

THOMAS, THOMPSON, LANGER ARE 2017 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

(UPDATED to reflect Langer's 2017 season)

HOUSTON (January 4, 2018) -- Justin Thomas and Lexi Thompson came at it from different directions but for both of them, 2017 was a year worth remembering in their golf careers.

Thomas had a breakout year in which he was the dominant player on the PGA TOUR, earning him the Male Player of the Year award from the Golf Writers Association of America. Thompson, meanwhile, was named the GWAA's Female Player of the Year after winning twice in a season that included soaring highs and emotional valleys. It is the first GWAA POY award for both players.

Bernhard Langer was overwhelming choice of the organization as the Senior Player of the Year for the fourth time. He also won in 2010, 2014 and 2016.

Thomas was the near-unanimous choice after winning four times in 2017 as part of his five-victory season in the PGA Tour's wraparound schedule. After winning the CIMB Classic in Malaysia in late 2016, Thomas won the first two events in Hawaii in 2017, picked up his first major championship victory at the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow Club and won the Dell Technologies Championship in the FedEx Cup playoff.

The 24-year old also captured the FedEx Cup, had 12 top-10 finishes and had a 3-1-1 record for the United States in the Presidents Cup, earning 94 percent of the GWAA vote.

"Being honored by the GWAA means a lot," Thomas said. "Obviously a lot of hard work went into it, a lot of time. It was something that you can't expect something like that to happen. I felt like I was capable of it. In terms of whether it will happen in the future, you never know but it was obviously a very fun year."

Thompson had an unforgettable 2017 season that included two LPGA Tour victories, six runner-up finishes and a controversial four-stroke penalty that prevented her from winning the ANA Inspiration early in the year. The 22-year old Thompson won the Race to CME Globe and also set the LPGA Tour's single-season scoring record with a stroke overage of 69.114 to capture the Vare Trophy.

She won the award in a close vote over Sung Hyun Park and So Yeon Ryu.

"I am extremely honored and proud to be named female golfer of the year by the Golf Writers Association of America," Thompson said. "2017 was an extremely challenging year for me and my family, both on and off the golf course. But with the support, love and guidance of my mom, dad, and brothers, I was able to overcome these challenges and go on to have my best year as a professional golfer."

“I want to thank my fans from all around the world who have always supported me, because your kind words and encouragement continue to inspire me to pursue my dream. And thank you to the Golf Writers Association of America. It is truly a privilege to receive this award.”

Langer dominated the PGA TOUR Champions again, winning seven times in 2017 including three major championships -- Senior Open Championship, KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, Regions Tradition. He also finished second four times. Langer finished in the top 10 in 18 of his 21 starts and finished second in the Charles Schwab Cup. He has won four previous Schwab Cups.

“I am thrilled and feel very honored to have won the GWAA Golf Writers Award for the 2017 season once more,” said Langer, who received nearly 90 percent of the vote.

Thomas, Thompson and Langer will receive their awards at the 46th ISPS HANDA GWAA Annual Awards Dinner presented by The PGA of America and USGA Wednesday April 4 in Augusta, Ga.

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About GWAA:

Founded in 1946, the 815-member Golf Writers Association of America, Inc., takes an active role in protecting the interests of all golf journalists, works to improve press facilities and works closely with golf's major governing bodies and the World Golf Hall of Fame.

About ISPS HANDA:

ISPS is the [International Sports Promotion Society](#), an organization founded by Japanese businessman and philanthropist, Dr. Haruhisa Handa in 2006 to support charitable causes throughout the sporting world. Handa set up the Japanese Blind Golf Association in 1988 and was the driving force behind the formation of the [International Blind Golf Association](#) (IBGA) in 1998. ISPS has also sponsored tournaments on European Senior Tour, Asian Tour, Legends Tour, Ladies European Tour, Japan PGA, Golf Australia and the Australian PGA.

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