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2013 Humana Challenge in partnership with the Clinton Foundation pre-tournament notes

Dates: January 14-20, 2013

Where: LaQuinta, Calif.

Courses:

Arnold Palmer Private/PGA West; La Quinta, CA

Par/Yards: 72/6,930

Nicklaus Private/PGA West; La Quinta, CA

Par/Yards: 72/6,951

La Quinta Country Club; La Quinta, CA

Par/Yards: 72/7,060

Field: 156

2012 champion: Mark Wilson

Purse: \$5,600,000 (\$1,008,000/winner)

FedExCup: 500 points to the winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play (Rds. 1-3 are pro-am format)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HumanaChallenge

Twitter: @HumanaChallenge

How the Humana Challenge was won in 2012

Mark Wilson made a 10-foot birdie putt on the last hole to hold off Robert Garrigus, John Mallinger and Johnson Wagner by two strokes. Garrigus narrowly missed a 35-foot eagle putt that would have given him the lead right before Wilson calmly made his birdie to claim his fifth career PGA Tour victory. Wilson had to play three holes at La Quinta CC on Sunday morning to complete his third round before returning to the Palmer Private Course for his final round on Sunday afternoon. The third round was suspended after a damaging wind storm ripped through the area on Saturday.

Mark Wilson at the 2012 Humana Challenge

- Wilson posted his career low round on the PGA TOUR when he shot a 10-under-par 62 in the second round. His round included eight birdies and an eagle.
- For the week, he was 1-under par on the par-3 holes, but was 8-under on the par-4s and 14-under on the par-5s.
- All five of Wilson's PGA TOUR wins have come in the first quarter of the year.
- Wilson's in-laws live at Ironwood Country Club in nearby Palm Desert.

A look at the field

- Nine of the 30 players that made it to the 2012 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola will play in the Humana Challenge: Brandt Snedeker, Phil Mickelson, Zach Johnson, Matt Kuchar, Robert Garrigus, Carl Pettersson, John Senden, Webb Simpson, Bo Van Pelt.
- Five golfers that competed for the U.S. Team in the 2012 Ryder Cup at Medinah will play in the Humana Challenge: Brandt Snedeker, Phil Mickelson, Zach Johnson, Webb Simpson and Matt Kuchar.
- For the second straight season Phil Mickelson will start his TOUR season in Palm Springs. Mickelson is a two-time winner of the Humana Challenge, the leading all-time money winner of the event along with four top 10s in 10 career starts. He has only four above-par rounds in 47 career rounds at the Humana Challenge.
- Rookie Russell Henley captured the Sony Open in Hawaii last week at the age 23 years, 9 months and 1 day in just his third official start. He had two as an amateur. With his win, he becomes the first rookie to win in his first start as an official member of the PGA TOUR since Garrett Willis at the 2001 Touchstone Energy Tucson Open. Henley's 256 total is the third-lowest 72-hole total (tie with Mark Calcavecchia/2001 Phoenix Open). Henley's high school, Stratford Academy (Macon, Ga.) held "Russell Henley Day" on Tuesday, January 15. Among other events, all students and faculty wore Hawaiian shirts and leis to celebrate the rookie's win at the Sony Open.
- Tommy Armour III posted a total of 254 (26-under) at the 2003 Valero Texas Open, while Steve Stricker posted a 255 at the 2009 Bob Hope Classic.
- The last two FedExCup champions are in the Humana Challenge field (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.

- Three players in the field looking to bounce back after subpar 2012 seasons include Camilo Villegas, 2011 Humana Challenge winner Jhonattan Vegas and Gary Woodland, who lost to Vegas in a playoff in Palm Springs in 2011. All three players missed the FedExCup Playoffs in 2012, a year after all three finished inside the top 55 in the FedExCup standings. Villegas finished No. 144 on the PGA TOUR money list in 2012.
- 21-year-old Japanese phenom Ryo Ishikawa will be playing the Humana Challenge for the first time.
- Notable rookies making their first starts include Englishmen David Lynn and Ross Fisher. Lynn, the runner-up at the 2012 PGA Championship, was one of four players that finished in the top 125 on the 2012 PGA TOUR money list as nonmembers. Fisher, a former European Ryder Cup Team member, qualified for the PGA TOUR through the TOUR's Qualifying Tournament.
- Players coming off injury-plagued seasons in 2012 include former U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover, Joe Ogilvie, Scott McCarron, Humana Challenge past champion Jesper Parnevik, Scott Verplank, Kevin Sutherland, Jeff Klauk and Steve Marino.
- Long Beach, Calif., native Patrick Cantlay will play in Palm Springs on a sponsor exemption. Cantlay earned NCAA Jack Nicklaus Player of the Year honors as a freshman at UCLA. He recorded four top-25 finishes in five starts on the PGA TOUR in 2011 as a college freshman including T21 at the U.S. Open and T9 at the RBC Canadian Open. Cantlay also finished T24 at the Travelers Championship after shooting a second round 60 and holding the second round lead. His 60 is the lowest in TOUR history by an amateur.

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:
 - **Russell Henley** – Winner of last week's Sony Open in Hawaii (see above for field highlights). The second-ever amateur to win on the Web.com Tour when he captured the 2011 Stadion Classic at UGA one week before graduating from the University of Georgia. Won seven times during his college career at Georgia, tying the school's all-time record set by Chris Kirk. One of five two-time winners on the Web.com Tour in 2012.
 - **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 of 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).

Comebacks and sudden-death in 2012

How will 2013 season play out after a 2012 campaign that featured nine playoffs and seven players that came from six strokes back after 54 holes to win on the PGA TOUR.

- 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