



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Tim O'Neal Accepts Sponsor's Exemption to Compete at 2008 Melwood Prince George's County Open

*Three locals also secure spots for 2008 Melwood*

MITCHELLVILLE, MD (May 13, 2008) – Tournament Director **Teo Sodeman** announced today that Nationwide Tour player Tim O'Neal has accepted a sponsor's exemption to compete in the **Melwood Prince George's County Open**, which is returning to the Country Club at Woodmore in Mitchellville, MD on May 19-25, 2008 for its second year.

"Tim played well here last year and we thought it would be great to have him back in 2008," said Sodeman. "We know fans will enjoy coming out to watch Tim play and compete against a top field."

Three other local players qualified for the 2008 Melwood by finishing in the top three at the Nationwide Tour Melwood Prince George's County Open Qualifier held at the Country Club at Woodmore on May 8. **David Newsom** (Leesburg, VA – River Creek Club), **Phil Bowers** (Woodbridge, VA – Mt. Vernon Country Club) and **Jon Corliss** (Virginia Beach, VA – Heron Ridge Golf Club) all finished tied for first with rounds of 73.

O'Neal, a regular on the Nationwide Tour, has only competed in one event this year, the Fort Smith Classic, in which he finished tied for 60<sup>th</sup>. His best round of the weekend was his second when he posted a 68.

In 2007 O'Neal did not crack the top-10 in any tournament for the first time in his career, but he did grab three top-25 finishes. His best round at the 2007 Melwood was a 69, which he shot on the second day of the event and that effort allowed him to make the weekend cut.

O'Neal's performance on the Nationwide Tour from 2001-2006 was filled with numerous top-10 finishes. In 2005 he missed his PGA Tour card by a single stroke.

O'Neal received early financial backing from former University of Tennessee basketball coach Wade Houston and actor Will Smith. The sponsorship helped him to work with Butch Harmon, which led to two of his better years in 2000 and 2001.

There are still 14 more openings for the 2008 Melwood and they will be determined on Monday, May 19, 2008 at two different courses. There will be seven spots up for grabs at both Little Bennett and Laurel Hill. Melwood is using two courses because they are expecting more than 144 competitors.

The Melwood Prince George's County Open, set for May 19-25, 2008 at the Country Club of Woodmore in Mitchellville, MD, features 156 professional golfers competing for a \$650,000 purse with the champion collecting \$117,000. More than just a professional sporting event, the tournament is a week-long community event featuring a high school tournament and junior clinic, multiple Pro-Am events, a private sponsor's party at Six Flags America, and various social events. The event benefits Melwood and the Melwood Horticultural Training Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving more than 2,100 people with disabilities with job training, employment, housing and recreation in the Washington D.C. area.

For information on tickets, corporate sponsorship and hospitality opportunities, Tickets For Charity program, schedule of activities, parking and more, please contact the Tournament Office at (301) 599-2732 or go on online to [www.melwoodgolf.org](http://www.melwoodgolf.org).

ABOUT NATIONWIDE TOUR:

Part of the PGA TOUR family, the Nationwide Tour was launched in 1990 and sends its 25 leading money winners to the PGA TOUR each year. Nationwide is currently in its fifth year as the umbrella sponsor of this tour and has an agreement with the Tour through 2012. The PGA TOUR is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and its website is [www.pgatour.com](http://www.pgatour.com).

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