

PAST NATIONAL CHAMPIONS HEAD POWERFUL FIELD AT PGA GOLF CLUB FOR 33rd EDITION OF CALLWAY GOLF PGA ASSISTANT CHAMPIONSHIP

Defending Champion Kyle Voska of Cincinnati, Ohio, heads a power-packed field that includes four past national champions in Thursday's opening of the 33rd edition of the Callaway Golf PGA Assistant Championship at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

The \$100,000 Championship, marking Callaway Golf's debut as title sponsor, continues through Sunday, Oct. 4.

The 120-player field features assistant champions from each of the 41 PGA Sections, Section qualifiers, and the defending champion.

Voska, the 33-year-old PGA assistant professional at Sharon Woods Golf Course in Cincinnati, makes his second consecutive appearance.

"You never know what to expect your first time at a big tournament like that, but things fell my way and I came out with a victory," said Voska, referring to last year's Championship. "This year will be totally different. I know what to expect."

Joining Voska in the title hunt is 2007 Champion Chris Moody, PGA assistant professional at Riverside Country Club in Provo, Utah. Moody tied for 35th in 2008.

"I am always excited to travel down to Florida and compete to win a title," said Moody. "My game is a bit rusty, with the birth of my daughter just a few weeks ago, but we will see if I can resolve that this week."

The Championship also features two-time PGA Professional National Champion Tim Thelen of College Station, Texas, and Jeff Freeman of Windermere, Fla., who gained berths at the Section level.

Thelen, PGA assistant professional at The Falls Golf & Country Club in New Ulm, Texas, won the PGA Professional National Championship in 2000 and 2003. He makes a return to familiar ground at PGA Golf Club, where he has competed numerous times.

"I have competed in the PGA Cup as well as the Junior-Senior Championship in the past at PGA Golf Club, so I feel really comfortable," said Thelen, the two-time defending champion in the Southern Texas PGA Championship. "It really is a good course and should be great to compete there this week."

The 48-year-old is also excited to compete in another national championship that features a strong field.

"I am looking forward to the tournament and it will be cool to see what unfolds over four days," said Thelen. "If I can get another national championship under my belt, that really would be awesome."

Freeman, PGA assistant professional at the Country Club of Orlando, captured the 1999 PGA Professional National Championship at Whistling Straits in Kohler, Wis., site of the 2010 PGA Championship. This will be his first Callaway Golf PGA Assistant Championship since 1998, when he finished tied for seventh.

The field also includes Greg Bisconti of South Salem, N.Y., the PGA assistant professional at St. Andrews Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., who earned Low Club Professional honors in the 91st PGA Championship in August at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn.

Following the first 36 holes of play, the field will be reduced to the low 70 scorers and ties.

The Callaway Golf PGA Assistant Champion will collect \$9,000, and if eligible, will earn a berth in the 43rd PGA Professional National Championship, June 27-30, 2010, at French Lick (Ind.) Resort.

The PGA Assistant Championship continues a tradition of excellence in bringing together some of the most talented players in The PGA of America as well as being models of the caliber of members who make up the world's largest working sports organization. Past champions include former Ryder Cup Team members Fred Funk and Loren Roberts, and past PGA Professional National Champions Darrell Kestner and Bruce Zabriski.

About The PGA of America

Since 1916, The PGA of America's mission has been twofold: to establish and elevate the standards of the profession and to grow interest and participation in the game of golf.

By establishing and elevating the standards of the golf profession through world-class education, career services, marketing and research programs, the Association enables PGA Professionals to maximize their performance in their respective career paths and showcases them as experts in the game and in the multi-billion dollar golf industry.

By creating and delivering dramatic world-class championships and exciting and enjoyable golf promotions that are viewed as the best of their class in the golf industry, The PGA of America elevates the public's interest in the game, the desire to play more golf, and ensures accessibility to the game for everyone, everywhere. The PGA of America brand represents the very best in golf.