



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dogwood Invitational Announces Honorary Starters, Additions to Field**

ATLANTA – Former Dogwood Invitational winner Charles Harrison and two-time NCAA championship golf coach Rick LaRose will be the honorary starters when the tournament returns to Druid Hills Golf Club, June 26 to July 1.

Edward Toledano, tournament chairman of the 51<sup>st</sup> Dogwood Invitational, said, “Charles Harrison is a Georgia golf legend and we’re honored that he would return as our honorary starter. Rick LaRose was an accomplished coach at Arizona who has been a longtime supporter of The Dogwood and we’re pleased he will continue to have a role with the tournament.”

Harrison, a lifelong amateur and Atlanta resident, won the Atlanta Amateur a record 10 times, qualified for the U.S. Amateur 16 times and played in the Masters twice. He won the Southern Amateur and Georgia Amateur and is a member of the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame. He won The Dogwood Invitational in 1966.

LaRose retired as head men’s golf coach at Arizona in 2012 after 34 seasons, which included an NCAA championship in 1992. He doubled as the school’s women’s golf coach from 1996-98 and led the women to the 1996 NCAA title. Among his most notable players are Jim Furyk, Ricky Barnes, Robert Gamez and Rory Sabbatini.

The Dogwood Invitational tournament week begins with an open qualifier on Monday, June 26. More than 60 players have already registered for the qualifier, which is limited to 100 competitors.

On Tuesday, June 27, the Dogwood Am-Am will start at 8 a.m. An awards reception and kickoff event for players and sponsors will be hosted at 7 p.m.

The competition will begin on Wednesday, June 28. After the honorary starters strike the ceremonial first shots, the tournament will begin at 7:30 a.m. The 72-hole competition will finish on Saturday, July 1.

The latest commitments include 2015 champion and 2016 runner-up Dawson Armstrong of Lipscomb University. Armstrong will be joined in the field by his brothers, Davis and Dowling, who are also members of the Lipscomb team.

Other new commitments include: Colin Bowles of Albany, the 2016 Georgia Amateur champion and Ohio State commitment; Ryan Elmore of Berry College, the No. 3-ranked player in Division III; S.M. Lee of Dalton State, a former Georgia Junior champion and ranked No. 2 in the NAIA; and Trace Crowe of Auburn, winner of the Gary Koch Invitational.

Additions to the international field are: Daniel Gale, ranked No. 26 in Australia; James Grierson, ranked No. 33 in Australia; and Ben Cohn, a member of the Ecuador national team.

“Our field continues to get better and better and we’re confident that it will continue to grow in quality as we get closer to the event,” Toledano said.

The Dogwood Invitational, which began in 1941, benefits local charities who share the same mission, vision and goals. Through its support of the Georgia Junior Golf Association and the Druid Hills Golf Foundation, the Dogwood Invitational has helped enable 31 students to attend college.

Visit [www.TheDogwood.com](http://www.TheDogwood.com) for more information.

#### **About The Dogwood Invitational**

The Dogwood Invitational is an elite amateur golf championship established to promote the game of amateur golf and support junior golf organizations. Held at Druid Hills Golf Club in Atlanta, Georgia, the tournament is an internationally ranked top amateur golf event that began in 1941. The tournament is run by The Dogwood Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit, and proceeds from sponsorships are directed to the Georgia Junior Golf Association and Druid Hills Golf Club Foundation. Find out more at [www.thedogwood.com](http://www.thedogwood.com).

###

Media Contact: Stan Awtrey - [sawtrey56@yahoo.com](mailto:sawtrey56@yahoo.com)