News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOMMY "TWO GLOVES" GAINEY BEGINS 2009 WITH SUCCESS ON THE COURSE

Former A. O. Smith Employee to Play on 2009 PGA TOUR

Ashland City, Tenn. (March 4, 2009) – Tommy Gainey, a former employee at the A. O. Smith water heater plant in McBee, S. C., started his second PGA Tour season by making the cut in his first two PGA tour appearances. A. O. Smith will continue to sponsor Tommy "Two Gloves" Gainey for the 2009 PGA Tour season.

Gainey's rookie season proved to be successful after playing in 24 PGA tournaments, seven Nationwide tournaments and finishing second in the PGA Tour's final event: The Children's Miracle Network Classic.

"A. O. Smith gave me an opportunity to make a living when I worked at the McBee plant," said Gainey. "Because of the company's continued support, I'm able to fulfill a dream of playing professional golf."

Gainey's lifelong passion has been to play the game of golf professionally, and former co-workers say he used to play a round every chance he could. Gainey says a majority of his free time away from the plant was on the course.

"When I worked at the plant, a part of my check went toward golf in some way every week. A. O. Smith started supporting me and my love for the game before they even realized it," said Gainey. "I feel blessed to have a second year sponsorship from A. O. Smith."

A self-taught golfer from small-town Bishopville, S.C., Gainey first stole America's heart as the winner of Golf Channel's reality series *Big Break VII: The Reunion at Reunion.* After he walked away with the trophy, Gainey entered the PGA's Q-School and earned his tour card. He made the cut in his first PGA tournament appearance at the Sony Open in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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“We are very proud of Tommy for his recent accomplishments and are honored to sponsor him in 2009 on the PGA Tour,” said Ajita Rajendra, president, A. O. Smith Water Products. “We wish him luck and will follow his progress this year.”

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.