



PRESS RELEASE

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Michelob ULTRA Duramed FUTURES Players Championship Announces Partnership with the LPGA's State Farm Classic

LAKELAND, Fla., May 9, 2006 – The Duramed FUTURES Tour announced today that the winner of the Michelob Ultra Duramed FUTURES Players Championship will earn a sponsor's exemption to the 2006 State Farm Classic. The 22-year tournament is the Tour's longest-standing event, the first major championship and touts the largest purse on the 2006 schedule with \$100,000.

"Duramed FUTURES Tour players are recognized as the LPGA stars of tomorrow and year after year they reinforce that message by consistently performing at the highest levels and winning LPGA tournaments and honors," said Zayra F. Calderon, president and CEO of the Duramed FUTURES Tour. "Entrance into the State Farm Classic for the winner is further recognition that our players are ready to compete at the next level.

"We are delighted to see that a partnership has formed with these our event and the State Farm Classic. We know this will create more opportunities for the fans and the communities and allow us to showcase women's professional golf in Illinois and surrounding states."

Carolyn F. Bivens, LPGA commissioner, said, "The State Farm Classic is one of the LPGA's oldest and longest running events and it will be exciting for the winner of the Michelob Ultra Duramed FUTURES Players Championship to compete alongside the LPGA Tour stars."

The Michelob Ultra Duramed FUTURES Players Championship is presented by Ameren, Miles Chevrolet, and the Duramed FUTURES Tour will be held June 15 – 18, at Hickory Point Golf Course in Decatur, Ill.

John Skeffington, Michelob Ultra Duramed FUTURES Players Championship tournament chairman, said, "The level of competition will be fierce, with the Major status, purse size and LPGA sponsor's exemption, we anticipate spectators to be at a record level. Our community has shown its commitment to this Tournament with over \$200,000 in sponsorship raised this year and 1500 volunteer hours committed. The Michelob Ultra Duramed FUTURES Players Championship steering committee is excited about the regional economic impact the new Tournament format and LPGA partnership has on central Illinois."

About the Duramed FUTURES Tour

Celebrating 26 competitive seasons in 2006, the Duramed FUTURES Tour has remained committed to developing the skills and dreams of women golfers, establishing role models for youth and creating LPGA stars of tomorrow. With more than 280 alumnae as current members of the LPGA Tour, former FUTURES Tour players have won a total of 295 LPGA titles, including 31 major championships through 2005. Designated as "the official developmental tour of the LPGA," the Duramed FUTURES Tour has become the largest international developmental tour and the second largest women's golf tour in the world. At season's end each year, the top five players on the Tour's Money List earn automatic LPGA Tour exemptions for the following year. Throughout its first quarter century, membership has increased from approximately 150 North American players to more than 300 players from 31 different nations. The Tour now conducts 19 tournaments in 14 states and has raised nearly \$4 million for charitable organizations since 1989.

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