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2013 Farmers Insurance Open pre-tournament notes

Dates: January 21-27, 2013 Where: La Jolla, Calif. Courses: Torrey Pines Golf Course (La Jolla, CA) South Course (host) North Course Field size: 156 2012 champion: Brandt Snedeker Purse: \$6,100,000 (\$1,098,000/winner) FedExCup: 500 points to the winner Format: 72-hole stroke play Facebook: www.facebook.com/FarmersInsuranceOpen Twitter: @FarmersInsOpen

Par/Yards: 72/7,568 Par/Yards: 72/6,874

How the Farmers Insurance Open was won by Brandt Snedeker in 2012

Entering the final round of the Farmers Insurance Open, Brandt Snedeker was seven shots behind leader Kyle Stanley. Overall, Stanley had a five-shot lead entering the final round, he led by seven shots over the field early in the final round, and had a three-shot lead on the 18th tee. On the final hole, Stanley's approach shot from 77-yards rolled back into the front water hazard resulting in a triple-bogey and a playoff with Snedeker. Snedeker defeated Kyle Stanley with a par-3 on the second playoff hole (No. 16). Stanley lost the playoff when his 5-foot par putt hit the right edge of the cup and lipped out.

Brandt Snedeker at the 2012 Farmers Insurance Open

- Snedeker recorded his third straight top 10 at the Farmers Insurance Open and fourth overall in six career starts (3rd/2007, T2/2010, T9/2011).
- Snedeker's scoring breakdown during the week: par-3s (even-par), par-4s (5-under), par-5s (12-under).

Comebacks and sudden-death in 2012

The 2012 PGA TOUR season featured six winners that came back from at least six strokes back in the final round to win:

- 8 Kyle Stanley/Waste Management Phoenix Open
- 7 Brandt Snedeker/Farmers Insurance Open
- 7 John Huh/Mayakoba Golf Classic
- 7 Tommy Gainey/McGladrey Classic
- 6 Phil Mickelson/AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am
- 6 Marc Leishman/Travelers Championship

In 2011, Snedeker came from six strokes behind Luke Donald to win the RBC Heritage. Snedeker went on to defeat Luke Donald on the third playoff hole (No. 18) with a par-4.

Saturday is University Day

Farmers Insurance once again is rewarding school spirit during the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open, encouraging fans and TOUR players to wear their university colors in support of Farmers "University of Farmers" advertising campaign. Fans and TOUR players arere encouraged to wear their own university colors in support of Farmers "University of Farmers" advertising campaign. For "extra credit" Farmers will make donations to college golf programs from players posting the best third-round 18-hole scores. The player with the low third-round score will receive \$15,000 for his alma mater's golf team while the second best score will receive \$10,000. Any player who wears his school colors on Saturday will have \$500 donated in his name to his college's golf program.

A look at the field

- 14 of the 30 players that made it to the 2012 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola will play in the Farmers Insurance Open: Brandt Snedeker, Tiger Woods, Nick Watney, Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Bubba Watson, Hunter Mahan, Keegan Bradley, Bo Van Pelt, Robert Garrigus, Scott Piercy, Rickie Fowler, John Huh and John Senden.
- Six players that competed for the 2012 U.S. Ryder Cup team: Keegan Bradley, Brandt Snedeker, Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Bubba Watson and Tiger Woods. Nicolas Colsaerts who competed for the European Team will also play in the Farmers Insurance Open. Colsaerts will be making his first start as a PGA TOUR member.
- The last two FedExCup champions are in the Farmers Insurance Open field (Brandt Snedeker/2012 and Bill Haas/2011). Snedeker totaled two wins, one runner-up finish and seven top-10 finishes in his 22 starts in 2012 and led the 2012 PGA TOUR in strokes gained putting outperforming the TOUR average by +.860 strokes per round.
- Six-time Farmers Insurance Open winner Tiger Woods had his career signature moment at Torrey Pines at the 2008 U.S. Open as he defeated Rocco Mediate in an 18-hole playoff. Woods is coming off a three-win season that saw him tie and surpass Jack Nicklaus for second all-time in PGA TOUR wins.
- Three-time Farmers Insurance Open winner and San Diego native Phil Mickelson has been charged with the re-design of Torrey Pines North Course in 2015.
- 2012 Masters champion and 2011 Farmers Insurance Open champion Bubba Watson.
- The last eight PGA TOUR Rookies of the Year: John Huh (2012), Keegan Bradley (2011), Rickie Fowler (2010), Marc Leishman (2009), Andres Romero (2008), Brandt Snedeker (2007), Trevor Immelman (2006) and Sean O'Hair (2005).

2013 PGA TOUR Storylines

Structural changes to the PGA TOUR

- For the first time in the FedExCup era, the 40-tournament official money schedule will give the season a definitive end at the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola, the fourth event in the FedExCup Playoffs. The 2013-2014 PGA TOUR Season officially begins three weeks later with those tournaments that formerly made up the Fall Series; those events begin awarding full FedExCup points.
- Year seven of the FedExCup includes 36 events before the Playoffs, one less than 2012 due to the Mayakoba Golf Classic moving to its own unencumbered fall date in the 2013-14 PGA TOUR Season.
- The CIMB Classic and World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions become official events on the PGA TOUR (official victory, full FedExCup points, official money; winners qualify for Hyundai Tournament of Champions).
- For the first time, the Web.com Tour becomes the path for the PGA TOUR's 50 new membership cards. The top 25 players on the money list for the Web.com Tour Regular Season will earn cards but must play the Finals for positioning. The Web.com Tour Finals will determine an additional 25 cards, based on cumulative earnings in those events, as well as the positioning of all 50 cards.

The rookies

- 14 of the 30 players in the 2013 rookie class are 25 years of age or younger.
- Six of the rookies had never played a PGA TOUR event entering the 2013 season.
- Notables rookies include:
 - Nicolas Colsaerts Belgium's first-ever PGA TOUR member played for the European squad at the 2012 Ryder Cup. Colsaerts makes his first TOUR start as a member at the Farmers Insurance Open.
 - Scott Langley -- The 2010 NCAA champion at the University of Illinois, the left-hander is the first former participant of The First Tee program to earn a PGA TOUR card. Finished tied for third at the Sony Open in Hawaii.
 - Luke List Vanderbilt graduate finished No. 1 on the Web.com Tour in Driving Distance Average (324.0 yards) last year and earned first career victory at the South Georgia Classic
 - James Hahn -- Web.com Tour graduate considered quitting the game last year before rallying to finish No. 5 on the money list with a victory at the Rex Hospital Open. Former Cal golfer worked for an advertising agency in his hometown of Alameda, Calif., earned his realtor's license and sold shoes at Nordstrom while pursuing his dream of playing the PGA TOUR.
 - Luke Guthrie -- After earning a combined \$695,265 in 15 PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour events during his "summer break" in 2012, the Web.com Tour graduate went back to the University Illinois in the fall for the final 13 credits for his degree in Business Management. Brother Zach stepped down as an assistant coach at University of Illinois to caddie for Luke full-time in 2013.
 - > Patrick Reed -- Successfully Monday qualified six times on the PGA TOUR in 2012.
 - Erik Meierdierks -- Father passed away less than one week before the first stage of the 2012 PGA TOUR Qualifying Tournament, but Erik managed to negotiate all three stages to earn his TOUR card. Did not play collegiate golf while attending Michigan State University.

Progression of young stars

15 of the 37 different winners on the PGA TOUR in 2012 were under the age of 30, accounting for a total of 19 victories: Kyle Stanley, Bill Haas, Hunter Mahan (2), John Huh, Rory McIlroy (4), Rickie Fowler, Dustin Johnson, Webb Simpson, Marc Leishman, Ted Potter, Jr., Scott Stallings, Keegan Bradley, Ryan Moore, Jonas Blixt and Charlie Beljan. The trend continues in 2013 as winners Dustin Johnson (Hyundai Tournament of Champions) and Russell Henley (Sony Open in Hawaii) are under the age of 30.

Top players playing and winning on the PGA TOUR

Entering the 2013 season, 28 of the top 30 players in the Official World Golf Ranking are members of the PGA TOUR. Last year, 20 of the 37 different winners in 2012 were inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking as of January 1: Steve Stricker (6); Brandt Snedeker/2 (38); Phil Mickelson (14); Bill Haas (27); Hunter Mahan/2 (19); Rory McIlroy/4 (3); Justin Rose (18); Luke Donald (1); Tiger Woods/3 (23); Bubba Watson (21); Jason Dufner/2 (33); Rickie Fowler (32); Matt Kuchar (11); Zach Johnson/2 (37); Dustin Johnson (7), Webb Simpson (10), Keegan Bradley (31), Sergio Garcia (17), Nick Watney (12) and Ian Poulter (16).