



## 2009 Puerto Rico Open presented by Banco Popular

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For more information on the Puerto Rico Open presented by Banco Popular and other events please visit [www.pgatourmedia.com](http://www.pgatourmedia.com).

<b>Dates:</b>	March 9-15
<b>Where:</b>	Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
<b>Course:</b>	Trump International Golf Club (7,582, par-72)
<b>FedExCup</b>	250 points to the winner
<b>Purse:</b>	\$3,500,000
<b>Winner's Share:</b>	\$630,000
<b>Format:</b>	72-hole stroke play with a cut to the low 70 players and ties after 36 holes

### KEY STORYLINES:

1. **Greg Kraft defends his first PGA TOUR title**  
Kraft earned his first official PGA TOUR title in his 379th PGA TOUR start. Kraft is looking to build on his success from last year and kick start his season following a slow start.
2. **Hispanic Presence in the Field**

#### **Latin American National Champions**

In an effort to expand and showcase the up-and-coming players of Latin America, the tournament is extending exemptions to the winners of select Tour de las Americas events. The players receiving exemptions for the 2009 Puerto Rico Open presented by Banco Popular include:

- **Manuel Villegas** -- the 2008 Colombian and Argentinean Open winner and brother of PGA TOUR professional Camilo Villegas. This will mark Manuel Villegas' first start on the PGA TOUR.
- **Antti Ahokas**, a European Tour member and winner of the 103° Abierto a VISA de la Republica presentado por Peugeot in Argentina as well as the ECCO Tour Championship in Denmark.
- **Estanislao Goya**, who is originally from Argentina, won the 2008 TLA Order of Merit. He posted a course record 61 at Bonaventure Country Club, besting Johnny Miller's record score by one, a record that stood for 32 years. He won twice more in 2008, at the 77 Abierto VISA del Centro Presentado por Personel, and the Apulia San Domenico Grand Final on the European Tour's Challenge Tour.
- **Felipe Aguilar**, a native Chilean, won the 2008 Chilean Open. He also won the Abierto del Golf Club de los Leones last year and his first European Tour event, the Enjoy Jakarta Astro Indonesia Open.

### **Puerto Rican Players**

Joining the international players at the event will be the four local heroes from 2008. Here are their names and 2008 finish:

• <b>Max Alverio</b>	76-75—151	m/c
• <b>Rafael Campos</b> (am-VCU)	72-72-75—219	m/c after 54 holes, T78
• <b>Wilfredo Morales</b>	72-69-77—218	m/c after 54 holes, 77 <sup>th</sup> place
• <b>Miguel Suarez</b>	68-72-77-72—289	T61 \$7,350

### 3. **Fondos Unidos de Puerto Rico**

Fondos Unidos, Puerto Rico's chapter of United Way is the main charity beneficiary of the Puerto Rico Open presented by Banco Popular. Last year, the event was able to help establish a positive influence for the unprivileged communities in Puerto Rico. In its first year the event was able to donate \$200,000 to local Rio Grande communities.

### 4. **A look at the field**

**Rocco Mediate** – Less than one year from his historic head-to-head battle with Tiger Woods at the U.S. Open, looks to claim his first TOUR title since 2002.

**Charles Howell III** – The two-time PGA TOUR winner will be making his first appearance at the Puerto Rico Open presented by Banco Popular.

**Tadd Fujikawa**- the Hawaiian native Monday qualified for the 2009 Sony Open in Hawaii. He made the cut. In the third round, he shot 8-under 62, tying the course record, finishing 32<sup>nd</sup> in the event.

**Bo Van Pelt**- First-and second round leader at the 2008 Puerto Rico Open, finished T2. Fired a first round 63 and played in final group on Sunday at the 2009 Mayakoba Golf Classic.

**Erik Compton**-Miami native Erik Compton is nine months removed from his second heart transplant, and playing in his first TOUR event since making the cut at last year's season-ending Children's Miracle Network Classic. Compton's message is especially compelling as his wife Barbara is expecting the couple's first child in the near future. A former top-ranked junior and college golfer, Erik serves as a spokesperson for the Transplant Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to funding patient services, public education to increase organ donation and lifesaving transplant research. Diagnosed at age nine with cardiomyopathy, an enlarging of the heart that hinders its ability to pump blood, Compton had his first transplant at 12. He suffered a heart attack last year and had to undergo a second transplant in May 2008.

### 5. **Potential first-time winners**

**Webb Simpson** – Rookie from Wake Forest posted top-10s in first two starts of PGA TOUR career. Currently 33<sup>rd</sup> in FedExCup standings.

**Scott Piercy** – Rookie finished T6 at FBR Open and T20 at the Mayakoba Golf Classic.

**James Nitties** – Australian rookie finished T4 at FBR Open and T6 at the Mayakoba Golf Classic.

### 6. **Expanded Hospitality around 18**

This year the 18<sup>th</sup> green and halfway down the fairway has been enclosed in skybox seating, creating an amphitheater type feel to the closing hole.

### 7. **FedExCup modifications for 2009**

Now in its third year, the FedExCup underwent several modifications for the 2009 season:

- Shifting the points reset from the beginning of the Playoffs to after the BMW Championship, which means points earned during the PGA TOUR Regular Season will be carried through the first three Playoff events.
- Quintupling points awarded at Playoff tournaments relative to Regular Season tournaments.

- Changing the field size of the Playoff events to 125 at The Barclays, 100 at the Deutsche Bank Championship, 70 at the BMW Championship and 30 at THE TOUR Championship; they previously were 144, 120, 70 and 30.
- Streamlining the points structure for ease of understanding.