



2009 Northern Trust Open

(The seventh of 37 events in the PGA TOUR Regular Season)

**Pacific Palisades, CA
Riviera Country Club**

February 19-22, 2009

FedExCup Points: 500

Purse: \$6,300,000

Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,298

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, February 22 , 2009

Weather: Mostly cloudy. Winds W/SW 8-15 mph. High of 66.

Phil Mickelson posted a 1-over 72 on Sunday to finish 15-under 269, capturing the 2009 Northern Trust Open by one stroke over Steve Stricker (67). The victory is the 35th of Mickelson's career and comes in his 388th start on the PGA TOUR (370 as a professional). The win moves the left-hander out of a tie with Vijay Singh and into solo-possession of 13th place on the all-time wins list.

The victory for Mickelson is worth 500 points and moves him to No. 7 in the FedExCup standings with 535 points. Kenny Perry leads the list with 716 points.

Phil Mickelson becomes the seventh player to successfully defend a title at the Northern Trust Open, joining Macdonald Smith (1928-29), Ben Hogan (1947-48), Paul Harney (1964-65), Arnold Palmer (1966-67), Corey Pavin (1994-95) and Mike Weir (2003-04).

Mickelson has now successfully defended a title five times in his career: Northern Telecom Open (1995-96), Buick Invitational (2000-01), Greater Hartford Open (2001-02), Bellsouth Classic (2005-06) and Northern Trust Open (2008-09).

After struggling somewhat with four missed cuts in his first eight starts at the Northern Trust Open (including just seven of 23 under-par rounds), Mickelson has since found his stride, with three consecutive top-2 finishes (2nd-2007, 1st-2008-09) and sub-par scores in 10 out of his last 12 rounds (a collective 43-under-par during that stretch).

Mickelson becomes the first player since Ben Hogan (1946-48) to follow up a runner-up finish (2007) with consecutive victories at the Northern Trust Open (2008-09).

Mickelson is one of two left-handers to win the Northern Trust Open since its debut in 1926, with both winning in back-to-back seasons (Mike Weir, 2003-04).

Phil Mickelson has held at least a share of the 54-hole lead in 30 stroke-play events, winning 22 times.

Four players recorded all four rounds in the 60s this week, including runner-up Steve Stricker, K.J. Choi (T3), Luke Donald (T6) and Rich Beem (T13).

The runner-up finish is the ninth of Steve Stricker's career. He made his sixth start at the Northern Trust Open, topping his previous-best T11 in 2008.

Fred Couples, the 2009 United States Presidents Cup captain, made his 27th start at the Northern Trust Open a good one, finishing T3. His amazing record here includes wins in 1990 and 1992, as well as 25 made cuts, 19 top-25 finishes and 13 top-10 finishes.

Dating back to 1989, the Northern Trust Open has produced just two first-time winners (Kirk Triplett-2000, Len Mattiace-2002).

The third-round leader/co-leader has won six of seven events so far this season, including Pat Perez at the 90-hole 50th Bob Hope Classic presented by Arnold Palmer. Because of a final-round wash-out at last week's AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Dustin Johnson emerged victorious as the 54-hole leader.

Brendon de Jonge, the 2008 Nationwide Tour Player of the Year, earned his best finish of the year with a T10, topping his T25 effort at the FBR Open. His career-best showing was a T6 at the 2007 Reno-Tahoe Open.

The round of the day was turned in by Bo Van Pelt with a bogey-free 6-under 65. His bogey-free effort helped him jump from T67 to T30 in the final standings. The only other bogey-free round was recorded by Luke Donald (68).

Stat leaders for the week:

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Driving Distance | Bubba Watson | 315.1 yards |
| Driving Accuracy | Bart Bryant, Chris DiMarco | 46 of 56 (82.14 %) |
| Greens in Regulation | Mark Calcavecchia, Fred Couples | 54 of 72 (75.00 %) |
| Putts per Round | Scott McCarron | 29.33 per round |

Scoring averages for the week at the par-71 Riviera Country Club:

| | Front 9 | Back 9 | Total | Cumulative |
|----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Thursday | 34.514 | 35.938 | 70.451 | --- |
| Friday | 35.222 | 35.979 | 71.201 | 70.826 |
| Saturday | 34.493 | 35.600 | 70.093 | 70.675 |
| Sunday | 34.527 | 35.716 | 70.243 | 70.602 |

The par-5 first hole played the easiest this week, yielding a 4.275 average. The par-4 second was the toughest with a 4.231 average, and yielding just 40 birdies for the week.

The season-long Kodak Challenge, where players must play at least 18 of the 30 Kodak Challenge holes throughout the season to be eligible for a \$1 million prize, included this week's picturesque 315-yard, par-4 10th hole at Riviera Country Club. Through the first six events of the Challenge, seven players are currently deadlocked for the lead at 4-under-par (Dustin Johnson, D.J. Trahan, J.B. Holmes, Dean Wilson, Cameron Beckman, Chris DiMarco and Mark Calcavecchia). The next Kodak Challenge hole is the 16th hole at the Honda Classic (March 5-8).

Andres Romero earned \$327,600 for his T3 finish, propelling the 2008 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year over the \$3 million in career earnings (\$3,231,651) in his 28th PGA TOUR start. The 27-year-old from Argentina also has \$2,460,824 in 47 starts on the European Tour.

With a four-shot 54-hole lead, it appeared Phil Mickelson may run away with the Northern Trust Open. But this event has a history of producing some of the most exciting finishes on TOUR. There have been a total of 16 playoffs at the tournament, with five coming since 1998, including wins by Billy Mayfair (1998), Robert Allenby (2001), Mike Weir (2003), Adam Scott (2005) and Charles Howell III (2007). Dating back to 1989, the tournament has ended in a playoff (6) or by a single shot (8) 13 times – including Mickelson's one-stroke win on Sunday.

Robert Allenby, winner of the 2001 Northern Trust Open, finished T17 this week. The four-time PGA TOUR winner has finished inside the top-20 four of the last five years at the Northern Trust Open (T3-2005, MC-2006, T3-2007, T7-2008, T17-2009).

David Duval's T59 finish this week represents just the third time since the beginning of the 2007 season that he has made the cut in consecutive starts:

- 2007 – T39-Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, T45-Buick Invitational
- 2008 – T65 Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, T35-Ginn sur Mer Classic
- 2009 – T55-AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, T59-Northern Trust Open

By the numbers: Robert Allenby (T17) extended his streak of made cuts to 28 this week, just one behind Tiger Woods... D.J. Trahan (T30) and Jeff Klauk (T41) are the only players to make all six cuts this season...Fred Couples (T3) has now competed in 101 rounds at the Northern Trust Open.

Ben Crane withdrew prior to the start of the final round with a neck injury.