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## DEFENDING CHAMP NICK TAYLOR, HIDEKI MATSUYAMA AND WYNDHAM CLARK AMONG FIRST COMMITMENTS TO 2025 WM PHOENIX OPEN FIELD

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. – Tournament Chairman Matt Mooney announced today the WM Phoenix Open has received early commitments from some of the PGA TOUR's top players who will tee it up at "The People's Open" February 3-9 at TPC Scottsdale. Among the first to commit include defending WM Phoenix Open champion Nick Taylor, two-time WM Phoenix Open winner and 2024 Olympic Silver medalist Hideki Matsuyama, and 2023 U.S. Open Champion Wyndham Clark.

"We're thrilled to welcome some of the world's top players to our 2025 field, including two of our former champs Hideki and Nick," Mooney said. "The WM Phoenix Open prides itself on having one of the most competitive fields on TOUR and these early commitments put us on track to continue that tradition as we gear up for the 90th edition of 'The People's Open.'"

A four-time winner on the PGA TOUR, Taylor won last year's WM Phoenix Open in dramatic fashion besting Charley Hoffman in a two-hole sudden-death playoff. The Canadian standout has been a consistent presence on the PGA TOUR with career-defining wins highlighted by the 2023 RBC Canadian Open — a historic triumph on home soil making him the first Canadian in nearly seven decades to win Canada's official open championship. Last Summer Taylor proudly represented Canada in Paris in the Olympic Games, further solidifying his role as one of the nation's most accomplished golfers. He seeks to become the ninth player to win back-to-back WM Phoenix Open titles.

World No. 5 golfer Matsuyama has already started off the 2025 season strong after an extraordinary performance in the TOUR's season-opener at the Sentry in Maui. The two-time WM Phoenix Open champion made history at Kapalua with the lowest 72-hole score in PGA TOUR history, finishing 35-under par. His incredible career includes 19 worldwide wins, including the 2021 Masters where he became the first Japanese born player to win a Major. A trailblazer for Japanese golf, he has been a fixture in the

FedExCup Playoffs, making an impressive 10 TOUR Championship appearances since 2014. The 11-time PGA TOUR winner is one of only eight players to successfully defend his WM Phoenix Open title the following year with back-to-back wins in 2016 and 2017. Matsuyama will vie for his third WM Phoenix Open win in 2025, seeking to become only the fourth player in tournament history to win three times (*Arnold Palmer, Gene Littler, Mark Calcavecchia, Phil Mickelson*). Along with his two wins at TPC Scottsdale, Matsuyama has a runner-up finish, five Top-10s and eight Top-25 finishes in 11 WM Phoenix Open starts.

A three-time winner on the PGA TOUR, Clark claimed his first two career wins in 2023, winning the Wells Fargo Championship in May, then followed that up with his first major championship win at the 2023 U.S. Open at Los Angeles Country Club in June. In 2024 he continued his strong play with a victory at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am to go along with two runner-up outings and eight Top-10s to finish eighth in the final FedExCup rankings. This will be Clark's seventh WM Phoenix Open appearance, with his best finish a T-10 in 2023. He currently ranks No. 7 in the Official World Golf Rankings.

The 2025 WM Phoenix Open will take place Feb. 3-9 at TPC Scottsdale. "The People's Open" has been named the Tournament of the Year by the PGA TOUR five times to acknowledge the tournament's legendary status as one the most unique events in golf. Nick Taylor won in dramatic fashion in 2024 against Charley Hoffman in a two-hole playoff, capping off his fourth career PGA TOUR victory and marking the sixth time in the last nine years the WM Phoenix Open has been decided in a playoff. The 2025 edition will mark the 90th playing of the event (one of the five oldest events on the PGA TOUR) and the 16<sup>th</sup> with WM as title sponsor. For more information visit <a href="https://www.WMPhoenixOpen.com">www.WMPhoenixOpen.com</a>.

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 \$208 million in charitable giving since its inception in 1932. For more information on The Thunderbirds or the 2025 WM Phoenix Open, visit <a href="https://www.wmphoenixopen.com">www.wmphoenixopen.com</a>.

