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CONTACT:

Melissa Ludwig

Ka'anapali Golf Resort

808.357.7248

mludwig@kaanapaligolfresort.com

Dynamic Duo of Nicklaus & Watson Keep their Lead and Take Home the Trophy

10 Skins & \$350,000 for the Champions of the Wendy's Champions Skins Game at Ka'anapali

(LAHAINA, HI) – Watson and Nicklaus started the day with a bang when they made a birdie on #10 to collect two skins and add another \$80,000 to their winnings from day one for a then current total of \$300,000.

But defending champions, Fuzzy Zoeller and Ben Crenshaw were not going to lie down and let Jack and Tom have an easy day. Zoeller and Crenshaw proceeded to make four birdies over the next five holes and bring their total earnings to \$230,000 and at least get the leaders thinking twice about a cake walk into the final holes.

Fuzzy sank a 3-footer on the 12th hole to start them on their five skins winning streak. On hole #15, he pointed to the crowd and said “Come on, I need to hear that you want me to make this, I need some noise!” and the crowd responded. Zoeller rose to the challenge and drained his putt for birdie and two skins. Crenshaw was his ever quiet and consistent playing partner, making fantastic approach shots all day to get Zoeller in a position for those birdie putts.

It was coming down to the wire on the final three holes and the two other teams of Price/Couples and Player/Roberts were eager to earn some skins of their own.

“At Ka'anapali you need some experience playing this golf course – today we had the experience,” Watson stated when asked about the age difference of some of the teams and how that might have played into the outcome. He added, “The Royal Course conditions were great – it's a good design with quite a variety of holes - you have to use a lot of shots.”

It was on the 16th hole that Watson and his partner were able to get within 25 feet for birdie and Tom sank his putt to win the hole and add another \$50,000 to their earnings.

Moving on to #17, the suspense continued to grow – Nick Price knocked his iron shot on the par 3 155-yard hole to within two feet of the flag. Gary Player then matched him and stuck his shot to within inches of the hole. Fred Couples would make the two-footer for birdie to push the hole and the skin on to the final 18th hole.

At this point, the trophy was still up for grabs between defending champions Zoeller/Crenshaw and Nicklaus/Watson.

The 18th hole at Ka'anapali “can be brutal with water along the entire right side” according to Fred Couples. And brutal it was today – Zoeller knocked his drive into the water and put them out of the hole. The three other teams went for the green on this long par 4, 440-yard finishing hole. Nicklaus came up short on his approach and his ball ended up in the drink as well, leaving Player/Roberts and Price/Couples as the two remaining teams battling it out for the \$150,000 skins.

Both teams got up and down for par and that sent all eight players back to the 18th tee for playoff hole. This time, all four teams' drives ended up in the fairway. Couples' approach would leave Price with the shortest putt of the group, but still about 12 feet from the hole. The other three teams would miss their birdie putts and put

pressure on Price with his final stroke which he sunk for the two skins and \$150,000, making their two-day total of \$190,000.

Nick Price commented on the course conditions, “This course has some really good par 4’s, especially #14 along the water.” But it was the #2 handicap hole, the par 4 18th hole that he was able to enjoy the most after clenching the final two skins of the day with that birdie putt.

With a crowd of more than 4,000 spectators each day, this made-for-TV tournament is a great venue for players to interact with the crowd. Zoeller commented on the weekend, “I always enjoy coming to Ka’anapali Resort for this event – I enjoy the crowds and I hope they all saw some great golf these last few days.”

When asked about next year, Nicklaus said, “I’ll be back again next year with my playing partner if he’ll have me,” he chuckled. He and Watson make a great team, working off each other’s strengths. They went out and played a practice round of the final 9 holes yesterday afternoon. “My wife always tells me there’s no excuse for not being prepared – last year, I don’t think we did that and we got skunked. This year, we did the practice round and it paid off.”

When the day came to a close, three of the four teams took home skins, leaving Roberts and Player skinless. That is not to say that these two didn’t have some great shots however. It was Player’s putt on #18 that sent them all back to the playoff hole and Roberts’ drives that kept them in play all day.

The event will be televised on ESPN (tape delay) on Saturday, February 27 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. EST and Sunday, February 28 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. EST (check local listing for air time in your area).

The Royal Ka’anapali Course, a Robert Trent Jones, Sr. design, opened in 1962 and has tested the skills of professional and amateur golfers. A par-71, 6,700-yard layout, the Royal Course combines wide fairways and undulating greens, making it distinctive, demanding and exciting, hole to hole. With more than 45 years of tournament history, the Royal Course has hosted many of golf’s greatest legends: Arnold Palmer, Player, Nicklaus, Billy Casper, Jan Stephenson and Nancy Lopez.

The resort underwent a \$13 million renovation in 2005-2006 and was given a 4.5-star rating (out of five) by *Golf Digest* in the magazine’s recent “Best Places to Play” guide. Ka’anapali was selected by The Golf Channel to host “Big Break Ka’anapali” that aired in 2008.

For more information about Ka’anapali or to reserve a tee time, visit www.kaanapaligolfresort.com or call 808.661.3691.

About Wendy’s Restaurants

Wendy’s Old Fashioned Hamburgers Restaurants was founded in 1969 by Dave Thomas and is the third largest quick-service hamburger restaurant chain in the world, with more than 6,250 restaurants in the United States, Canada and international markets.

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