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**For Immediate Release**

## **Els Back For 15th INTERNATIONAL**

CASTLE ROCK, CO -- Ernie Els will be starting a new streak in the 21<sup>st</sup> presentation of The INTERNATIONAL at Castle Pines Golf Club.

It was announced today that the popular South African and 2000 champion will be making his 15<sup>th</sup> appearance after missing last year's event due to a knee injury. Ernie will be coming off a strong showing in the 2006 British Open and is hoping to increase his lead as The INTERNATIONAL's top career point-maker (344) and money earner (\$1.66M).

"We are glad Ernie is back – in more ways than one," said Executive Director Larry O. Thiel, who invited Els to play in his first PGA TOUR event in 1991. "He's almost back to the form that has made him one of the great players in the world since he first came to us as a youngster in 1991."

Els had to withdraw in 2005 after a freak boating accident, breaking a streak that would have given him the most tournament appearances in a row this year. While sailing in the Mediterranean the week prior, his body twisted one way and his foot got hung up, resulting in the rupture of anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee that required season-ending surgery.

Playing a limited schedule in '06, Ernie is still looking for his first victory. He has made 12 cuts and has a third-place finish in the British Open to his credit, with earnings of nearly \$1.4 million.

Thiel also announced the return of another former champion, Greg Norman (1989), who is playing in his 17<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL and eighth straight. Greg is still sixth in INTERNATIONAL career points (256) and No. 10 in earnings (\$770,921).

Joining Els and Norman are Ryder Cup Captain Tom Lehman – whose assistant Corey Pavin will be joining him in the field – and 2001 champ Tom Pernice Jr.

Others announced were Doug Barron, Robert Damron, Zach Johnson, Pat Perez, John Rollins, Bo Van Pelt and Kane Webber.

To purchase tickets to The INTERNATIONAL, call 888-755-1986, or visit [www.golfintl.com](http://www.golfintl.com).

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