



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN CENTURY CHAMPIONSHIP TO ESTABLISH
NEW WOMEN'S LONG DRIVE AT ELEVATION RECORD**

*Celebrity tournament at Lake Tahoe includes big hitters
Heather LeMaster & Blair O'Neal as part of large female contingent*

July 13, 2016 (SOUTH LAKE TAHOE Calif./Nev.) -- The American Century Championship celebrity golf tournament will attempt to establish a Women's Long Drive at Elevation record during tournament week this July as part of a competition involving champion long ball artists Heather LeMaster and Blair O'Neal. (www.americancenturychampionship.com)

The competition will take place on Tuesday, July 19, at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course in advance of the 27th annual American Century Championship, the \$600,000 tournament for stars of sports and entertainment, set for July 20-22. The long drive competition will be measured, supervised and conducted under the direction of American Century Championship tournament director Michael Milthorpe.

The concept was presented to the tournament by LeMaster, the 2013 Women's World Long Drive champion. LeMaster, an accomplished college golfer at California State University, Sacramento, is a native of Sacramento, and is familiar with the elevation at Lake Tahoe (6,200 feet) where drives travel farther in the thinner air. After winning in 2013, LeMaster finished second in the Women's World Long Drive competition in both 2014 and 2015 and is playing in the American Century Championship celebrity tournament for the first time this year. LeMaster's winning drive in the World Long Drive competition in 2013 at Mesquite, NV., was 306 yards.

O'Neal is also playing for the first time as part of the largest contingent of women players in the history of the tournament. A *Sports Illustrated* model, Golf Channel host and former LPGA Symetra Tour player, she is a two time NCAA long drive champion from her years with the women's golf team at Arizona State University. The other three women in the field are two-time Olympic Gold Medalist Abby Wambach and NHL on NBC host Kathryn Tappen, both first timers, *Golf Channel Morning Drive* host Lisa Cornwell returns for 2016. O'Neal's longest drive in winning her NCAA titles was 295 yards.

The tournament has consulted with the Guinness Book of World Records and there is no category for long drives at an elevation above 6,000 feet. Therefore, the longest drive of the competition will be submitted for consideration to the Guinness Book of World Records in London, with evidence of authenticity.

The 54-hole American Century Championship is televised nationally on NBC and NBCSN, featuring a celebrity field of 90-plus stars competing for the \$600,000 in prize money. Other prominent names expected at Lake Tahoe are Charles Barkley, Aaron Rodgers, Justin Timberlake, Steph Curry, Andre Iguodala, Steve Young, Emmitt Smith, Carson Palmer, Alex Smith, Steve Spurrier, Marvin Lewis, Roger Clemens, Jerry Rice, Ray Romano, Larry the Cable Guy, Billy Bush and Alfonso Ribiero.

American Century Championship Airtimes

Friday, July 22	6-8 p.m. ET / 3-5 p.m. PT	NBCSN
Saturday, July 23	3-6 p.m. ET / Noon-3 p.m. PT (live)	NBC
Sunday, July 24	3-6 p.m. ET / Noon-3 p.m. PT (live)	NBC

In addition to high-stakes competition, the tournament will raise money for the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, a non-profit, basic biomedical research organization dedicated to improving human health by studying the fundamental processes of life. Regional Lake Tahoe non-profits also benefit from the tournament, which has raised over \$4 million for charity.

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For further information, contact:

Steve Griffith
Vizion Group
484/433-7757 (East Coast)

Phil Weidinger
Weidinger Public Relations
775/588-2412 (West Coast)





After winning in 2013 with a 306 yard drive, Heather LeMaster finished second in the Women's World Long Drive competition in both 2014 and 2015.



Sports Illustrated model, Golf Channel host and former LPGA Symetra Tour player, Blair O'Neal will play in the American Century Championship for the first time.

About American Century Investments

Tournament title sponsor American Century Investments is a leading privately held investment management firm, committed to delivering superior investment performance and building long-term client relationships since its founding in 1958. Serving investment professionals, institutions, corporations and individual investors, American Century Investments offers a variety of actively managed investment disciplines through an array of products including mutual funds, institutional separate accounts, commingled trusts and sub-advisory accounts. Delivering investment results to clients enables American Century Investments to distribute over 40 percent of its profits to the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, a 500-person, non-profit basic biomedical research organization. The Institute is the controlling owner of American Century Investments and has received dividend payments totaling over \$1.2 billion since 2000. For more information about American Century Investments, visit www.americancentury.com.

About the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority

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