



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER A. O. SMITH EMPLOYEE TO PLAY ON 2008 PGA TOUR

Water Heater Manufacturer to Sponsor Tommy "Two Gloves" Gainey

Ashland City, Tenn.- January 31, 2008- A. O. Smith recently announced that it will sponsor PGA newcomer Tommy "Two Gloves" Gainey for the upcoming 2008 PGA Tour season. Gainey, the self-taught golfer from small-town Bishopville, S.C., is a former employee at A.O. Smith's McBee, S.C. water heater plant.

"A. O. Smith gave me an opportunity to make a living so many years ago when I began working at the McBee plant," said Gainey. "I don't think that I can ever thank them enough for putting their faith in me yet again and deciding to sponsor me on the tour."

Gainey's life-long passion has been to play the game of golf professionally. Former co-workers say he used to play a round every chance that he got. Gainey says a majority of his free time away from the plant was on the course.

"I can honestly say that part of my check used to go toward golf in some form or fashion every week. I guess you can say A. O. Smith started supporting me and my love for the game before they even realized it," said Gainey.

Last year proved to be a busy and pivotal year for Gainey. He was the winner of both the 2007 Tarheel Tour Oldfield Open and the 2007 Hooters Tour Bentonville Open. After starring on The Golf Channel's *Big Break II*, Tommy was asked back to compete on *Big Break VII; The Reunion at Reunion*, and he walked away with the winner's trophy. In December, Gainey reached his lifelong ambition, earning his tour card by finishing tied for 19th at the PGA Q-School.

“We are very proud of Tommy for all of his recent accomplishments and are honored to be sponsoring him on this year’s tour,” said Ajita Rajendra, president, A. O. Smith Water Products. “We wish him luck and will be following his progress this year.”

Gainey made the cut in his first PGA tournament appearance in 2008 at the Sony Open in Honolulu, Hawaii.

About A. O. Smith:

Headquartered in Ashland City, Tenn., A. O. Smith Water Products Company is a leading manufacturer and marketer of residential and commercial water heaters and hydronic boilers. A. O. Smith offers contractors an additional competitive advantage in that the company designs, builds, distributes and field supports the world’s broadest and deepest line of residential and commercial water heaters, as well as commercial boilers. This single-source concept simplifies ordering, installation and service and is backed by more than 70 years of research and innovation. For more information, visit www.hotwater.com.