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Defending Memorial Tournament winner Hideki Matsuyama, two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson and top talent Dustin Johnson highlight early commitments to the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide

Daily Ticket Pack offer available ONLY through April 24

Limited space remains for inaugural FORE! Miler presented by Ohio Health

Dublin, Ohio – Officials of the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide announced today that the Tournament has accepted early entries from defending Memorial winner Hideki Matsuyama, two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson and popular young star Dustin Johnson to compete in the 40th edition of the prestigious invitational Tournament hosted by golfing legend Jack Nicklaus.

The Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide is June 1-7 at world-renowned Muirfield Village Golf Club.

Matsuyama, 23, is coming off a successful rookie season on the PGA TOUR. His playoff victory at *the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide* was his first professional win on U.S. soil to go with four top-10 finishes and more than \$2.8 million in TOUR earnings. He has continued to play well this season, recording six top-10 finishes over 12 events, including a runner-up effort in the *Waste Management Phoenix Open* and a fifth place finish in last week's *Masters Tournament*. Matsuyama is ranked a career-high No. 15 in the world and stands No. 10 in FedExCup points and No. 9 on the PGA TOUR money list with \$2,156,046. Competing in his first Presidents Cup in 2013 at Muirfield Village Golf Club, he went 1-3-1 for the International team. Last year, the Sendai, Japan, native became the youngest player to win the Memorial and the first since Roger Maltbie, who won the inaugural event in 1976, to record a victory in his first start at the Muirfield Village Golf Club.

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Watson, 36, recorded his seventh-career PGA TOUR title this season at the *World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions*. Watson's victory and four top-10 finishes in only six events played this season puts him fourth in the Official World Golf Ranking and fifth in FedExCup points. A resident of Windermere, Fla., Watson is coming off the second two-win season of his career, with victories at the *Masters Tournament* and *Northern Trust Open* in 2013-14. His victory at the Masters was his second career major championship. Watson currently holds the fifth spot on the TOUR's money list with \$2,720,950, raising his career earnings to \$27,776,846. Second on the TOUR in driving distance with an average of 310.3 yards, Watson's best finish in his nine previous appearances at the Memorial Tournament is third place last year. After holding the 36-hole lead, he finished at 12-under-par 276, one shot shy of the playoff between Matsuyama and Kevin Na. Watson's scoring average at Muirfield Village Golf Club is 71.88 and his career earnings at the Memorial total \$652,646.25.

Johnson, 30, has been a rising force on the PGA TOUR since recording his first TOUR victory in 2008 at the *Turning Stone Resort Championship*. He has since posted at least one win each season en route to nine total PGA TOUR victories and \$27,148,210 in career earnings. The Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, resident has recorded five top-10 finishes this year, including a victory at the *World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship* and a runner-up finish at the *Northern Trust Open*. Johnson currently sits sixth in FedExCup points and in the Official World Golf Ranking. He will be making his eighth start at this year's Memorial. His best finish and only top-10 came in 2011 when he was fourth. His career statistics at the Memorial Tournament include earnings of \$520,951 and a 72.19 scoring average. Johnson finished in a tie for 46th place last year after rounds of 73, 68, 71 and 73.

In additional Tournament news, weekly Patron badges, which are valid Monday to Sunday and provide access to the Tournament grounds, are available for \$173 each. The Daily Ticket Pack offer – choose from Patron or Golden Bear Club access – is ONLY available through April 24, 2015.

The public may call the Tournament Ticket Office 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays at 877-MT BADGE (877-682-2343) or visit <http://www.mtbadge.com> to purchase badges. Kids 16 and under can attend for free with a ticketed adult and kids 18 and under are admitted free on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 for Junior Golf Day. Daily practice round tickets for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are also available. The cost is \$35 and they are valid for all three practice-round days.

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INDIVIDUAL BADGE OPTION BREAKDOWN

- **Daily Golden Bear Club Ticket Pack \$278**
Golden Bear Club and Grounds admission, Monday - Sunday. Receive one ticket for each day. Located adjacent to No. 10 fairway. Includes your choice of menu for purchase, cash bar, television viewing and open seating in a sports bar setting.
- **Weekly Golden Bear Club Badge \$278**
Golden Bear Club and Grounds admission, Monday - Sunday. Receive one badge valid the entire week. Located adjacent to No. 10 fairway. Includes your choice of menu for purchase, cash bar, television viewing and open seating in a sports bar setting.
- **Daily Patron Ticket Pack \$173**
Grounds only admission, Monday – Sunday. Receive one ticket for each day.
- **Weekly Patron Badge \$173**
Grounds only admission, Monday – Sunday. Receive one badge valid the entire week.
- **Any day Practice Round Ticket \$35**
Monday – Wednesday, grounds admission only. Includes three (3) Any Day Practice Round tickets to use on the day(s) of your choice.
- **Junior Ticket \$0**
Select one ticket per ticketed adult for children 16 and under.

* NOTE: For more information, including badge package options please visit www.mtbadge.com.

A limited number of race entries remain available for the inaugural FORE! Miler presented by OhioHealth, a 4-mile road race that will kick off the 40th playing of the Memorial. The race will serve as a fundraiser that will highlight and benefit the alliance between Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

The FORE! Miler presented by OhioHealth begins at **6:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, May 28**. The race will follow a route that starts and ends at Muirfield Village Golf Club and includes Memorial Drive, Avery Road, Brand Road, Muirfield Drive and Kinross Court. After the race, runners and walkers will enjoy a free Post-Race Party at the Golden Bear Club, an enclosed, climate-controlled venue located between the fairway at Hole No. 10 and the green at No. 14 green at Muirfield Village Golf Club. The FORE! Miler is limited to the first 3,000 runners and walkers.

Race fees are \$45 per person through April 30, 2015 and \$50 per person starting May 1 until sold out. All proceeds from the FORE! Miler benefit Nationwide Children's Hospital. Participants will receive an

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Official FORE! Miler-themed Technical Race Shirt, an Official FORE! Miler-themed Finisher's Medal, one complimentary Practice Round ticket (\$35 value) to the Memorial Tournament for Wednesday, June 3, which includes access to the Official Pro-Am and Memorial Honoree Ceremony, and a complimentary adult beverage at the Post-Race Party.

About the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide

The Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide is held annually at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus. The Tournament, founded and hosted by Jack Nicklaus, is conducted each year with three goals in mind: to honor the memory of individuals living and deceased who have distinguished themselves in the game of golf; to showcase the world's best golfers competing on one of the most challenging venues in the world for the enjoyment of spectators; and to benefit many Greater Columbus Charities in alliance with the Nicklaus Children's Healthcare Foundation, Nationwide Children's Hospital and numerous other local organizations. For more information, visit www.thememorialtournament.com or call 614-889-6700.

About Nationwide

Nationwide, a Fortune 100 company based in Columbus, Ohio, is one of the largest and strongest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the U.S. and is rated A+ by both A.M. Best and Standard & Poor's. The company provides a full range of insurance and financial services, including auto, commercial, homeowners and life insurance; public and private sector retirement plans, annuities and mutual funds; banking and mortgages; specialty health; pet, motorcycle, boat and farm insurance. For more information, visit www.nationwide.com.

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