were Top-5 finishes – and only three missed cuts in 24 starts. He totaled 14 Top-25s and closed the season with five Top-25s in the final six events to seal his PGA TOUR status for the 2023-2024 season. His best outing on the big stage came in 2022 where he achieved a Top-5 finish at the John Deere Classic.

During his collegiate career at Oklahoma, Gotterup became the first Sooner to win the Haskins Award, which is given to recognize the Player of the Year in men’s college golf. The award dates back to 1971 and has been given to the likes of Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Justin Thomas, David Duval, and Ben Crenshaw, to name a few. This will be his first ever appearance at “The People’s Open.”

The Thunderbirds and WM have a total of five exemptions to award for the 2024 WM Phoenix Open. The first two exemptions were given to 2014 WM Phoenix Open champ Kevin Stadler and current European Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald. The remaining two exemptions will be announced leading up to the tournament.

The 2024 WM Phoenix Open will take place Feb. 5-11 at TPC Scottsdale. “The People’s Open” was named Tournament of the Year at the 2023 PGA TOUR annual meetings, garnering the award for the fifth time to acknowledge the tournament’s legendary status as one the most unique events in golf. Scottie Scheffler is the defending champ, (won in 2022 and 2023) and has the rare opportunity to achieve only the second three-peat in WM Phoenix Open history since Arnold Palmer (1961-63). The 2024 edition will mark the 89th playing of the event (one of the five oldest events on the PGA TOUR) and the 15th with WM as title sponsor. For more information, visit www.wmphoenixopen.com.

The Thunderbirds were founded in 1937 with the mission of promoting the Valley of the Sun through sports. The Thunderbirds consist of 55 “active” members and more than 280 “life” members who have helped the tournament eclipse \$190 million in charitable giving since its inception in 1932 (through the 2023 tournament). For more information on The Thunderbirds or the 2024 WM Phoenix Open, visit www.wmphoenixopen.com.

