



## PRESS RELEASE

### ***Schnell and Saunders return to Mesquite for the Nevada Open Dec. 14-16 after a classic sudden death showdown in 2010 (Press Release: 12-10-2011)***

One of the greatest dramas in golf found its way to the CasaBlanca Golf Club last year and the two stars in the shootout are returning to head the annual Nevada Open scheduled Dec. 14-16 at two courses in Mesquite.



Brady Schnell of Phoenix and Steve Saunders of Albuquerque, N.M., tied with identical scores of 200 before Schnell birdied the final hole for the victory in a three-hole sudden death playoff of the 2010 Nevada Open.

Saunders, 24, had a par on the final hole and you can bet he won't forget a shootout so full of oohs and ahs that it could have made for a movie.

"It was a lot of fun," said Saunders, a 24 year-old resident of Albuquerque, N.M. "I'm looking forward to getting back to Mesquite and do one stroke better than last year."

Schnell, 26, will never forget his victory at the CasaBlanca in 2010. Over the years, he has been involved in down-to-the-wire tournaments, but this one was special.

"You never forget any victory," he said. "I watch golf on TV, so you see how they do it. There are so many good players out there now, so you need to keep your pedal to the metal as much as possible.

"I remember that the strongest part of my game that day was battling the elements. I recall hitting some quality shots and also remember that I putted very well."

Schnell has played on the Nationwide Tour while also taking a little time off to recharge his batteries for the game of golf, which demands that players especially remain mentally ready for the next challenge.

Schnell recalls that his skills were good for the 2010 event considering that he had just worked with his golf instructor.



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“The strongest part of my game that day was just battling the elements. I remember hitting quality shots. I remember that I putted very well. I was surprised that I was so far along considering how well I hit the ball. I’m a little rusty this year and haven’t been playing as much. Hopefully, I can shake off the rust and repeat.

“I recognize a lot of names this year that played last year.”

Heading back to Mesquite is a natural move for Schnell.

“I live in Phoenix now and this is a good time of year because there is not a lot going on,” Schnell said. “I’m just getting back into the game again after taking the time off and the schedule works out perfectly for me.

“Also, I like coming to Mesquite because the golf courses there are very good.”

Bolstering the field even more is the fact that 2009 Nevada Open winner Brian Prouty of Tucson, Ariz., is also entered.

Prouty parlayed an eagle on the Par 5 15<sup>th</sup> hole of the CasaBlanca Golf Course here in 2009 en route to a nine-under 63 and a 19-under 197 in the \$92,000 Nevada Open golf tournament.

“I have been playing the Canadian Tour,” Prouty said of his play in 2011. “The tour consists of international fields.”

Like so many others, the 27 year-old Prouty loves returning to Mesquite.

“The year 2009 was good to me,” he said. “The Nevada Open win was my fourth win of the year, so Mesquite was a nice way to close out the year. I enjoy playing both of the courses.”



Prouty overtook second-round leader Dusty Fielding of St. George, Utah for the victory.

The 54-hole Nevada Open will be held at both the CasaBlanca and Palms golf courses. The final round will be presented at the CasaBlanca.

Based on a full field of 220 players, the tournament has a \$92,000 purse with \$12,000 to the winner.

“We could not have asked for a better golf tournament last year,” said tournament director Tim Webster. “When you combine



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the finish with the field of golfers we had, it was picture-perfect.”

For further information, call Mesquite Gaming General Sales Manager Darrell Edwards at 888-711-4653, ext. 11; or visit [www.nvopen.com](http://www.nvopen.com).

### CAPTIONS:

CHECK – Mesquite Gaming COO Randy Black, right, congratulates 2010 Nevada Open winner Brady Schnell who won the event in a three-hole playoff at the CasaBlanca Golf Course. Schnell will return for this year’s event Wednesday through Friday.

FINISH – Nevada Open runner up Steve Saunders, right, congratulates Brady Schnell for his victory in the 2010 Nevada Open at the CasaBlanca golf course in Mesquite. The two return for the 2011 Nevada Open Wednesday through Friday.

PROUTY – Tucson, Ariz., resident Brian Prouty, who won the 2009 Nevada Open, returns for this year’s event Wednesday through Friday at the Palms and CasaBlanca golf courses.

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