



2009 VERIZON HERITAGE

(The 17th of 37 events in the PGA TOUR Regular Season)

Harbour Town Golf Links April 13-19, 2009
Hilton Head Island, SC

FedExCup Pts: 500 Purse: \$5,700,000
Par/Yards: 36-35--71/6,973

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, April 19, 2009

Weather: Partly cloudy and warm. High of 74. Winds S 10-15 mph, gusting to 20 mph.

Brian Gay posted a 7-under 64 (the round of the day) on Sunday to finish at 20-under 264, cruising to the 2009 Verizon Heritage title by 10 strokes over Luke Donald (66) and Briny Baird (68). The victory is the second of Gay’s career (2008 Mayakoba Golf Classic) and comes in his 330th career start on the PGA TOUR.

Brian Gay’s 264 winning score breaks the previous scoring record at the Verizon Heritage, which was set by Loren Roberts in 1996 (19-under 265). The 10-stroke winning margin is also a tournament record, besting Davis Love III’s seven-stroke win in 1998.

Brian Gay managed just two bogeys (No. 10-2nd round, No. 12-4th round) this week at Harbour Town – the fewest at the Verizon Heritage since 1983. The previous low during that time was three, set by Loren Roberts in 1996.

Brian Gay’s 10-stroke victory is the largest on the PGA TOUR since Phil Mickelson won the 2006 BellSouth Classic by 13 strokes. His win is the ninth in TOUR history (dating back to 1970 when records begin) with a double-digit winning margin. The list includes:

2000 U.S. Open	15 strokes	Tiger Woods
1975 Phoenix Open	14 strokes	Johnny Miller
2006 BellSouth Classic	13 strokes	Phil Mickelson
1997 Masters	12 strokes	Tiger Woods
1990 NEC World Series of Golf	12 strokes	Jose Maria Olazabal
2003 Bay Hill Invitational	11 strokes	Tiger Woods
2000 WGC-NEC Invitational	11 strokes	Tiger Woods
1997 Phoenix Open	11 strokes	Steve Jones
2009 Verizon Heritage	10 strokes	Brian Gay

Brian Gay’s victory comes in his 10th start at Harbour Town, with four made cuts (T42-2001, T9-2006, T16-2007, 1-2009). In 2009, he has notched 10 made cuts in 11 starts, with three top-10 finishes (1-Verizon Heritage, T5-Sony Open in Hawaii, T6-FBR Open). The victory is worth 500 points and moves the Fort Worth, TX native from No. 29 to No. 7 on the FedExCup points list (927). Geoff Ogilvy retains the lead, with 1,350 points.

Brian Gay is now two for three when holding at least a share of the 54-hole lead, with his last two attempts with the lead leading to the winner’s circle (2008 Mayakoba Golf Classic, 2009 Verizon Heritage). The only time he failed to win when holding the 54-hole lead/co-lead was at the 2004 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial (T14).

With the victory, Brian Gay will earn his first-ever invitation to the Masters Tournament in 2010. He is a former resident of Louisville, GA, located approximately 50 miles from the Augusta National Golf Club.

Former Clemson University standout Jonathan Byrd finished T69 in his 200th career start on the PGA TOUR.

Defending champion Boo Weekley's two-year reign at the Verizon Heritage ended this week with a T13 finish. The tournament has not had a defending champion miss the cut since 1992 champion Davis Love III did so the following year.

Tim Wilkinson's T6 finish is the best by a lefthander at the Verizon Heritage since Phil Mickelson finished third in 2002.

The runner-up finish by Luke Donald is the seventh of his career and first since the 2008 Honda Classic. The second-place effort by Briny Baird is the fourth of his career, and first since the 2004 FUNAI Classic at Walt Disney World Resort.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy (T58) failed to record a top-20 finish for the first time in six starts this season. His previous five starts included the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship (T5), Honda Classic (T13), WGC-CA Championship (T20), Shell Houston Open (T19) and the Masters Tournament (T20).

Eight of the nine past champions of the Verizon Heritage made the cut this week. The list includes: Boo Weekley (T13), Aaron Baddeley (T21), Peter Lonard (T48), Stewart Cink (T62), Davis Love III (T21), Justin Leonard (T48), Jose Coceres (T48), Glen Day (76) and Bob Tway (MC).

Tim Wilkinson led the field this week with 97 putts, the fewest in a tournament so far this season. The all-time TOUR record is held by David Frost, with 92 putts at the 2005 Verizon Heritage. The Kiwi also led the field in fairways hit in regulation (50 of 56).

Matt Weibring, making just his 10th career start on the PGA TOUR, posted his first top-10 finish (T8).

Since the Verizon Heritage moved into its slot after the Masters Tournament in 1983, just five players have won the tournament without having competed in the Masters the week before: Brian Gay (2009), Boo Weekley (2007), Aaron Baddeley (2006), Bob Tway (1995) and Davis Love III (1987).

The T48 finish by Ernie Els this week marks just the third time in 11 starts that he has failed to finish inside the top 20 at the Verizon Heritage (T68-1997, MC-2008, T48-2009). His best showing among seven top-10 finishes at Harbour Town was a runner-up effort in 2007.

After missing the cut in his inaugural Verizon Heritage appearance in 2001, 2006 champion Aaron Baddeley has reeled off four consecutive top-25 finishes at the tournament (1-2006, T10-2007, T2-2008, T21-2009).

Davis Love III finished T21 in his bid this week for a sixth Verizon Heritage title. Love has now made 24 consecutive starts (with 13 top-25 finishes) at the annual Hilton Head event. In addition to his wins in 1987, 1991, 1992, 1998 and 2003, he has six additional top-10 finishes for a tournament-record 11 such finishes.

A player has posted four rounds in the 60s 24 times throughout the history of the Verizon Heritage, with 2009 champion Brian Gay the only to perform the feat this week.

Scoring Averages at the par-71 Harbour Town Golf Links:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
Thursday	35.878	36.084	71.962	----
Friday	35.846	35.938	71.785	71.874
Saturday	35.000	35.397	70.397	71.534
Sunday	35.269	35.910	71.179	71.468

Stat leaders for the week:

Driving Distance	Rory McIlroy	298.9 yards
Driving Accuracy	Tim Wilkinson	50 of 56 (89.3%)
Greens in Regulation	Tom Lehman	50 of 72 (69.4%)
Putts per Round	Tim Wilkinson	24.25 per round

The season-long Kodak Challenge, where players must play at least 18 of the 30 Kodak Challenge holes throughout the year to be eligible for a \$1 million prize, included this week's 452-yard, par-4 18th hole at Harbour Town. Steve Lowery (thru 8 holes) and Chris DiMarco (thru 7 holes) both birdied the picturesque hole this week to move into a share of the lead in the season-long event at 6-under-par

The par-3 14th hole played the toughest this week with a 3.309 average. The par-5 second hole was the easiest at 4.554.

The third-round leader/co-leader has won 13 of 16 (81.25%) 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 in Pebble Beach, Dustin Johnson emerged victorious as the 54-hole leader. By comparison, only 22 of 46 (48%) third-round leaders/co-leaders went on to victory in 2008, including Boo Weekley at the Verizon Heritage.

Bogey-free rounds on Sunday were turned in by Rory Sabbatini (66), Paul Casey (66) and Bill Lunde (69), bringing the total for the week to 16.