

Media Release: Friday February 27, 2009



SIM SHARES LEAD AT MOONAH CLASSIC

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Moonah Classic, Moonah Links, Fingal, Victoria
February 26 – March 1, 2009

A second round five under 67 has West Australian Michael Sim tied for the lead at the end of day two of the Moonah Classic at Moonah Links today.

Setting the pace early in the day, the 24 year old held a one shot lead from the rest of the field until the very end of the round when he was joined by joint overnight leader Miguel Angel Carballo with both players heading into the weekend on a total of eight under.

Fellow West Australian Terry Pilkadaris is a further shot back in a tie for second after a round that included six birdies and a bogey. He sits beside US rookie Josh Teater while four players including Australians Steve Conran and Peter O'Malley are six under par.

Six players share ninth on five-under, including the leading New Zealander David Smail, who shot a 68 and Aussies Andrew Buckle, Alistair Presnell and Richie Gallachan.

Sim, the best placed Australian at last week's Johnnie Walker Classic carried on his revitalised form with a bogey free round that included four birdies in his last four holes. Sim attended the AIS in Victoria for two years which allowed him to frequent the course weekly and credits his knowledge of the challenging Moonah layout for his position after day two.

"I think I probably know the course better than anyone else in the field," said the former world number one amateur. "The course is playing a little bit shorter, they're playing some tees from where I have never played from before but just to know places to miss the ball on many greens is essential I think."

Sim's story has is one of success and setbacks after he was crowned world number one amateur in 2005. He spent the 2006 season on the Nationwide Tour where he claimed victory at the 2006 Palmetto Pride Classic earning his place on the US PGA Tour in 2007 but a back injury midway through the season saw his career take a hit as he struggled with injury losing his place on the main tour for 2009.

Injury and a flagging confidence plagued him but a revitalized Sim has turned his form around in the past six months, most notably at last year's Australian Masters where he led

going into the final round alongside Robert Allenby, eventually finishing tied 11th and at last week's Johnnie Walker Classic where he finished tied 7th.

"I've started to believe in myself a bit more, revealed Sim who credits seeing a sports psychologist as the key to his renewed enthusiasm.

"When I first turned pro it was like these guys are better than me. It's probably taken me a couple of years to get over that. I don't mean it to sound arrogant but I was world number one amateur and I got onto the PGA Tour when I was 21 so I'm obviously good enough and everyone has told me that I am good enough. I just had to see that for myself."

Sim intends to win his way back onto the US PGA Tour in 2010 by playing the Nationwide Tour this season and a win at this week's \$USD600,000 event would go a long way toward achieving his goal.

Notes from Round 2:

The cut was even par with 72 players progressing through to the weekend's rounds.

Defending champion Ewan Porter just made the cut finishing one under the card after a second round 69.

Others to make it through at even par are Paul Sheehan, Andre Stolz, Paul Gow, Craig Spence and Peter Fowler.

Johnnie Walker Classic winner New Zealand's Danny Lee got to one over today but double bogeys on the 10th and 11th holes saw him blow out to eight over and whilst he picked up three shots on the way in it was not enough to recover. He finished at five over par.

Notables to miss the cut included Peter Senior (+1), Won Joon Lee (+2), Nick Flanagan (+6) and Craig Parry (+7).

Saturday's round three action begins at 7:16am.

Entry to the Moonah Classic is Free with all day parking at the venue \$5.00.

The Moonah Classic will be telecast in Australia on TEN HD:

Saturday Feb 28 – 1-5pm Ten & Ten HD AEDT (LIVE)

Sunday March 1 – 1-5pm – Ten & Ten HD AEDT (LIVE)

For more information on the Moonah Classic go to www.pga.org.au

-Ends-

For further information please contact:

MEDIA CENTRE: + 61 3 5988 5173

Jude Coen, Tour Media and Player Relations, PGA of Australia or 0419 425 406

Nicole Powell, Communications & PR Coordinator, PGA of Australia or 0439 933 490

