**2017**

The first year under a new name, the PURE Insurance Championship Impacting The First Tee was a three-day scoring record spree, with the methodically magnificent Bernhard Langer finishing with the one that mattered most.

Langer – who at age 60 is playing like he’s 50 and looks like he can play until he’s 70 – shattered the tournament scoring records with a winning total of 198, 17-under par, for his first career victory at Pebble Beach. The previous records for low total, as well as relationship to par, were set in 2004 by Craig Stadler, who won the Monterey Peninsula’s inaugural PGA TOUR Champions tournament with a total 201, 15-under.

Winning by three shots ahead of Jerry Kelly, Langer’s historic finish followed Saturday’s 63 by Kenny Perry at Pebble Beach Golf Links, which at 9-under-par broke the tournament course record. (The overall record is 61.) That followed Friday’s first-round 63 by Scott McCarron, whose 8-under-par start set the overall course record at Poppy Hills Golf Course – in the group ahead of Langer, whose 64 bettered the previous course record of 65.

Trailing by one shot after the first round and leading by one shot after the second, Langer seemed vulnerable when twice he dropped back into a tie with Kelly after bogeys at the par-3 fifth and par-4 eighth.

But Langer, considered one of the most disciplined and perseverant playing in the game – at any age – steadied himself and his game, pulling away with three consecutive birdies on the 13th, 14th and 15th holes for a three-shot lead with three to play and closed with three steady pars to put it away.

Langer’s performance also led to him and partner Justin Potwora winning the pro-junior team competition, only the third time in tournament history that a pro won both the individual and team titles (Craig Stadler 2004, Kirk Triplett 2013). Langer and Potwora, 17, of Eugene Ore., representing The First Tee of Greater Portland, finished at 194, 21-under-par, to win by two shots.

The amateur team competition wound up in a two-way tie at 177, 38-under par, with the twosome of Michael Rubio and Kelly Jensen winning in a card tiebreaker over Tager Olson Neil Hughes.

The amateur field included a variety of luminaries, including actor Kevin Sorbo, whose “Herculean effort” in the opening round included a hole-in-one on the par-3 eighth hole at Poppy Hills.

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, actor Alfonso Ribeiro and 2015 Miss America Kira Kazantsev were on amateur teams, as were returning tournament “regulars” like former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, who made the cut with daughter Heidi Ueberroth as his partner, and longtime 49ers all-star lineman Harris Barton, who also made the cut to 10 teams for Sunday.

LEADERS: First Round – Scott McCarron -8 (63 PH), Bernhard Langer -7 (64 PH), Kevin Sutherland -5 (66 PH), Russ Cochran -4 (67 PH), Scott Parel -4 (67 PH), Jerry Kelly -4 (68 PB), Scott Dunlap -4 (68 PB). Second Round – Bernhard Langer -12 (131/67 PB), Kenny Perry -11 (132/63 PB), Scott Parel -10 (133/66 PB), Jerry Kelly -9 (134/66 PH), Scott McCarron -8 (135/72 PB), David Frost -8 (135/65 PH).

CUT: For the first time, there was a 36-hole cut to the low 50 and ties, with 53 pros at even par 143 advancing. The customary maximum of 23 pro-junior teams made the cut at -10 (133). One junior among the four tied at 133 was eliminated through the tiebreaker.

WEATHER: Friday – Mostly sunny, temperature in mid 60s to low 70s, winds 8-14 mph. Saturday – Mostly sunny, temperature in mid 60s to low 70s, winds 6-12 mph. Sunday – Sunny and warm, temperature in the mid-70s, winds 6-12 mph.

 # # #