A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated

**2020 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP @ SHERWOOD Message Document**

**Things to know about 2020 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP @ SHERWOOD**

1. **Japan’s PGA TOUR event:** The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, which debuted on the PGA TOUR schedule in 2019 as the first official event in Japan, will be held in the United States for one year only due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California will host the event, completing a three-week West Coast Swing following two weeks in Las Vegas, after the relocation of the TOUR’s Korea-based tournament, THE CJ CUP. The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, first contested at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club in Chiba, Japan, plans to return to Japan in 2021.
2. **Chasing 83:** The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP marks the anniversary of Tiger Woods’ record-tying 82nd career PGA TOUR title. On October 28, 2019, Woods won the inaugural ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP by three strokes over Japan’s Hideki Matsuyama to tie Sam Snead’s record for all-time PGA TOUR wins. Since then, Woods has made seven starts as he seeks a record-breaking 83rd career victory, with his most recent start coming at the U.S. Open (MC). Woods has a history of success at Sherwood Country Club where, as host venue for his Foundation’s event, the Hero World Challenge, from 2000 to 2013, he won five times (2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2011).
3. **ZOZO Inc:** The title sponsor owns and operates ZOZOTOWN, Japan's largest online fashion shopping site. ZOZOTOWN has over 1,300 (online) shops offering over 7,900 brands with more than 830,000 items available at any given time. More than 8.66 million customers shop on ZOZOTOWN annually. ZOZO, Inc. engages in other various services related to fashion in order to realize its company philosophy, ～Be unique. Be equal. ～
4. **Stars in La La Land:** The star-studded field includes 25 of the top 30 in the Official World Golf Ranking, including eight of the top-10 players, and 28 of the top 30 players who qualified for the 2020 TOUR Championship. The 78-player field includes 55 TOUR winners, highlighted by nine players with double-digit wins including defending champion Tiger Woods (82) and Phil Mickelson (44), who returns to the PGA TOUR after claiming his second PGA TOUR Champions title in as many starts at last week’s Dominion Energy Charity Classic. The 2019 runner-up Hideki Matsuyama is the highest-ranked player among the eight Japanese players in the field, including the TOUR’s last Japanese winner, Satoshi Kodaira, TOUR-favorite Ryo Ishikawa, and Takumi Kanaya, 22, who recently turned professional after a successful amateur career which saw him win the McCormack Medal as the leading player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking.
5. **Same tournament, different course:** Sherwood Country Club is a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course and has previously hosted unofficial PGA TOUR events including Greg Norman’s QBE Shootout (1989-99) and the Hero World Challenge (from 2000-13), and was the site of the “Showdown at Sherwood,” the 1999 prime-time exhibition match between Tiger Woods and David Duval (Woods won 2&1). Sherwood also served as host of a PGA TOUR Champions event in 2016, the PowerShares QQQ Championship. Set at the base of the Santa Monica Mountains just south of Thousand Oaks, Sherwood Country Club is a private golf club with notable members including Kenny G, Caitlyn Jenner, Wayne Gretzky, Jane Seymour, Will Smith and Justin Timberlake.

**IMPACT**

The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP @ SHERWOOD will raise charitable funds through the sale of official tournament merchandise. In addition, a portion of all sales on ZOZOGOLF (<https://zozo.jp/zozogolf/>), a zone specializing in golf merchandise, will also be donated to medical institutions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to help further the development of the golf industry. Beginning Monday, November 2,fans can also purchase tickets for a raffle where winners will be randomly drawn for a chance to win a variety of autographed goods and player-used tournament items from this year’s ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP @ SHERWOOD. ZOZO will also make a donation to Sherwood Cares, the charitable foundation under Sherwood Country Club, as part of its plan to give back to the local community. Sherwood Cares’ mission is to serve children and families in the community by supporting programs that address educational, medical, nutritional and safety needs.

**Featured Groupings**

**Collin Morikawa, Justin Thomas, Patrick Reed**

* Morikawa grew up about an hour away from Sherwood in La Canada Flintridge. He’s played the course and was a spectator at Sherwood when Woods hosted the Hero World Challenge there. “I remember waiting underneath one of the balconies for signatures,” he said in his pre-tournament press conference. “Never got one.”
* Four of Thomas’ 13 wins have come in the fall. He’s off to another strong start this season. He finished eighth at the U.S. Open and T12 at last week’s CJ CUP @ SHADOW CREEK.
* Reed is making his first PGA TOUR start since finishing 13th at the U.S. Open. The former Masters champion won the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship earlier this year.

**Webb Simpson, Rory McIlroy, Phil Mickelson**

* Simpson is coming off a two-win season in 2020. He has top-15s in his first two starts of this season, including an eighth-place finish at the U.S. Open.
* Like Simpson, McIlroy finished eighth at Winged Foot. The two-time FedExCup champion is seeking his first win of the calendar year.
* Mickelson is playing at Sherwood after winning his second PGA TOUR Champions event in as many starts.

**Jon Rahm, Justin Rose, Hideki Matsuyama**

* Rahm is a former winner of Woods’ Hero World Challenge, though at Albany in the Bahamas and not at Sherwood. The Spaniard is coming off a two-win season that featured victories at the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide and BMW Championship.
* Rose, who won the FedExCup just two years ago, is trying to end a winless drought that extends back to the 2019 Farmers Insurance Open.
* Matsuyama isn’t just a favorite of Japanese fans. He also was runner-up to Woods in last year’s ZOZO. He is seeking his first win since 2017.

**Tiger Woods, Matthew Wolff, Xander Schauffele**

* Woods won last year’s ZOZO for his record-tying 82nd PGA TOUR victory. He also won five times at Sherwood when it hosted his Hero World Challenge.
* Wolff and Woods are the last two players to win the NCAA individual title and a PGA TOUR event in the same year (Ben Crenshaw is the only other player to do it). Wolff started the season with runners-up at the U.S. Open and Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. He went to high school just seven miles from Sherwood and attended tournaments here. “I’ve played (Sherwood) 1,000 times,” Wolff said. “I have a bunch of friends that were members there growing up, and I was fortunate enough that they brought me out. I’m really looking forward to going home and seeing some family and friends and playing pretty much a home course for me.”
* Schauffele has started the season with back-to-back top-5s, including a runner-up at last week’s CJ CUP @ SHADOW CREEK. Last season, he finished in the top 25 in 16 of 18 starts. He is seeking his first win since the Sentry Tournament of Champions in January 2019. Schauffele also has memories of watching Woods compete. Schauffele was by the 18th green when Woods made his famous putt to force a playoff in the 2008 U.S. Open. "I was by that tree left of 18 that's no longer there," he said. "I was there in that arena-type feeling when he made that putt and went nuts."

**Pre-Tournament Interviews**

**Tuesday**

9:00 AM - Collin Morikawa

Approx. 1:30 PM - Takumi Kanaya

3:15 PM - Tiger Woods

Approx. 3:45 PM - Hideki Matsuyama

TBD - Ryo Ishikawa

**Wednesday**

10:00 AM - Phil Mickelson

12:00 PM (after pro-am) - Rory McIlroy

2:00 PM - Adam Scott

TBD PM - Matthew Wolff