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**MICHELLE WIE MAKES DEBUT AS LPGA TOUR PRO AT SBS OPEN**

Honolulu, Hawaii – It's a year of "firsts" at the 2009 SBS OPEN at Turtle Bay scheduled February 9 – 14. The season launch for the LPGA Tour marks its fifth year at the Palmer Course of Turtle Bay Resort. It will be the first year that local favorite, Michelle Wie, joins the field as a card-carrying LPGA Tour professional. Her strong performance at the LPGA Tour Qualifying Tournament where she finished 7 strokes or more ahead of 12 of the 20 qualifiers gives the 19-year-old playing privileges for 2009. "It feels like a clean slate, a new beginning, and I finally feel like I really earned it," Wie said.

The Palmer Course at Turtle Bay has been a great venue for Wie. When she played the 2005 SBS OPEN as a 15-year-old amateur, she finished 2<sup>nd</sup> alongside Cristie Kerr at 6-under-par. The following year on the Palmer Course, she was medalist and the first woman to win a local qualifying tournament for the US Open. "I think Michelle feels very comfortable here since she has played well here in the past," said Matt Hall, Director of Golf. "She may just come out of the gate at the tournament and win it!"

Another "first" at the 2009 SBS OPEN is the debut of high-definition broadcast of the tournament on Golf Channel to a worldwide audience. The high-quality visual images of West Maui that marked the 2009 telecasts of the Mercedes-Benz Championship and of Oahu's south shore at the Sony Open will showcase Oahu's north shore as well as its vibrant cultural and sports activities during the SBS OPEN.

(more)

The sustainability-focused Greenside Lanai also debuts on the LPGA Tour at the SBS OPEN after an enthusiastic reception on the PGA TOUR at the Sony Open. Making the vision of a “sustainability-oriented, eco-friendly project” a reality, Group 70 International and Swinerton Builders and worked with tournament producer, 141 Premiere Sports & Entertainment, to design and construct the greenside hospitality venue made from recycled and renewable materials. Title sponsor, SBS Corporation, will host their tournament guests from around the world at the venue positioned adjacent to the 18<sup>th</sup> green. Not only will they enjoy the air-conditioned comfort and a terrific view of the action, they will learn how green-building and design can work well on portable as well as temporary structures.

The SBS OPEN also provides the “first look” at the 2009 rookie class of LPGA Tour players, as well as up-close experience with marquee players like Pak, Creamer, Pressel, Kerr and Gulbis. The tournament features the best lady golfers in the world playing for a share of the \$1.2 million purse on February 12-14. The champion’s prize is \$180,000. Charity proceeds benefit Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc.

Tickets are available at the gate daily (Wednesday – Saturday) for \$10 and week-long passes for \$25. Parking is available at Turtle Bay Resort with complimentary shuttle to the golf course. Free spectator activities include: Golf clinic with Paula Creamer, 2007 champion, on Tuesday, February 10, 3 – 4 p.m. (Driving Range, Turtle Bay Resort, call Turtle Bay Golf at 293-8574 for more info); and Aloha Section PGA free 10-minute lessons, giving back to Hawaii, Thursday – Saturday, February 12 – 14 (Spectator Village, Palmer Course). For more information about SBS OPEN at Turtle Bay, call 792-9333 or visit [www.sbsopen.com](http://www.sbsopen.com).

#### Tournament Schedule of Events

<b><i>Monday, Feb. 9 (Free Admission)</i></b> 7:15am Pro-Qualifying Tournament 9:00am Monday Pro-Am Clinic & Challenge	<b><i>Wednesday, Feb. 11</i></b> 7:00am SBS OPEN at Turtle Bay Official Pro-Am
<b><i>Tuesday, Feb. 10 (Free Admission)</i></b> 7:00am Professionals Practice Day	<b><i>Thursday, Feb. 12 – Saturday, Feb. 14</i></b> All Day -- Three Rounds - SBS OPEN
Golf Channel LIVE HD Broadcast: Feb. 12 & 13: 1:30PM – 3:30PM – HT; Feb. 14: 1:30PM – 4:30PM HT	