



2015 Barbasol Championship

(The 37th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Opelika/Auburn, Ala. July 13-19, 2015
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National (Lake Course)

Purse: \$3,500,000 (\$630,000)
Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,302
FedExCup: 300 (winner)

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, July 18, 2015

Weather: Sunny, with a high of 96 degrees. Winds NNE 5-10 mph..

Third-Round Leaderboard

Ricky Barnes	67-68-65—200 (-13)
Scott Piercy	69-66-65—200 (-13)

Ricky Barnes

Making his 202nd career start on the PGA TOUR this week, Ricky Barnes' 6-under 65 ties his low round of the year from the final round of the OHL Classic at Mayakoba (T16).

Barnes' closest brush with victory came at the 2009 U.S. Open, when he claimed a share of second place with David Duval and Phil Mickelson.

Barnes remains in search of his first top-10 finish since the 2014 Barracuda Championship, contested under the Modified Stableford scoring format. His last top-10 finish in a stroke play event was at the 2014 Puerto Rico Open (T9).

Barnes, a 2003 University of Arizona grad, competed at Grand National in 2000 for the NCAA Division I Championship. His team was unable to mount enough of a charge to derail the Oklahoma State Cowboys, led by Charles Howell III, who is in this week's field (T68).

Barnes has previously held a lead/co-lead after 54 holes just once. At the 2009 U.S. Open, he held a one-stroke lead over Lucas Glover. Barnes finished T2, two strokes back.

Scott Piercy

Las Vegas native Scott Piercy has improved with each round at this week's Barbasol Championship, having posted rounds of 69-66-65. In today's third round, he birdied four of his first five holes, with his only bogey coming at the par-4 15th hole.

Piercy is in search of his third career win on the PGA TOUR, having won the 2011 Barracuda Championship and 2012 RBC Canadian Open.

Piercy is making his 22nd start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, having collected three top-10 finishes. His best among them was solo-second at the Sony Open in Hawaii. Piercy is coming off a T14 at last week's John Deere Classic.

Piercy hit 10/14 fairways in regulation in round three, and missed just two greens.

Today marks Piercy's fourth time to hold a lead/co-lead after 54 holes on the PGA TOUR. The most recent, and only one which resulted in victory was the 2011 Barracuda Championship.

Jason Gore

Jason Gore's 6-under 65 in round one was one stroke shy of his lowest score of the season. In round three, he bettered that season-low score by a stroke with a bogey-free, 8-under 63. The 63 ties his career-low on the PGA TOUR.

At the 2005 Cox Classic on the Web.com Tour, Gore posted a 12-under 59 in round two. He became the third player on that Tour to post the elusive number.

Gore made five birdies in a six-hole stretch on his inward nine in round three today, Nos. 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16.

Gore made a return to the PGA TOUR for the 2014-15 season by virtue of his 10th-place finish on the 2014 Web.com Tour priority list. On that Tour last year, he claimed a pair of runner-up finishes, as well as two third-place showings.

Gore, who initially joined the PGA TOUR in 2001, has bounced between the Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR since. The 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season marks his first, full-time return to the TOUR since 2009.

Gore is making his 20th start of the 2014-15 season, with a T10 at the Travelers Championship being his only top-10 finish. He is making his 242nd overall start on TOUR, having amassed 15 top 10s and one win (2005 84 Lumber Classic).

Will Wilcox

Birmingham native Will Wilcox continued to reap the benefits of a home state vibe, posting a 65 in round three. He opened with a benign, even-par front side, but carded four birdies and an eagle-3 at No. 16 on his inward nine.

Because of travel delays this week, Wilcox was only able to play the front nine on Tuesday. Because of inclement weather Wednesday, he only got through the front nine again for the pro-am. Thursday's first round was the first time Wilcox ever laid eyes on Grand National's back nine.

Wilcox's 65 ties his low round of the year from the final round of the FedEx St. Jude Classic (T12).

Wilcox's 65 is his seventh-consecutive sub-par score. En route to a T8 finish at last week's John Deere Classic, Wilcox posted rounds of 66-66-69-67—268 (-16). He has opened this week's Barbasol Championship with scores of 66-70-65.

The 29-year-old Wilcox grew up just outside Birmingham in Pell City. He lived and worked temporarily in the Opelika/Auburn area. His mother played golf at Auburn University.

Wilcox played golf for the University of Alabama-Birmingham, before transferring to Clayton State in Georgia. There, Wilcox was a three-time All-America, winner of the Peach Belt Conference Championship and seven other college events. He also won the 2008 Alabama Amateur.

Wilcox, who earned conditional status to the PGA TOUR this season after finishing No. 142 in 2013-14 FedExCup standings, is making his 13th start of the season. He has collected top-10 finishes at the Puerto Rico Open (T6) and last week's John Deere Classic (T8). He comes into the week ranked No. 128 in FedExCup points.

Whee Kim

Second-round co-leader Whee Kim's posted a 3-under 68 to get to 12-under 201. He will begin Sunday's final round one stroke back.

Kim, a South Korea native, joined the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of his 25th-place finish on the 2014 Web.com Tour priority list.

The 23-year-old Kim is making his 19th start of his rookie season on the PGA TOUR, with a T8 at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans his lone top 10. Kim is coming off a missed cut at last week's John Deere Classic.

A player of Korean-descent in their 20s has won on the PGA TOUR each of the last six seasons:

Anthony Kim (2010 Shell Houston Open/24 years, 9 months, 16 days)
Kevin Na (2011 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open/28 years, 17 days)
John Huh (2012 OHL Classic at Mayakoba/21 years, 9 months, 5 days)
Sangmoon Bae – 1 (2013 AT&T Byron Nelson/26 years, 10 months, 29 days)
Seung-Yul Noh (2014 Zurich Classic of New Orleans/22 years, 10 months, 29 days)
Sangmoon Bae – 2 (2014 Frys.com Open/28 years, 3 months, 21 days)
Danny Lee – (2015 The Greenbrier Classic/24 years, 11 months, 11 days)

When Danny Lee won the Greenbrier Classic three weeks ago, he became the seventh Korean-born player to win on the PGA TOUR, joining K.J. Choi (8), Y.E. Yang (2), Kevin Na (1), Sang-Moon Bae (2), Seung-Yul Noh (1), James Hahn (1).

Lee also became the ninth player of Korean descent to win, joining Choi, Yang, Na, Bae, Noh, Hahn, Anthony Kim (3), John Huh (1). Kim and Huh were both born in the United States.

Kim had never made a start on the PGA TOUR prior to this season.

Emiliano Grillo

Foreign sponsor exemption Emiliano Grillo will begin Sunday's final round just a stroke back at 12-under, thanks to a 4-under 67 in round three.

The last two sponsor invites to win on the PGA TOUR were Pádraig Harrington at this year's Honda Classic and Lee Westwood at the 2010 FedEx St. Jude Classic.

Grillo, who hails from Argentina, is a member of PGA TOUR Latinoamérica and the European Tour. On PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, the 23-year-old won the 2014 Visa Open de Argentina. On the European Tour, four top-10 finishes in 2014 vaulted him to No. 44 on the European Tour Race to Dubai. On that Tour in 2015, he has collected a pair of top-5 finishes.

Grillo is making his fifth start on the PGA TOUR this week, and third of the season. He lost on the first hole of sudden death to Alex Cejka at the Puerto Rico Open in March. As a result of the top-10 finish, he earned a spot into the following week's field at the Valspar Championship (MC). In his only other starts, he finished T42 and T29 at the 2012 and 2014 Puerto Rico Open, respectively.

Grillo comes into this week's Barbasol Championship at No. 17 in non-member FedExCup (104) points and No. 7 in non-member money (\$198,000).

Should Grillo win he can accept membership on the PGA TOUR and become eligible to compete in the FedExCup Playoffs. His FedExCup points earned as a non-member (excluding those won at World Golf Championship events as a non-member) are retroactive and will be counted on the official FedExCup points list.

Below are sponsor exemptions to win on TOUR since 1991:

Phil Mickelson	1991 Northern Telecom Open
Vijay Singh	1993 Buick Classic
Tiger Woods	1996 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
David Gossett	2001 John Deere Classic
Adam Scott	2003 Deutsche Bank Championship
Jason Gore	2005 84 LUMBER Classic
Lee Westwood	2010 FedEx St. Jude Classic
Pádraig Harrington	2015 The Honda Classic

Argentine winners on the PGA TOUR: Roberto De Vincenzo, Jose Coceres, Angel Cabrera, Andres Romero and Fabian

The second-round leader has emerged victorious nine of 34 times on the PGA TOUR this season. The last to do so was Bubba Watson at the Travelers Championship three weeks ago.

Robby Shelton

Rising Alabama Crimson Tide junior Robby Shelton is making his second career start in a PGA TOUR event. He missed the cut last season at the U.S. Open. Shelton posted a 5-under 66 in round three and is two strokes back at 10-under-par.

Earlier this season at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, Jon Rahm became the first amateur to finish in the top 5 of a PGA TOUR event since Chris Wood (5th) at the 2008 Open Championship and Justin Rose (T4) at the 1998 Open Championship.

Here's a look at the last three amateurs to win a PGA TOUR event:

Phil Mickelson	1991 Northern Telecom Open	1 stroke over Tom Purtzer, Bob Tway
Scott Verplank	1985 Western Open	def. Jim Thorpe in a playoff
Doug Sanders	1956 Canadian Open	def. Dow Finsterwald in a playoff

Amateurs cannot top 10 into the next PGA TOUR event.

Martin Piller

A week after his Web.com Tour win at the Albertsons Boise Open, 29-year-old Dallas, Texas native Martin Piller is at 8-under 205 through 54 holes and five strokes back.

Should Piller win this week, he would become just the second player ever to win one week on the Web.com Tour and the PGA TOUR the next. In 1996, Paul Stankowski won the Louisiana Open on the Web.com Tour a week before winning the BellSouth Classic on the PGA TOUR.

The last player to win on the Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR in the same year was Jason Gore, who won three times on the Web.com Tour, before claiming his only PGA TOUR victory at the 84 Lumber Classic.

Miscellaneous Notes

Auburn resident Blayne Barber posted a third-consecutive round in the 60s, a 3-under 68, Saturday, to get to 9-under 204. He will begin Sunday's final round four strokes back. Following a T8 finish at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, his best finish of the season, Barber missed his next five straight cuts leading up to this week.

The Barbasol Championship is the first PGA TOUR event in Alabama since the 1990 PGA Championship.

With only eight events remaining before the FedExCup Playoffs, the Barbasol Championship will play an important role in the field for the first Playoffs event at The Barclays.

The Barbasol Championship and the FedExCup Playoffs

In 2014, it took 438 FedExCup points (No. 125/Robert Allenby) to qualify for the FedExCup Playoffs. Below are players remaining in the field that are currently on "the bubble" for the FedExCup Playoffs:

FedExCup Position	Player	FedExCup Points
120	Mark Wilson	391
124	Billy Hurley III	372
126	Scott Langley	365
128	Will Wilcox	358
129	Alex Prugh	353
132	Blayne Barber	345
134	Michael Thompson	339
135	Charlie Beljan	337
140	Ryo Ishikawa	321

During today's third round of the Barbasol Championship, Billy Hurley III aced the sixth hole with a 6-iron from 175 yards. As the Official Mortgage Sponsor of the PGA TOUR, Quicken Loans will award one year's worth of mortgage payments to one registered sweepstakes contestant to commemorate the ace. The Quicken Loans' Hole-In-One Sweepstakes awards one year's worth of mortgage payments to a randomly selected entrant for every ace during official PGA TOUR events from the Waste Management Phoenix Open through the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola. Fans can enter the sweepstakes by visiting www.pgatour.com/quickenloans. Participants in the 2014 Sweepstakes must re-register to be eligible in 2015.

Players with ties to the State of Alabama remaining in the field include: Smylie Kaufman/Birmingham native (T54), Blayne Barber/Auburn (T12), Glen Day/born in Mobile, (T18), Steve Lowery/Alabama (T68), Robby Shelton/Alabama (T8), Zack Sucher/UAB (T78), Michael Thompson/Alabama (T39), and Will Wilcox/UAB (T3).

Michael Thompson is in the last year of his exemption from winning the 2013 Honda Classic. He is currently outside of the top 125 in the FedExCup standings, at No. 134. Thompson attended Tulane University two seasons until the school disbanded its golf team after Hurricane Katrina. He transferred to the University of Alabama and was the 2008 SEC Player of the Year.

Richy Werenski, winner of the Golf Channel's reality TV competition program "The Big Break," earned an exemption through the show. Werenski is a Web.com Tour member and has never made a start on the PGA TOUR. With rounds of 73-68, Werenski made the cut on the number at 1-under 141. In round three, he posted a 1-over 72 and is T72.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Sam Saunders (64), David Toms (69), Austin Cook (69) and Tyrone Van Aswegen (70).

R2: Glen Day (63), Charlie Beljan (64), Derek Ernst (65), David Toms (66), Mark Hensby (64), Josh Teater (67) and Johnson Wagner (68).

R3: Steven Alker (65), Aaron Baddeley (64), Jason Gore (63), Roger Sloan (68) and Mark Wilson (68).

Scoring Averages at the par-71 Grand National (Lake Course):

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.754	35.006	70.760	
R2:	34.991	35.378	70.369	70.567
R3:	34.264	35.302	69.566	70.329