

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 20, 2009

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Field Finalized for Bass Pro Shops/Payne Stewart Junior Championship
Rivercut Golf Course in Springfield, Mo., to host 99 of nation's top junior golfers

BRASELTON, Ga. – The American Junior Golf Association has finalized the tournament field for the third-annual Bass Pro Shops/Payne Stewart Junior Championship. The 54-hole event will be played at Springfield's Rivercut Golf Course, July 27-30, and players from 20 states and Canada will compete for the championship.

Of the 99 players in the field, 20 hail from Missouri, including three from Springfield. Adam Sterling is a rising senior at Glendale High School and will represent the local contingent in the Boys Division. At the 2008 Bass Pro Shops/Payne Stewart Junior Championship, Sterling finished 41st in the 74-player Boys Division field.

Margaret Alumno and Jessica Dillard led Kickapoo High School to a runner-up finish at the 2008 MSHSAA Class 2 Girls Golf State Championship and will be vying for the title in the Girls Division. Alumno is a rising junior and will be competing in her first career AJGA event, while Dillard is a rising senior and will return to Rivercut Golf Course after competing in the 2008 Bass Pro Shops/Payne Stewart Junior Championship.

Will Pearson of Memphis, Tenn., is among the nationally-ranked players in the tournament field. Behind the strength of a second-place showing at the Southern Junior Championship, Pearson has moved to No. 58 in the Polo Golf Rankings. In the Girls Division, Amy Ruengmateekhun of Garland, Texas, will look to add a second AJGA win to her resume. Since a victory at the 2008 AJGA Junior at Steelwood presented by AT&T, she has posted three AJGA top 10s, including a eighth-place showing at the 2009 Under Armour® / Hunter Mahan Championship.

A portion of the 2009 tournament field will be reserved for players earning entry via the 18-hole K¹² Qualifier, which will be held Sunday, July 26, at Rivercut Golf Course. K¹² Qualifiers give juniors an opportunity to "play their way in" to coinciding AJGA Open tournaments or earn a Tournament Exemption or Performance Star for a future event. The K¹² Qualifier Series offers opportunities for AJGA juniors at approximately 50 AJGA Open events.

Tournament rounds will begin Tuesday, July 28. Tee times will run from 7 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. off the No. 1 tee at Rivercut Golf Course. An awards ceremony will be held following the final round Thursday, July 30. Spectators are welcome and admission is free.

The American Junior Golf Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn college golf scholarships through competitive junior golf. The largest Association of its kind, the AJGA has an annual junior membership (boys and girls ages 12-18) of more than 5,000 junior golfers from 50 states and more than 25 foreign countries.

Titleist, the AJGA's National Sponsor, has been the catalyst and driving force behind the Association's success since 1989. Rolex Watch USA, which is in its third decade of AJGA support, became the inaugural AJGA Premier Partner in 2004. In 2007, after 12 years of support, Polo Ralph Lauren became the AJGA's second Premier Partner.

AJGA alumni have risen to the top of amateur, collegiate and professional golf. More than 200 former AJGA juniors currently play on the PGA and LPGA Tours and have compiled more than 350 wins. AJGA alumni include Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Jim Furyk, Stewart Cink, Davis Love III, Cristie Kerr, Pat Hurst, Paula Creamer, Morgan Pressel and Julieta Granada.

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