SAN ANTONIO, TX – In conjunction with its annual Media Day, tournament officials announced some early player commitments including the return of last year’s champion Jimmy Walker for the 2016 Valero Texas Open, scheduled for April 21-24 at the AT&T Oaks Course at TPC San Antonio.

Walker, who lives in nearby Boerne, became the fourth San Antonio-area resident to win the Valero Texas Open when he prevailed by four strokes over Jordan Spieth in his victory here last year. Walker was one of only four players in the field to post four sub-par rounds and at the time became the first multiple winner for the TOUR’s 2014-2015 season, having successfully defended his Sony Open in Hawaii title a few months earlier. By season’s end, Walker advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs for a sixth consecutive season and was ranked 16th in the FedExCup standings.

“Jimmy has been a great champion for us throughout the year and we are excited to have him come back and defend his title,” said the tournament’s Executive Director Larson Segerdahl. “He and his wife Erin are great ambassadors for the San Antonio area and for the game of golf. We could not have been prouder to have him as our champion this year and consider him a member of the Valero Texas Open family.”

Walker will have some of the world’s top ranked players, fellow Valero Texas Open champions and some major championship winners to compete against in what is the third oldest PGA TOUR event on the schedule.

Currently, including Walker at No.24, there are nine players in the field who are ranked among the top 25 in the world—(No.9) Dustin Johnson, (No. 10) Patrick Reed, (No.12) Branden Grace, (No.14) Hideki Matsuyama, (No. 17) Brandt Snedeker, (No.19) Brooks Koepka, (No. 20) Zach Johnson and (No.23) J.B. Holmes.


In all, there are six players currently in the field who are major champions and include: Ben Curtis (The Open Championship), Lucas Glover (U.S. Open), Retief Goosen (U.S. Open twice), Padraig Harrington (The Open Championship twice, PGA Championship), Zach Johnson (Masters, The Open Championship), Justin Leonard (The Open Championship).
Tournament officials also announced a commitment from Billy Horschel, the 2014 FedExCup champion and three-time TOUR winner. Bryson DeChambeau, who in 2015 became the fifth American golfer to win the NCAA Championship and the U.S. Amateur Championship while attending Southern Methodist University, has accepted a sponsor invitation to play as he tries to earn his PGA TOUR playing privileges this season. The Valero Texas Open is slated to be his second start as a professional.

The Valero Texas Open is also proud to continue its relationship with the PGA of America and has extended an invitation to Brad Dalke, winner of the 2015 Junior PGA Championship. Dalke, a freshman at Oklahoma, had an outstanding junior career that included four-time AJGA First-Team All-American honors and he was a member of the 2014 USA Junior Ryder Cup team.

Players have until Friday, April 15 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time to commit to the Valero Texas Open. They can withdraw from the tournament at any time.

Tickets are currently on sale. Please visit ValeroTexasOpen.com for all details.

Also, volunteer positions are still available for the Valero Texas Open. Please click here to view more information about opportunities. The deadline to register is April 2.

ABOUT VALERO
Valero Energy Corporation, through its subsidiaries, is an international manufacturer and marketer of transportation fuels, other petrochemical products and power. Valero subsidiaries employ approximately 10,000 people, and its assets include 15 petroleum refineries with a combined throughput capacity of approximately 3.0 million barrels per day, 11 ethanol plants with a combined production capacity of 1.3 billion gallons per year, a 50-megawatt wind farm and renewable diesel production from a joint venture. Through subsidiaries, Valero owns the general partner of Valero Energy Partners LP (NYSE: VLP), a midstream master limited partnership. Approximately 7,500 outlets carry the Valero, Diamond Shamrock, Shamrock, and Beacon brands in the United States and the Caribbean; Ultramar in Canada; and Texaco in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Valero is a Fortune 500 company based in San Antonio. Please visit www.valero.com for more information.

ABOUT THE VALERO TEXAS OPEN
The Valero Texas Open is the 6th oldest professional tournament in golf world-wide, the 3rd oldest on the PGA TOUR and the longest held in the same city. In 2012, the tournament celebrated its 90th anniversary.

Its list of champions includes some of the greatest names in golf history: Walter Hagen, Byron Nelson, Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Ben Crenshaw, Hale Irwin, Lee Trevino, Nick Price, Justin Leonard, Zach Johnson, Adam Scott, and 2015 Champion Jimmy Walker, to name a few.

Since Valero became title sponsor in 2002, the tournament has become the annual leader in charitable fundraising among PGA TOUR events. The Valero Texas Open together with the Benefit for Children reached the $100 million mark in contributions for local and regional charities last year, becoming the fourth PGA TOUR event to do so. Over $92 million of that has been raised since 2002, when Valero became the tournament’s title sponsor.
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