



**2015 FEDEX ST. JUDE CLASSIC**  
*(The 31<sup>st</sup> of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)*

**TPC Southwind**  
**Memphis, TN**

**June 11-14, 2015**  
**Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,239**

**FedExCup Points: 500**  
**Purse: \$6,000,000**

## **First-Round Notes – Thursday, June 11, 2015**

*Weather: Partly cloudy, with a high of 91 degrees. Winds SSW 10-15 mph.*

### **First-Round Leaderboard**

Brooks Koepka	64 (-6)
Greg Owen	64 (-6)
Ryan Palmer	64 (-6)

The last time there was a tie at the top after 18 holes at the FedEx St. Jude Classic was in 2013, when six players were deadlocked at 4-under-par (Stuart Appleby, Glen Day, Harris English, Martin Flores, Nathan Green and Davis Love III).

### **Ryan Palmer**

Ryan Palmer made six birdies and no bogeys in round one of the FedEx St. Jude Classic to post one of just six bogey-free rounds at TPC Southwind.

Making his eighth start in the FedEx St. Jude Classic, Palmer returns to a place this week where he has experienced success of late. Following three-straight, missed cuts in 2007, 2008 and 2010, he finished T3 in 2012 and fourth in 2013. Last year, he opened with a 5-under 67, but back-to-back 72s in rounds two and three led to a finish of T32.

In 13 starts so far this season, Palmer has amassed four top 10s, most recently in his last start before this week in his hometown of Dallas at the AT&T Byron Nelson (T10).

Palmer is the winner of three events on the PGA TOUR, the 2004 Children's Miracle Network Classic (Disney World), 2008 Ginn sur Mer Classic and 2010 Sony Open in Hawaii. A win this week would come in his 132<sup>nd</sup> start since his 2010 win in Hawaii.

This marks the 10<sup>th</sup> occasion in which Palmer has held a lead/co-lead after 18 holes. The only one which resulted in victory was the 2010 Sony Open in Hawaii.

### **Brooks Koepka**

With just one par on his last nine holes (No. 5), Brooks Koepka made eight birdies and two bogeys, en route to a 6-under 64.

In today's first round, Koepka hit eight of 14 fairways in regulation, 14 of 18 greens and took 25 putts.

Koepka is making his second start at the FedEx St. Jude Classic, having finished T19 last year.

Koepka is making his 13<sup>th</sup> start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, where he claimed his first career TOUR title in early February at the Waste Management Phoenix Open. With a win this week, he would join Jimmy Walker (Sony Open in Hawaii, Valero Texas Open), Jordan Spieth (Valspar Championship, Masters) and Rory McIlroy (World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play, Wells Fargo Championship) as multiple winners this season.

Koepka earned Special Temporary Membership to the PGA TOUR in the 2013-14 season, which he parlayed into a top-125 finish on the non-member FedExCup points, good for his 2014-15 TOUR card.

This is Koepka's first time to hold a lead/co-lead after 18 holes on the PGA TOUR.

### **Greg Owen**

Making his fifth start at the FedEx St. Jude Classic, England's Greg Owen reeled off four straight birdies on Nos. 16-1 en route to a 6-under 64.

Owen's 64 is his lowest score since posting the same number in the first round of the 2012 McGladrey Classic (T7).

Owen missed the cut in 2010 and 2013, while he finished T11 in 2012 and T60 last year.

Owen remains in search of his first career PGA TOUR win this week in his 214<sup>th</sup> start. His best finish is second at the 2006 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard.

Owen has made just five of 12 cuts on TOUR this year, with a T22 at the Sanderson Farms Championship his best showing.

Owen has never previously held an 18-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR.

### **First-Round Leader Notes**

Since 1990, the first-round leader of the FedEx St. Jude Classic has been able to convert for victory eight times, most recently being Ben Crane last year.

Through 29 stroke-play events on the PGA TOUR this season, four players have managed to parlay an 18-hole lead/co-lead into victory. Most recently, Steven Bowditch achieved the feat at the AT&T Byron Nelson.

### **Ben Crane**

Making his 10<sup>th</sup> start at the FedEx St. Jude Classic, defending champion Ben Crane opened with a 4-under 66. En route to last year's win, Crane opened with a 7-under 63.

Crane's 66 in round one today matches his low round of the season (R1 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial).

Beginning on No. 10, Crane made five straight birdies on Nos. 18-4. Additional birdies came at the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> holes. He took two bogeys on the fifth and seventh holes.

Before last year's win, Crane's best finish at TPC Southwind was T6 in 2003.

Should Crane win this week, he would join Dave Hill (1969-1970), Lee Trevino (1971-1972) and David Toms (2003-2004) as those to successfully defend their Memphis title.

Crane remains in search of his first top-20 finish in his 16<sup>th</sup> start of the season this week. The last time Crane finished inside the top 20 on the PGA TOUR was upon winning last year in Memphis.

Last year's win in Memphis marked Crane's 300<sup>th</sup> career start on the PGA TOUR.

### **Phil Mickelson**

Making his fifth start in the FedEx St. Jude Classic, World Golf Hall of Fame Member Phil Mickelson opened with a 2-under 68.

On his outward nine (Nos. 10-18), Mickelson hit just three of seven fairways in regulation, but needed just 11 putts. On the front side, he managed to find just two of seven fairways and needed 15 putts (5/14 fairways, 26 putts).

Last year's start at the FedEx St. Jude Classic marked Phil Mickelson's 500<sup>th</sup> PGA TOUR start (includes as an amateur). He finished T11.

In 2013, Mickelson rebounded from an opening-round, 1-over 71 with scores of 67-65-67 to finish T2 in Memphis. His other finishes were T59/2009 and MC/2001.

Mickelson played the week before all of his five major championship victories. Most recently, he won the 2013 Scottish Open on the European Tour before winning The Open Championship.

In his 12<sup>th</sup> start of the season this week, Mickelson is in search of his third top-10 finish of the season (T2/Masters, T4/Wells Fargo Championship). From 1994-2013, Mickelson has gone into each U.S. Open with at least three top 10s under his belt. In 2014, Mickelson's lone top-10 finish was solo-second at the PGA Championship in the season's final major.

With the exception of 1999, 2013, 2014 and 2015, Mickelson has collected his first top-10 finish of each season since 1993 by his fourth start. His T2 at this year's Masters Tournament came in his eighth start.

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

With a T40 finish at last week's Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide, Patrick Rodgers (70) became eligible for Special Temporary Membership for the remainder of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season with a total of 342 non-member FedExCup points. To earn Special Temporary Membership status, Rodgers needed to earn more points than the player that finished No. 150 on the 2013-14 FedExCup points list (323/Johnson Wagner). Thanks to 27 non-member points at the Memorial Tournament, Rodgers is now eligible to accept unlimited sponsor exemptions for the remainder of his 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season in his attempt to earn his 2015-16 TOUR card through the top 125 non-member money list or non-member FedExCup points list. It should be noted that Rodgers, a Web.com Tour member, is also on track to earn his TOUR card for 2015-16 via the Web.com Tour as he ranks sixth on that Tour's money list thanks in part to a victory at the Colombia Championship earlier this year.

Rodgers is in this week's field as the tournament's last sponsor pick, offered to him Sunday.

This year marks the ninth consecutive playing of the event the week before the U.S. Open. The best U.S. Open finish by the prior week's champion is a T16 by Lee Westwood in 2010. Since moving to TPC Southwind in 1989, the FedEx St. Jude Classic was also played the week before the U.S. Open in 2001 (Bob Estes/T30 U.S. Open), 1999 (Ted Tryba/T66 U.S. Open) and 1992 (Jay Haas/T23 U.S. Open). Despite last year's win in Memphis, Ben Crane did not qualify to play in the following week's U.S. Open.

There are 24 players in this week's field scheduled to compete next week at next week's U.S. Open at Chambers Bay.

The best U.S. Open finish by a winner of the FedEx St. Jude Classic the same year was a T3 by Fred Couples in 1993, when the Memphis event was contested two weeks after the U.S. Open.

Since moving to the TPC Southwind in 1989, the closest a Memphis winner has come to winning a major in the same year was when Lee Westwood claimed runner-up honors at the 2010 British Open.

Since 1934, just 11 players have won the week before winning a major championship, most recently being Rory McIlroy (2014 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, PGA Championship).

Past FedEx St. Jude Classic champions in the field: Ben Crane/2014 (65), Harris English/2013 (69), Dustin Johnson/2012 (WD), Harrison Frazar/2011 (70), Justin Leonard/2005, 2008 (70), David Toms/2003, 2004 (70) and Dicky Pride/1994 (73).

Dustin Johnson withdrew after nine holes, due to illness.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Greg Owen (64), Ryan Palmer (64), Scott Brown (65), Brian Davis (65), Alex Prugh (66) and Jerry Kelly (69).

Scoring Averages at the par-70 TPC Southwind:

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Thursday	35.432	35.491	70.938	---

Morning Scoring Average (70.65) vs. Afternoon Scoring Average (71.19).

In Thursday's first round, the par-4 fifth hole played as the toughest (4.381). The par-5 16<sup>th</sup> was the easiest (4.748).