



Ryan Vermeer Leads Contingent of 20 PGA Club Professionals to Play in the 100th PGA Championship at Bellerive Country Club

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By John Dever
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SEASIDE, Calif. (June 20, 2018) - Ryan Vermeer of Omaha, Nebraska, who won the 2018 PGA Professional Championship on Wednesday, will lead a contingent of 20 PGA Professionals to the 100th PGA Championship, August 9-12, at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis.

A 40-year-old Director of Instruction at Happy Hollow Club in Omaha, Vermeer will be playing in his second consecutive PGA Championship.

Bob Sowards of Dublin, Ohio, will be the most experienced of the 20 PGA Professionals in St. Louis, as he will be participating in his 10th career PGA Championship, but his first since 2015.

Danny Balin of Rockville, Maryland; Michael Block of Aliso Viejo, California; Craig Bowden of Bloomington, Indiana; Omar Uresti of Austin, Texas; and Shawn Warren of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, earned the final five PGA Championship exemptions available this week, as they emerged from a tense nine-player playoff that lasted seven holes.

Uresti and Matt Dobyms of Glen Head, New York are tied the longest active streak among PGA Club Professionals. Both will be playing in their fourth straight PGA Championship at Bellerive.

Seven of the 20 PGA Club Professionals at Bellerive in August will be making their PGA Championship debuts, while six others return after playing in last year's PGA Championship at Quail Hollow.

PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLUB/FACILITY	PGA SECTION	PGA CHAMPIONSHIP EXPERIENCE
Danny Balin	Rockville, Md.	Westchester C.C.	Metropolitan	2010-13
Rich Berberian Jr.	Hooksett, N.H.	Vesper C.C.	New England	2016-17
Michael Block	Aliso Viejo, Calif.	Arroyo Trabuco G.C.	Southern California	2014, '16
Matt Borchert	Windermere, Fla.	Isleworth C.C.	North Florida	None
Craig Bowden	Bloomington, Ind.	PGA Lifetime Member	Indiana	None
Matt Dobyms	Glen Head, N.Y.	Fresh Meadow C.C.	Metropolitan	2012, '15-17
Jaysen Hansen	Solon, Ohio	Beechmont C.C.	Northern Ohio	2017
Craig Hocknull	Gilbert, Ariz.	Saber Sports Trainer & Glenild G.C.	Southwest	None
Marty Jertson	Phoenix, Ariz.	Ping Golf, Inc.	Southwest	2011-12
Zach Johnson	Farmington, Utah	Davis Park Golf Course	Utah	None
Ben Kern	Abilene, Texas	Diamondback G.C.	Northern Texas	None
Johan Kok	Nashville, Tenn.	Discovery Land Company	Tennessee	2014-16
Sean McCarty	Solon, Iowa	Brown Deer G.C.	Iowa	None
David Muttitt	Albuquerque, N.M.	Los Altos Golf Course	Sun Country	2013, '16-17
Jason Schmuhl	Windsor, Calif.	Windsor G.C.	Northern California	2010
Brian Smock	Coronado, Calif.	Coronado Golf Course	Southern California	2017
Bob Sowards	Dublin, Ohio	Kinsale Golf & Fitness Club	Southern Ohio	1997, 2001, '03-04, '11-15
Omar Uresti	Austin, Texas	PGA Life Member	Southern Texas	2015-17
Ryan Vermeer	Omaha, Neb.	Happy Hollow Club	Nebraska	2017
Shawn Warren	Cape Elizabeth, Maine	Falmouth C.C.	New England	None

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