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## **2008 U.S. SENIOR OPEN: HALE IRWIN TO SERVE AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN**

Colorado Springs, CO (Jan. 23, 2007) – Famed golfer, Hale Irwin has accepted the position of Honorary Chairman for the 2008 U.S. Senior Open, to be held at The Broadmoor, July 28 – August 3, 2008.

Irwin was asked to serve in this capacity by the championship's local organizing committee, headed by Mr. Bill Hybl and Mr. Phil Lane. Lane explained, "we approached Hale to serve in this role because we wanted to honor his accomplishments at past USGA Championships and his long-time connection to the State of Colorado."

As the Honorary Chairman, Irwin will aid in the promotion of the Championship and appear at the Ticket Launch press conference in spring 2007. He will also host an exhibition during the week of the Championship in which he will provide tips and demonstrate golf shots for spectators.

Irwin began playing golf professionally in 1968 and since that time has recorded 20 PGA Tour victories and 45 Champions Tour victories. Included in these victories are five USGA Championships, the 1974 U.S. Open, 1979 U.S. Open, 1990 U.S. Open, 1998 U.S. Senior Open and 2000 U.S. Senior Open.

While attending the University of Colorado at Boulder, Irwin competed on both the golf and football teams. His awards include winning the 1967 NCAA golf championship (individual) and two-time All-Big Eight defensive back (football). In 2002, the University of Colorado inducted Irwin into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Similarly, Irwin was named to the Colorado State High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006 for his accomplishments at Boulder High School. Irwin was a three-sport athlete at Boulder and led the football team to a state title in 1963.

### About the U.S. Senior Open:

The U.S. Senior Open is one of 13 National Championships conducted annually by the United States Golf Association (USGA). The 29th U.S. Senior Open to be held July 28 – Aug 3, 2008, will bring a field of 156 of the world's best professional and amateur Senior (over the age of 50) golfers to The Broadmoor East Course. Featured players expected to compete include: Greg Norman, Nick Faldo, Tom Watson and Craig Stadler. The U.S. Senior Open will be the sixth USGA championship staged at The Broadmoor dating back to the 1959 U.S. Amateur won by Jack Nicklaus.

### About The Broadmoor:

The Broadmoor, located at the foot of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado Springs, Colorado is the longest consecutive winner of the AAA Five-Diamond and Mobil Five-Star awards for excellence in service and facilities. The Broadmoor spans 3,000 acres with 700 hotel rooms and suites surrounding Cheyenne Lake, three championship golf courses, an award-winning tennis club and an internationally renowned European full-service spa.

### About the USGA:

The USGA, golf's governing body in this country and Mexico, works closely with the R & A of St. Andrews, Scotland to produce a uniform code of Rules of Golf that are observed worldwide. The USGA also conducts equipment testing, maintains an official Handicap System, and administers an ongoing "For the Good of the Game" grants program, which has allocated \$53 million over 10 years, through its headquarters in Colorado Springs, CO.

The organization's most visible role, however, is played out each season in conducting 13 national championships, including the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open, and U.S. Senior Open. The other 10 national championships are exclusively for amateurs, and include the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Women's Amateur.