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**INTERSPORT ANNOUNCES MEN'S FIELD FOR
THE JOHN SHIPPEN NATIONAL INVITATIONAL
PRESENTED BY ROCKET MORTGAGE**

**THE JOHN SHIPPEN National Invitational Presented by Rocket Mortgage
Invites Top Black Male Golfers to Compete June 24-25 at Detroit Golf Club; Event to Air
on CBS in Advance of the PGA TOUR's Rocket Mortgage Classic**

**The Field Will Compete for an Exemption into the Rocket Mortgage Classic; Final
Round Open to Fans; Admission and Parking are Complimentary**

DETROIT (June 8, 2023) – Intersport today announced the men's field of players committed to compete in the third iteration of **THE JOHN SHIPPEN National Invitational presented by Rocket Mortgage**. The 36-hole stroke-play competition for Black male professional and amateur golfers will be held June 24 – 25 at Detroit Golf Club. A one-hour TV special about **THE JOHN SHIPPEN** will air nationally on CBS on Sunday, July 2, leading into final-round coverage of the Rocket Mortgage Classic.

On June 25, fans will be able to check out **THE JOHN SHIPPEN** in person. Gates open at 9 a.m., and admission and parking will be complementary, with hospitality options available for purchase. For more information on hospitality options please email THEJOHNSHIPPEN@intersportnet.com.

The winner of the event will earn an exemption into the PGA TOUR's [Rocket Mortgage Classic \(June 29 – July 2\)](#). Sixteen of the 23 players in the field are SHIPPEN alumni, including defending champion Wyatt Worthington II.

THE JOHN SHIPPEN, designed to showcase Black amateur and professional golfers, is named after John Shippen, Jr., who was the first American-born golf professional and also the country's first Black golf professional. Shippen was bestowed PGA of America membership posthumously in 2009.

To ensure that any financial barriers are removed, **THE JOHN SHIPPEN** will cover all travel costs (airfare and hotel) for participating players.

*“We’re ecstatic about the tremendous field we have for **THE JOHN SHIPPEN National Invitational presented by Rocket Mortgage** said **Jason Langwell, Executive Vice President of Intersport, Executive Director of THE JOHN SHIPPEN and Executive Director of the Rocket Mortgage Classic.** “Now in its third year, **THE JOHN SHIPPEN** continues to be a leader in providing opportunities for Black golfers that fundamentally increases diversity in golf on a national scale. We’re excited to welcome fans from the Detroit community and beyond to see the immense talent of these players on display in what will again be a rigorous competition for a spot in Rocket Mortgage Classic.*

The following players have committed to THE JOHN SHIPPEN NATIONAL INVITATIONAL PRESENTED BY ROCKET MORTGAGE

(Players Listed in Alphabetical Order)

AARON BEVERLY – Sacramento, California

JABIR BILAL – Stockton, California

JORDAN BOHANON – Tampa, Florida

GARY BULLARD (A) – New Braunfels, Texas

MARCUS BYRD – Temple Hills, Maryland

JEAN-ROMARIC DJEZOU – Abidjan, Ivory Coast

KEVIN HALL – Cincinnati, Ohio

CHRISTIAN HEAVENS – Scottsdale, Arizona

MICHAEL HERRERA – Moreno Valley, California

JOE HOOKS – Detroit, Michigan

CHASE JOHNSON – West Palm Beach, Florida

WILLIE MACK III – Orlando, Florida

CM MIXON (A) – Bowling Green, Kentucky

XAVIER PROCTOR (A) – Shelby, North Carolina

QUINN RILEY – Raleigh, North Carolina

MARCUS SMITH (A) – Rockford, Illinois

KRISTOPHER STILES (A) San Jose, California

JOEY STILLS – Orlando, Florida

TROY TAYLOR II (A) Westerville, Ohio

ANDREW WALKER – Holt, Michigan

MONTRELE WELLS – Jacksonville, Florida

EVERETT WHITEN JR. (A) – Chesapeake, Virginia

WYATT WORTHINGTON II – Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Intersport collaborated with Woods and Watts Effect to launch **THE JOHN SHIPPEN** as a vehicle to fundamentally increase diversity in golf and to create opportunities for young men and women of color in sports on a national scale.

A National Invitational committee was formed to help lead the recruitment and evaluation of players. The committee consists of more than a dozen leaders who support the advancement of Black golfers and includes coaches from HBCU schools, leaders from golf's governing bodies and from men's and women's national golf events. The National Invitational committee is responsible for identifying the top Black professional and amateur golfers and recommending that group to the Selection Committee, which includes representatives from Intersport, the PGA TOUR, the LPGA, Woods & Watts Effect, Rocket Mortgage, Meijer and Dow. Any male or female professional or amateur golfer who identifies as Black can also submit their profile to THEJOHNSHIPPEN@intersportnet.com.

*"We are looking forward to hosting the men who have accepted our invitation to compete in **THE JOHN SHIPPEN National Invitational presented by Rocket Mortgage**," said **Sommer Woods, Co-Founder of Woods and Watts Effect, and Tournament Lead for THE JOHN SHIPPEN**. "We're proud that **THE JOHN SHIPPEN** is able to continue to provide these deserving players the opportunity and resources to compete at the highest level of professional golf and welcome all fans to see these talented golfers in person on Sunday, June 25.*

Defending champion Wyatt Worthington II returns to defend his crown and seeks another start in the Rocket Mortgage Classic. Wyatt used a final round seven-under-par 65 to win the 2022 **THE JOHN SHIPPEN National Invitational presented by Rocket Mortgage** and secure a berth in his first PGA TOUR event.

Later this year, **THE JOHN SHIPPEN Sports Business Summit** will take place to create national awareness and opportunities for high school and college students of color interested in pursuing careers in the business of sports. The summit will take place in person in September in Detroit.

For updated information on **THE JOHN SHIPPEN**, please visit www.thejohnshippen.com/ and follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@TheJohnShippen) and on Twitter (@TheJShippen). For information about sponsorship opportunities or how to get involved, email us at THEJOHNSHIPPEN@intersportnet.com.

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ABOUT INTERSPORT

Since 1985, Intersport has been an award-winning innovator and leader in the creation of sports, lifestyle, culinary and entertainment-based marketing platforms. With expertise in Sponsorship Consulting, Experiential Marketing, Hospitality, Customer Engagement, Content Marketing, Productions and Sports Properties, this Chicago-based Marketing & Media Solutions Company helps their clients to create ideas, content and experiences that attract and engage passionate audiences. To learn more about Intersport, visit www.intersport.global, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

ABOUT WOODS & WATTS EFFECT

Woods & Watts Effect is an equity and inclusion consulting firm of transformation engineers, co-founded by Sommer Woods and Michele Lewis Watts, Ph.D. They are a solutions-driven team that adeptly designs programs that assess a company's strengths and areas for improvement relative to inclusion and social equity. Woods & Watts Effect is innovative in their thinking, their engagement and their execution. Through a bold, non-traditional and engaging approach, they produce viable and actionable solutions for sustainable change. More information is available at WoodsWattsEffect.com.

ABOUT ROCKET MORTGAGE

Detroit-based Rocket Mortgage, the nation's largest home mortgage lender and part of Rocket Companies (NYSE: RKT), enables the American Dream of homeownership and financial freedom through its obsession with an industry-leading, digital-driven client experience. In late 2015, it introduced the first fully digital, completely online mortgage experience. Since its founding in 1985, Rocket Mortgage has closed \$1.5 trillion of mortgage volume across all 50 states. In late 2015, it introduced the first fully digital, completely online mortgage experience. Rocket Mortgage moved its headquarters to downtown Detroit in 2010. The company generates loan production from web centers located in Detroit, Cleveland and Phoenix. Rocket Companies, Rocket Mortgage's parent company, ranked #7 on Fortune's list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" in 2022 and has placed in the top third of the list for 19 consecutive years. For more information and company news visit RocketCompanies.com/PressRoom.

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