



2009 THE PLAYERS Championship
NOTES BASED ON CURRENT FIELD
PROJECTION/COMMITMENTS

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Dates: May 4-10
Where: Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Course: THE PLAYERS Stadium Course, TPC Sawgrass (7,215 yards, par-72)
FedExCup 600 points to the winner
Purse: TBA (\$9.5 million in 2008)
Winner's Share: TBA (\$1.71 million in 2008)
Format: Four-day, 72-hole stroke-play competition
Defending Champion: Sergio Garcia

KEY STORYLINES:

1) Sergio Garcia returns as defending champion

Currently the No. 3 ranked player in the world, Sergio Garcia comes into THE PLAYERS Championship looking to become the first player since the tournament began 35 years ago to successfully defend his title. Garcia has won seven times on the PGA TOUR, including last year's playoff victory at the famous 17th hole at THE PLAYERS. The win at THE PLAYERS helped him finish the 2008 season ranked third in the final FedExCup standings. On the way, he won the Byron Nelson Award for the lowest adjusted scoring average (69.12) and captured the Vardon Trophy (lowest scoring average) becoming the first European-born winner of the award on the PGA TOUR since Harry Cooper in 1937.

In winning the 2008 PLAYERS, Garcia joined Tiger Woods as the only players in tournament history to finish runner up and then win the following year (Woods finished second to Hall Sutton in 2000 and then won in 2001).

Last year's playoff ended what was the longest playoff drought on the PGA TOUR. The last playoff at THE PLAYERS Championship came in 1987 when Sandy Lyle beat Jeff Sluman with a par on the third playoff hole. Sergio Garcia joined Lyle as the only European-born players to win at THE PLAYERS Championship.

Garcia was the ninth PLAYERS champion in the last 24 years to finish first or T1 in Greens in Regulation on the week.

Dress Sergio!

Beginning in March and extending through May 6, fans have been able to vote online at PGATOUR.COM/DressSergio for one of three adidas outfits they would like to see Garcia wear during the second round of THE PLAYERS. Whichever outfit earns the most votes, Sergio will unveil in THE PLAYERS Stadium Village following the first round on Thursday, May 7, and then wear the outfit for his second round of competition. All three "Dress Sergio" outfits will be on display and available for purchase during tournament week in THE PLAYERS Stadium Village merchandise tent. At the time of voting, fans will have the option to register for a sweepstakes, with the chance to win some great prizes from TaylorMade-adidas.

2) Tiger Woods returns to TPC Sawgrass after missing last year's event

While Tiger Woods has not missed a cut 11 attempts at THE PLAYERS, he has gone a stretch of six consecutive appearances without a top-10 finish dating back to his victory in 2001. The six consecutive events without notching a top-10 finish is Woods' longest active streak and also the longest streak at any single event in Woods' career. All of his career top-10 finishes at TPC Sawgrass came in three straight appearances (1999 T-10, 2000 2nd and 2001 1st).

THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass is one of the great tests in golf. The risk-reward options on the par 5s and the difficulty of the final two holes make for exciting golf. Woods has played the par 5s (2, 9, 11, 16)

brilliantly in his career, with a total combined score of 84-under-par. His worst hole as been the par-3 17th island green, where he is 13-over-par for his career.

Woods has recorded 12 victories in the state of Florida (13 wins in California): **Florida Victories** - (Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard--5-2000-03, 2008-09; FUNAI Children's Miracle Network Classic presented by Wal-Mart --2-1996, 1999, Ford Championship at Doral--2-2005-06, THE PLAYERS Championship--1-2001, WGC-CA Championship -- 1-2007).

In four events in 2009, Woods has three top-10 finishes and one victory at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard. He is currently ranked 14th in the FedExCup standings with 720 points.

3) **Phil Mickelson looks to continue momentum of 2009 season**

The 2007 champion is currently ranked 2nd in the 2009 FedExCup standings with 1,273 points. He is also ranked No. 2 in the Official World Golf Ranking.

Mickelson, who has recorded two victories already in 2009, is the only player with two or more victories in each of the past six years. Mickelson now has 36 career victories on the PGA TOUR.

Mickelson holds or shares several PLAYERS Championship scoring records:

Low 9-Hole Score (back nine): (9-way tie) 30 (6-under), 1996, TPC Sawgrass, 3rd round

Low First-Round Score: (7-way tie) 64 (8-under), 2002, TPC Sawgrass

Low Third-Round Score: (4-way tie) 64 (8-under), 1996, TPC Sawgrass

4) **Course Stats**

In the 27 years that THE PLAYERS has been held at TPC Sawgrass, there are two holes that have recorded the most triple bogeys or worse. The closing holes, No. 17 and no. 18 have each recorded 197 triple bogeys or worse in the tournament's history.

Two of the top-nine most difficult holes on the 2008 PGA TOUR season came from THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

Rank	Course	Hole	Par	Yds	Avg Score	Avg O/U Par	Tournament Name
1	Royal Birkdale GC (Lancashire)	6	4	499	4.764	+0.764	British Open
2	Oakland Hills CC (South)	18	4	498	4.661	+0.661	PGA Championship
3	Torrey Pines (South Course)	12	4	504	4.581	+0.581	U.S.Open
4	TPC Sawgrass	18	4	462	4.522	+0.522	THE PLAYERS
5	Royal Birkdale GC (Lancashire)	1	4	450	4.513	+0.513	BritishOpen
6	Torrey Pines (South Course)	6	4	515	4.504	+0.504	U.S. Open
7	Torrey Pines (South Course)	7	4	462	4.491	+0.491	Buick Invitational
8	TPC Southwind	12	4	406	4.450	+0.450	St. Jude Championship
9	TPC Sawgrass	14	4	481	4.447	+0.447	THE PLAYERS

No. 17 by the numbers

Total balls in the water by year

2003	29
2004	30
2005	67
2006	57
2007	93
2008	65

Of the 27 winners of THE PLAYERS here, only two winners have made a bogey on the 17th hole on Sunday, Steve Elkington in 1991 and Fred Funk in 2005. Of these winners, 16 have made par, nine have made birdie and two made bogeys.

4) **Tournament/field info**

Strength of field:

- 96 of the Top 100 from the 2008 FedExCup final points standings
- 103 of the Top 125 on the current FedExCup points standings
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- 10 of the Top 10 in the Official World Golf Ranking

- 24 of the Top 25 in the Official World Golf Ranking (Alvaro Quiros from Spain is missing)
- 47 of the Top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking

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- 102 players who have won on the PGA TOUR
 - Every winner on the PGA TOUR dating back to the 2007 AT&T National
 - 20 major championship winners with a collective 43 major titles

In the 34-year history of THE PLAYERS, nine of the victories have been by international players:

- 2, Steve Elkington, Australia
- 1, Sergio Garcia, Spain
- 1, Greg Norman, Australia
- 1, Craig Perks, New Zealand
- 1, Nick Price, Zimbabwe
- 1, Sandy Lyle, Scotland
- 1, Adam Scott, Australia
- 1, Stephen Ames, Trinidad and Tobago/Canada

Competition at THE PLAYERS is always at the highest level – average margin of victory is only 2.31 strokes over the past 35 years. The tournament has been decided by two strokes or less on 23 occasions.

No PLAYERS champion has managed to repeat. Five players have won this event multiple times, but none in consecutive years. Nicklaus is the only three-time winner (1974, 1976, 978). Two-time winners include Steve Elkington (1991, 1997), Hal Sutton (1983, 2000), Couples (1984, 1996) and Love (1992, 2003).

There are 18 first-time participants at this year's PLAYERS Championship. The players teeing it up for the first time at TPC Sawgrass are Brad Adamonis, Matt Bettencourt, Ross Fisher, Thongchai Jaidee, Martin Kaymer, Soren Kjeldsen, Jeff Klauk, Martin Laird, Michael Letzig, Rory McIlroy, Parker McLachlin, Scott Piercy, Chez Reavie, Jeev M. Singh, Kevin Streelman, Marc Turnesa, Oliver Wilson and Y.E. Yang.

A total of 53 players headed to TPC Sawgrass are from outside the United States and represent 19 countries. Australia leads the way with 12 players. England is second with eight players, while Sweden is next with six players. South Korea has three players. The other countries represented are: New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Germany, Canada and Argentina each have two. Spain, Japan, Ireland, Scotland, India, Fiji, Denmark, Colombia and Thailand each have one player qualified.

Rory McIlroy is the youngest player in the field at 19 years old, although he will celebrate his 20th birthday on Monday of tournament week (May 4). D.A. Weibring is the oldest player in the field at 55 years old (he will be 56 on May 25). Weibring was in his 13th season on the PGA TOUR - and had already won three of his five TOUR titles – the year McIlroy was born.

Fred Couples is making his 26th start at THE PLAYERS, the most of any player in the field. He is now tied for fifth in PLAYERS history, while Corey Pavin, is making his 25th start:

- 28: Tim Kite, Ben Crenshaw, Jay Haas
- 27: Craig Stadler
- 26: Tom Watson, Fred Couples
- 25: Tom Purtzer, Larry Nelson, Corey Pavin

5) Noteworthy Players in the Field

Paul Goydos – The self-described journeyman, with his Long Beach State baseball hat and his everyman charm and humor, lost in a playoff at THE PLAYERS Championship to Sergio Garcia but jumped 110 spots in the Official World Golf Ranking to number 59. Goydos appeared on the Jim Rome Radio Show and Pardon the Interruption (ESPN) the following week.

Geoff Ogilvy – Ogilvy's season started with a wire-to-wire victory at the 2009 season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship. He later won the World Golf Championships-Accenture Match Play Championship for the second time in his career in February. The victories, along with solid play throughout the year, have Ogilvy first in the FedExCup Regular Season Standings with 1,350 points. The 2006 U.S. Open champion has also won three World Golf Championships events -- joined only by Tiger Woods as players with three or more World Golf Championships victories.

The 31-year-old Australian has six PGA TOUR victories:

2009 World Golf Championships-Accenture Match Play Championship
2009 Mercedes-Benz Championship
2008 World Golf Championships-CA Championship
2006 U.S. Open
2006 World Golf Championships-Accenture Match Play Championship
2005 Chrysler Classic of Tucson

With his victory at the Accenture Match Play Championship earlier this year, Ogilvy became the youngest current player to win four tournaments in which Tiger Woods was in the field.

Kenny Perry – At 48 years, 8 months and 2 days on Sunday of the 2009 Masters Tournament, the eventual runner-up was attempting to become the oldest Masters champion (Jack Nicklaus, 1986, 46 years, 2 months, 23 days) as well as the oldest major champion (Julius Boros, 1968 PGA Championship, 48 years, 4 months, 18 days) in golf history. Instead, bogeys on the 71st and 72nd holes forced a playoff with Chad Campbell and eventual champion Angel Cabrera.

With his runner-up finish in Augusta, Perry moved to third in the FedExCup standings and a career-best sixth in the Official World Golf Ranking (7th after 2003 PGA Championship).

Perry is No. 1 on the PGA TOUR in Scoring Average (69.39) and top 10s with six in 10 starts.

Perry was universally praised for his grace in defeat:

"I'm not going to hang my head from this deal. I may never have this opportunity again, but I had a blast. I take a lot of positives from this. I had the tournament to win, and I lost the tournament. It seems like when I get down to those deals, I can't make it happen. Great players make it happen. Average players don't. I will look back on this the rest of my life, on what could have been. But that's OK. I know there are a lot of people hurting out there, and here I am, playing golf for a living. If this is the worst thing that happens to me, I can live with it."

Perry will be making his 21st career start at THE PLAYERS Championship. He led through two rounds last year and trailed by one stroke entering the final round. A tough Sunday put him at T15 for the week.

Angel Cabrera – Cabrera's victory at the Masters made him a two-time major championship winner and vaulted him to No. 14 in the FedExCup standings (he is now No. 15) and No. 18 in the Official World Golf Ranking.

Cabrera will be facing tough odds if he hopes to add a PLAYERS Championship victory this year. He has missed the cut at THE PLAYERS in each of his past four appearances with his best finish coming in his first-ever start at TPC Sawgrass, a T26 in 2001.

Only three players have won THE PLAYERS and a major championship in the same year and only one player has won both the Masters and THE PLAYERS Championship in the same season:

Tiger Woods	2001 (Masters)
Hal Sutton	1983 (PGA Championship)
Jack Nicklaus	1978 (British Open)

Jeff Klauk – Rookie Jeff Klauk is one of 18 first-time participants in THE PLAYERS this year, but he will most certainly get the lion's share of the attention. Klauk graduated from nearby Nease High School (as did Tim Tebow) and literally grew up at TPC Sawgrass, where his father Fred served as superintendent for more than 25 years (Fred retired in 2008). Klauk and his wife Shanna live in St. Augustine, and he plays out of The Palencia Club.

A two-time winner on the Nationwide Tour, Klauk finished No. 3 on the 2008 money list to advance to the PGA TOUR. He needed a good start to the 2009 season in order to qualify for THE PLAYERS, and the 30-year-old did just that. Klauk finished T12 at his first event as a PGA TOUR member, the Sony Open in Hawaii, tied for 11th at the Buick Invitational and finished fourth at The Honda Classic. He's currently ranked No. 42 in the FedExCup points standings and was the last player to qualify for THE PLAYERS.

Jim Furyk, Vijay Singh, Fred Funk – Of the three most recognizable Ponte Vedra Beach residents in the field, **Funk** has the best record at THE PLAYERS. Playing for the 19th consecutive time in this event, the 2005 champion has made the cut in all but four tries at TPC Sawgrass, with six top-20 finishes. **Furyk** is playing in his 14th PLAYERS, with his best finish a T3 in 2006. **Singh**, the 2008 FedExCup Champion, is playing for the 17th consecutive year at THE PLAYERS.

Jeff Quinney – Quinney, a 2007 PGA TOUR rookie, shot a 64 (-8) in the third round of the 2007 event, one off the tournament record. Fred Couples set the mark of 63 in the third round in 1992. Greg Norman matched that record with his 63 in the first round in 1994. Quinney finished T6 in his PLAYERS debut. In 2008, Quinney finished alone in third, missing out on joining the Goydos-Garcia playoff by one stroke.

Quinney is ranked No. 1 in all-time scoring average in PLAYERS history.

Best all-time stroke averages at THE PLAYERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Rounds</u>
1 Jeff Quinney*	70.75	8
2 Bruce Crampton	70.92	12
3 Tom Lehman	71.35	62
4 Tiger Woods*	71.52	44
5 Henrik Stenson*	71.58	12
6 Nick Price	71.60	84
7 Curt Byrum	71.78	18
T8 Steve Elkington	71.80	61
T8 Brett Upper	71.80	10
10 Adam Scott*	71.81	26

*in THE PLAYERS field this year

D.A. Weibring - Weibring is in THE PLAYERS field for the first time since 1997, the longest drought of anyone at TPC Sawgrass this week. Weibring qualified by winning the Constellation Energy Senior PLAYERS Championship on the Champions Tour last year. This is his 19th appearance at THE PLAYERS; his best finish came in 1985 when finished second to Calvin Peete.

(See separate document for “outside-the-ropes” events and story ideas)