

World Long Drive Set to Return to Kingsport, Tennessee, for First Time in Four Years

The Tri-Cities will host the sport's first nationally televised competition of the season



Left to Right: Frank Lett, Kyle Berkshire, Shawn Tilger, Pat Shull

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KINGSPORT, Tenn. (July 13, 2023) -- Local officials and World Long Drive (WLD) executives gathered in Kingsport, Tennessee, today to celebrate the sport's upcoming return to the Tri-Cities August 26-28. GF Sports & Entertainment President Shawn Tilger, Kingsport Mayor Pat Shull, and Visit Kingsport President and Chief Tourism Officer Frank Lett joined World No. 1 long driver Kyle Berkshire at Cattails MeadowView Golf Course.

"The enthusiasm for World Long Drive in Kingsport is second to none," said GF Sports & Entertainment President Shawn Tilger. "We are confident that fans are going to enjoy the new-and-improved competition and cannot wait for the end of August."

Berkshire, the 2019 Kingsport Champion, addressed the crowd and shared memories of his win in Kingsport. He expressed how excited he is to be returning to competition in the Tri-Cities. Berkshire has played in six WLD events this season and has one runner-up finish.

"As a returning champion, it feels good to be back in Kingsport," said Berkshire. "I love playing here and competing against the best hitters in the world. The Tri-Cities fans are fantastic. The players feed off of their energy, and we can't wait to put on a show for them."

World Long Drive returns to Kingsport for the first time since 2019. The three-day competition will feature the Open Division, Women's Division, and Senior's Division. The event will also serve as the world championship for the Amateur's Division. WLD Kingsport will be the first of four WLD competitions to be broadcast nationally on Golf Channel this year.

"World Long Drive's showcase in Kingsport in 2019 was one of the highlights of our year," said Visit Kingsport President and Chief Tourism Office Frank Lett. "We look forward to welcoming new faces to the Tri-Cities late next month and providing a glimpse of Kingsport nationally on Golf Channel."

Tickets to WLD Kingsport are now on sale for \$20. Children ages 12-and-younger get in free. WLD Kingsport will host Kids Day presented by the Greater Kingsport Family YMCA on Saturday, August 26. Kids Day will include inflatable mini golf, a bounce house, and crafts for all ages.

Tickets can be purchased at worldlongdrive.com.

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For more information: visit World Long Drive's [Website](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

About World Long Drive:

The World Long Drive Championship is the largest annual domestic professional golf event not associated with the PGA of America, the PGA Tour, or the LPGA. It was first held in 1974, and since 2000 consisted of Open, Women's, Seniors (over-45s), and Amateur events. The World Long Drive tour is comprised of over 12 events domestically and over 30 events internationally all culminating for the season finale World Long Drive Championship. World Long Drive tour and championship is owned and operated by GF Sports and Entertainment based out of New York, NY. World Long Drive has partnered with PIVOT Agency out of the San Francisco Bay area to reintroduce the brand and sport into the corporate market leveraging partner relationships. PIVOT Agency is a full-service sports marketing agency, built at the nexus of brands and culture, and forming alliances between consumer brands, athletes, sports, the arts, causes, business and media. Today it has grown into four (4) unique and successful divisions, encompassing Property Representation, Brand Consulting, Travel and Hospitality. PIVOT's property division consults with top organizations in the sports and entertainment world including GF Sports & Entertainment, Pro Pickleball Association, Athletes Unlimited, Cedar Fair, OpTic Gaming, NRG, Spacestation Gaming, Illinois State University and a growing portfolio of professional and collegiate properties.

About GF Sports and Entertainment:

GF Sports & Entertainment is a global events and operations company that elevates the experience of live sports, entertainment and interactive events. The company owns two of the ATP Tour's longest running American tennis tournaments, the Dallas Open and the Atlanta Open, as well as the National Lacrosse League New York Riptide. GF Sports & Entertainment also incubates new and emerging sport concepts, this includes Wolf Pack Ninjas, which operates ninja-focused events globally and just completed the purchase of World Long Drive an international long drive tour. GF Sports & Entertainment was founded in July 2015 by New York-based private equity firm GF Capital. For additional information, please visit www.gfsportsandentertainment.com.

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