



2015 Champion Lexi Thompson Returns to Defend Her Title *Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give Anticipating Strongest Field Ever*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (June 4, 2016) – LPGA Professional Lexi Thompson is returning to the Meijer LPGA Classic for *Simply Give* later this month to defend her title among what tournament representatives are calling the strongest field ever with eight of the Top 10 players in the world.

Thompson, 21, of Coral Springs, Fla. won her first event of 2015 at Blythefield Country Club, posting a final round of 65 to claim the Meijer LPGA Classic title. The one-shot victory sparked a hot streak that continued throughout the remainder of the 2015 season where she earned 13 Top 10 finishes and two tour victories. She finished the 2015 season as the Rolex World Rankings No. 4 player, and the 2nd ranked American player.

"I think the win at the Meijer LPGA Classic helped me the rest of the year, really helped me with my confidence," Thompson said. "I knew I was playing well going into the tournaments before that as well, but to get the win under your belt just shows how the hard work pays off and gives you more confidence going into the rest of the year, which it did for me."

Through the early months of the 2016 season, Thompson has continued to play at an exceptional level, earning six Top 10 finishes and one victory to date: The Honda LPGA Thailand. With a season-low round of 64 and a scoring average of 70.07, Thompson has climbed to No. 3 in the Rolex World Rankings, behind Lydia Ko, of New Zealand, and Inbee Park, of South Korea.

Thompson and Ko will add to an incredibly strong field for the 2016 Meijer LPGA Classic for *Simply Give* that will feature eight of the Top 10 and 42 of the Top 50 players in the world.

Also included in the field are 2014 Meijer LPGA Classic Champion Mirim Lee, as well as Morgan Pressel, Paula Creamer, Gerina Piller, Brittany Lincicome, Jessica Korda, Michelle Wie, Cristie Kerr and Ariya Jutanugarn, who has won three consecutive LPGA Tour events. Every player who has won on Tour in 2016 will compete in the 2016 Meijer LPGA Classic for *Simply Give*, June 14-19 at Blythefield Country Club.

"This field is shaping up to be the strongest one to date for the Meijer LPGA Classic," Tournament Director Lesley Baker said. "We are excited to bring such amazing talent to Blythefield Country Club for the entire community to enjoy."

The 2016 Meijer LPGA Classic for *Simply Give* will feature a full field of 144 of the world's best women golfers. The final field will be released June 7 after 5 p.m.

Similar to last year, proceeds from the tournament – and each of the week's festivities – will benefit the Meijer *Simply Give* program that restocks the shelves of food pantries throughout the Midwest. The Meijer LPGA Classic for *Simply Give* has donated more than \$1.3 million to local food pantries through the *Simply Give* program.

For more information on the Meijer LPGA Classic for *Simply Give* or to volunteer, please visit meijerLPGAclassic.com.

To view a video recapping the 2015 Meijer LPGA Classic for *Simply Give*, please visit meijerLPGAclassic.com, and a video on the Meijer hunger relief efforts, including *Simply Give*, please visit <http://newsroom.meijer.com/meijer-simply-give-video>.



Contacts:

Lesley Baker, Tournament Director, Octagon
Lesley.Baker@octagon.com or 616-426-6225

Christina Fecher, Public Relations Manager, Meijer
Christina.Fecher@meijer.com or 616-735-7968

About Meijer *Simply Give*

Meijer is a family-owned retailer based in Grand Rapids, Mich. with a fundamental philosophy aimed at strengthening the communities it serves. Meijer operates 223 supercenters and grocery stores throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Wisconsin, and proudly donates more than 6 percent of its net profit each year to charities throughout the Midwest. With hunger as a corporate philanthropic focus, Meijer partners with hundreds of food banks and pantries through its *Simply Give* and food rescue programs. Meijer also supports education, disaster relief, and health and wellness initiatives. For additional information on Meijer philanthropy, please visit www.meijercommunity.com. Follow Meijer on Twitter @twitter.com/Meijer and @twitter.com/MeijerPR or become a fan at www.facebook.com/meijer.

About Blythefield Country Club

Located just north of Grand Rapids, Blythefield has been providing families the best golf and social experience in West Michigan since 1928. With the Rogue River flowing through, Blythefield boasts one of the most beautiful championship layouts in Michigan. Previously, Blythefield has hosted the 1953 Western Amateur, the 1961 Western Open, won by Arnold Palmer, and the 2005 Western Junior won by Rickie Fowler. Beginning in 2014 Blythefield is honored to host the Meijer LPGA Classic. Learn more about Blythefield Country Club at www.blythefieldcc.org.

About the LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association)

The LPGA is the world's leading professional golf organization for women. Founded in 1950, the association celebrates a diverse and storied membership with more than 2,300 members representing more than 30 different countries. With a Vision to inspire, empower, educate and entertain by showcasing the very best of women's golf, LPGA Tour Professionals compete across the globe, while dedicated LPGA Teaching and Club Professionals (T&CP) directly impact the game through teaching, coaching and management. The Symetra Tour consistently produces a pipeline of talent ready for the world stage. The LPGA is headquartered in Daytona Beach, Florida. Follow the LPGA on its television home, Golf Channel, and on the web via: www.LPGA.com, www.facebook.com/LPGA, www.twitter.com/lpga, and www.youtube.com/lpgavideo.

About Octagon Global Events

Octagon Global Events is a division of Octagon, the world's largest sports and entertainment representation and marketing agency. Octagon Global Events focuses on premium event/property management, providing strategic corporate solutions. The division currently manages two PGA TOUR Champions events, three LPGA Tour events, three culinary events, and the Toyota Texas Fest. For more information, visit <http://www.octagonglobalevents.com>.