



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

 TPC Southwind
 June 11-14, 2015
 FedExCup Points: 500

 Memphis, TN
 Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,239
 Purse: \$6,000,000

# Third-Round Notes - Saturday, June 13, 2015

Weather: Partly cloudy, with a high of 90 degrees. Winds SSW 10-20 mph.

# **Third-Round Leaderboard**

Greg Owen 64-70-67—201 (-9)
Fabian Gomez 66-68-67—201 (-9)
Scott Brown 65-69-68—202 (-8)
Brooks Koepka 64-67-71—202 (-8)

### **Greg Owen**

England's Greg Owen, who held a share of the first-round lead after a 6-under 64, is making his fifth start at the FedEx St. Jude Classic. He 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 214th start. His best finish is second at the 2006 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard.

Eight players have claimed the FedEx St. Jude Classic as their first PGA TOUR victory: Don Whitt (1959), Bob Lunn (1968), Larry Mize (1983), Mike Hulbert (1986), Jodi Mudd (1988), Dicky Pride (1994), Harrison Frazar (2011) and Harris English (2013).

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

With a win this week, Owen would become the second European to win the FedEx St. Jude Classic and first since Lee Westwood in 2010. Westwood snapped a streak of 11 straight American winners, which resumed in 2011 and has continued through last year with Ben Crane.

Owen has never previously held a 54-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR.

#### **Fabian Gomez**

Fabian Gomez of Argentina followed a second-round 68 with a 67 in the third round, posting six birdies and three bogeys.

The only time Gomez has ever led/co-led in any round on the PGA TOUR was after 54 holes at the 2013 Puerto Rico Open, where he went on to finish T2 alongside Jordan Spieth.

Gomez is in search of his first PGA TOUR title. Gomez was previously a TOUR member in 2011 and 2013, and earned his TOUR card for the 2014-15 season by finishing 48<sup>th</sup> on the 2014 Web.com Tour priority list. He has won twice on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, winning back-to-back titles at the Personal Classic in Buenos Aires in 2013-14. He also won the 2010 Chitimacha Louisiana Open on the Web.com Tour, which secured his rookie card on the PGA TOUR for 2011.

In 69 starts on the PGA TOUR, Gomez's best finish was T2 at the 2013 Puerto Rico Open.

Gomez owns three top 25s on the PGA TOUR this season: The McGladrey Classic (T8), Sanderson Farms Championship (T14) and OHL Classic at Mayakoba (T23).

The last Latin American player to win on TOUR was Camilo Villegas at the 2014 Wyndham Championship. The last player from Argentina to win on TOUR was Angel Cabrera at the 2014 Greenbrier Classic.

Other players from Argentina to win on TOUR are Roberto De Vicenzo, José Cóceres, Angel Cabrera and Andres Romero.

# **Third-Round Leader Notes**

Since 1990, the third-round leader/co-leader of the FedEx St. Jude Classic has been able to convert for victory 14 times, most recently Ben Crane in 2014.

Through 29 stroke-play events on the PGA TOUR this season, 10 players have managed to parlay a 54-hole lead/co-lead into victory. Most recently, Steven Bowditch at the AT&T Byron Nelson.

Since the event's inception, only four international players (five victories) have won the FedEx St. Jude Classic: Gary Player (1974), Nick Price (1993, 1998), Greg Norman (1997) and Lee Westwood (2010).

The winner has come from behind seven times in the last nine years, with the two exceptions being Brian Gay in 2009 and Ben Crane in 2014.

Since 1990, the biggest comeback was seven strokes, by Len Mattiace in 2002.

#### **Scott Brown**

Scott Brown is making his 23<sup>rd</sup> start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season. He has two top 10s: Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (T10) and Puerto Rico Open (T10).

Brown began the week after missing the cut at last week's Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide.

In Brown's previous two starts in Memphis, he missed the cut in 2012 and finished T39 in 2013.

The two times Brown has held a lead/co-lead after 54 holes both came at the Puerto Rico Open (2013 and 2015). He converted for his lone PGA TOUR victory in 2013.

#### **Brooks Koepka**

Brooks Koepka sunk a 22-foot birdie on the final hole to finish at 8-under for the tournament, one stroke off the lead heading into the final round. His round included one birdie, one eagle and four bogeys.

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.

In addition to his win, additional top-10 finishes for Koepka this year have come at the Frys.com Open (T8) and Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (T4).

After 54 holes in Scottsdale, Koepka was three strokes off the lead, heading into the final round. He went on to win by one stroke.

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

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.

Koepka, a former Florida State All-American, played full time on the European Tour in 2014. In November, he won the Turkish Airlines Open on that Tour and was named the European Tour's Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year in 2014.

## **Phil Mickelson**

At 3-under, Mickelson (T19) will begin the final round six shots off the lead.

Mickelson improved in driving accuracy each day:

First Round	5 of 14 fairways
Second Round	7 of 14 fairways
Third Round	8 of 14 fairways

#### **Miscellaneous Notes**

In the two previous times he has competed at TPC Southwind, Austin Cook earned his spot in the tournament field via a qualifier. As a junior golfer, Cook won an American Junior Golf Association qualifier held at a nearby course to earn entry into the AJGA tournament at TPC Southwind in 2008, where he finished T2. Last year, Cook Monday qualified for the 2014 FedEx St. Jude Classic, his first-ever PGA TOUR start, where he finished T13 after rounds of 67-73-65-70—275 (-5).

Interestingly, Cook's grandfather John H. Cook played in the 1965 FedEx St. Jude Classic, finding himself paired with Jack Nicklaus in the final round. Nicklaus won the event that year, with Cook finishing T36.

Two-time FedEx St. Jude Classic champion David Toms (T7) is only four shots off the lead heading into the final round. Toms is one of five multiple champions in Memphis, and one of three who has successfully defended. Dave Hill (1967, 1969-1970, 1973), Lee Trevino (1971-1972, 1980), Nick Price (1993, 1998), Justin Leonard (2005, 2008) and David Toms (2003-2004).

2013 FedEx St. Jude Classic champion Harris English carded a 5-over 75 in round three and sits at T55 heading into the final round. He entered the week ranked 68<sup>th</sup> in the Official World Golf Ranking, needing no worse than a two-way tie for second in order to move into the top 50 of the Official World Golf Ranking. The top 60 players from the Official World Ranking Monday after the FedEx St. Jude Classic earn a spot into the U.S. Open field.

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.

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 who made the cut: Ben Crane/2014 (T47), Harris English/2013 (T55), Harrison Frazar/2011 (75) and David Toms/2003, 2004 (T7).

Matt Every withdrew in the third round due to a wrist injury.

#### Bogey-free rounds:

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

R2: Russell Knox (64), David Toms (66), Chad Campbell (66), Mark Hubbard (68), Troy Merritt (67) and Whee Kim (68).

R3: None

Scoring Averages at the par-70 TPC Southwind:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.432	35.491	70.938	
R2:	35.607	35.806	71.413	71.174
R3:	35.000	35.895	70.895	71.119

In Saturday's third round, the par-4 No. 12 played as the toughest (4.276). The par-5 No. 16 was the easiest (4.711).