

E-Notes from the PGA TOUR



PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL

January 21, 2009

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- **Fred Couples** has an amazing record at the Bob Hope Classic. In his 23 previous starts in the event, he's made the cut 22 times while posting seven Top-10 finishes. He won the tournament in 1998 and is a collective 339-under with 70 rounds in the 60s.
- **Justin Leonard** was ranked among the Top-10 in the FedExCup standings every week last season and was fifth after week one this year. After not playing last week at the Sony Open in Hawaii, he dropped to 14th place and out of the Top-10 for the first time in more than a year.
- **Donnie Hammond**, the 1986 champion of the Bob Hope Classic, will be making his 25th start in the event this week. That's exactly half of all the Hope tournaments played.
- The Bob Hope Classic was won by Arnold Palmer on five occasions, including the initial desert tournament in 1960. He also claimed his 62nd and final TOUR event at the 1973 tournament. Appropriately enough, this week's event is being called the 50th Bob Hope Classic hosted by Arnold Palmer.
- Several rookies got off to good starts last week at the Sony Open in Hawaii. Twelve members of the rookie class made the cut and earned FedExCup points last week led by **Webb Simpson**, who finished T9. **Jeff Klauk**, **Marc Leishman** and **Scott Piercy** each finished T12.
- His T2 last week in Hawaii was **David Toms'** best finish since winning the same event in 2006.
- There are eight lefties playing the TOUR this year—**Eric Axley**, **Greg Chalmers**, **Steve Flesch**, **Phil Mickelson**, **Nick O'Hern**, **Bubba Watson**, **Mike Weir** and **Tim Wilkinson**. All but Mickelson and O'Hern will be in action this week.
- While international players have certainly made their mark on the PGA TOUR, not so at the Bob Hope Classic. Of the 49 previous winners of the event, only three—**Bruce Devlin (1970)**, **Jesper Parnevik (2000)** and **Mike Weir (2003)**—have come from outside the United States.

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