



Forceful Drive Gives NFL Linebacker A.J. Hawk the Title in Tahoe



Green Bay Packers Linebacker A.J. Hawk sprays the crowd with Korbel California Champagne after winning the 2009 Korbel Long Drive Competition with a 322-yard drive. The competition was held on July 17, 2009 as part of the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship in Lake Tahoe, NV. (PRNewsFoto/Korbel Champagne)

LAKE TAHOE, NV UNITED STATES

Hawk Uncorks 322-Yard Drive to Win Korbel Long Drive Golf Contest

LAKE TAHOE, Nev., July 18 /PRNewswire/ -- A.J. Hawk captured the title of "Celebrity Long Drive Champ" by unleashing a booming 322-yard drive to win the 20th Annual Long Drive Competition, sponsored by Korbel Champagne Cellars on July 17, 2009. The competition is a featured event at the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship, currently being played at the Edgewood Golf Course in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20090718/SF48503>)

Named NFL All-Rookie in 2006, Green Bay Packers Linebacker A.J. Hawk is an indispensable defensive asset who rarely leaves the field. An All-American at The Ohio State University, Hawk was the 2005 recipient of the Lombardi Award which is given annually to the nation's top lineman. Demonstrating his familiarity with champagne and victory celebrations, Hawk accepted his Long Drive Trophy then popped the cork on a big bottle of Korbel and sprayed the enthusiastic crowd.

Former NFL All-Pro Quarterback Chris Chandler's 321-yard blast placed him in second and NBA Cleveland Cavaliers' Wally Szczerbiak finished third with a 320-yard shot. Other celebrities participating in the Korbel Long Drive Competition included former NFL greats Jim McMahon and Joe Theismann, MLB All Stars Joe Carter and Paul O'Neill, NBA's Bill Laimbeer and Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway, as well as Actor Ray Romano.

The Korbel Long Drive Contest has been a highlight of the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship since 1992. MLB All-Star Kenny Lofton won the 2008 contest with

an explosive 335-yard drive in a run-off, placing former NFL Quarterback Billy Jo Tolliver in second. Other previous winners include Jim McMahon (2007, 1994 and 1992), Paul O'Neill (2006), Jeremy Roenick (2002 and 2000), Emmitt Smith (1999), Pete Sampras (1996) and John Elway (1995).

"Champagne and celebrations go hand-in-hand and for that reason Korbel is proud to participate in this golf tournament and sponsor the Long Drive Competition," said Gary Heck, owner and president.

The 20(th) Annual American Century Celebrity Golf Championship takes place Friday, July 17 through Sunday, July 19 at the Edgewood Tahoe Golf Club and is televised live by NBC Sports. The 54-hole stroke play tournament is the most prestigious and richest celebrity tournament in golf, with a \$600,000 purse and \$125,000 going to the first place finisher.

Celebrate responsibly.