



**2015 Shell Houston Open**  
(The 21<sup>st</sup> of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)



**Humble, TX**  
**Golf Club of Houston (Tournament Course)**

**April 2-5, 2015**

**Purse: \$6,600,000 (\$1,188,000 to the winner)**

**Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,441**

## **Second-Round Notes – Friday, April 3, 2015**

### **Weather**

*Mostly cloudy, with a high of 83. Winds S-SW 10-20 mph*

**Cut:** A total of 71 professionals made the cut at 4-under 140 from a field of 144 professionals. This is the third consecutive year the defending champion has failed to make the cut (Matt Jones). The last player to make the cut following a win at the Shell Houston Open was Phil Mickelson, who won in 2011 and tied for fourth in 2012.

### **Second-Round Leaderboard**

Andrew Putnam	67-65—132 (-12)
Phil Mickelson	66-67—133 (-11)
Austin Cook	68-65—133 (-11)
Graham DeLaet	67-67—134 (-10)
Luke Guthrie	66-68—134 (-10)

### **Andrew Putnam**

Starting on No. 10, Andrew Putnam recorded a bogey-free 65 which included four consecutive birdies on Nos. 3-6 and back-to-back closing birdies on Nos. 8 and 9.

Putnam's closing birdie was the 14<sup>th</sup> (of 15) recorded on the par-3 No. 9 during the second round. The only hole to produce fewer birdies was the par-4 18<sup>th</sup> which saw six birdies.

The only other time Putnam held a lead in any round on TOUR was after 36 holes at the 2014 Shriners Hospital for Children Open. He went on to finish T33.

Putnam is making his second Shell Houston Open start after missing the cut in 2014, his first PGA TOUR start as a professional.

Putnam earned his 2014-15 PGA TOUR card by finishing eighth on the 2014 Web.com Tour priority list.

In 14 career PGA TOUR starts, Putnam's best finish is T12 at the 2014 McGladrey Classic.

Putnam tied the Tournament Course 36-hole record with Johnson Wagner (2008) and Jeff Maggert (2012).

### **Second-Round Lead Statistics**

Four second-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win so far in 2015: Brandt Snedeker (AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am), Pdraig Harrington (The Honda Classic), Alex Cejka (Puerto Rico Open) and Jimmy Walker (Valero Texas Open).

Since 2000, four second-round leaders of the Shell Houston Open have parlayed that position into a win: Paul Casey (2009), Johnson Wagner (2008), Stuart Appleby (2006) and Robert Allenby (2000).

In 2011, the year of his win, Phil Mickelson was T21 after 36 holes at the Golf Club of Houston. He finished the third round in a tie for first before converting the victory.

### **Phil Mickelson**

With a second-round 67, 2011 Shell Houston Open champion Phil Mickelson recorded his 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive round of par or better at the Shell Houston Open.

In 28 rounds since the event moved to the Tournament Course at Golf Club of Houston in 2006, Mickelson has only posted three over-par rounds.

Mickelson leads the field with most birdies at 14.

Mickelson has won the week prior to the Masters four times. He is the last player to win the week prior to winning the Masters when he won the BellSouth Classic and Masters in 2006.

<b>Win prior to Masters week</b>	<b>Masters finish</b>
2011 Shell Houston Open	T27
2006 BellSouth Classic	Win
2005 BellSouth Classic	10th
2000 BellSouth Classic	T7

Nine players have won the Shell Houston Open multiple times: Vijay Singh (2002, 2004-05), Curtis Strange (1980, 1986, 1988), Cary Middlecoff (1950, 1953), Mike Souchak (1955, 1964), Jack Burke (1952, 1959), Arnold Palmer (1957, 1966), Bobby Nichols (1962, 1965), Bruce Crampton (1973, 1975) and Stuart Appleby (1999, 2006).

Among Mickelson's 42 TOUR wins are four from the state of Texas: 1996 AT&T Byron Nelson Championship, 2000 and 2008 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial and 2011 Shell Houston Open.

Mickelson's most recent win on the PGA TOUR is the 2013 Open Championship, his fifth major championship title. His lone top-10 finish last season was solo-second at the PGA Championship.

### **Austin Cook**

Austin Cook, a Monday open-qualifier, birdied the last four holes to match Andrew Putnam's 7-under 65 and tie Phil Mickelson for second.

Cook also Monday qualified for the 2014 FedEx St. Jude Classic, his only other PGA TOUR start, where he finished T13.

The last Monday open-qualifier to win a PGA TOUR event was Arjun Atwal at the 2010 Wyndham Championship.

Cook, 24, is a 2013 biology graduate from the University of Arkansas.

### **Graham DeLaet**

In his 117<sup>th</sup> career start on the PGA TOUR, Graham DeLaet is still in search of a victory. He had runner-up performances in 2014, finishing T2 in back-to-back weeks at the Farmers Insurance Open and Waste Management Phoenix Open. So far this season, he's posted top 10s at the Waste Management Phoenix Open (T7) and Northern Trust Open (T8). DeLaet comes to the Shell Houston Open after three consecutive missed cuts.

DeLaet is making his fifth Shell Houston Open start. His best showing came in his first appearance when he tied for third in 2010.

DeLaet now has 70 consecutive holes without a 3-putt.

If DeLaet wins this week, he will earn the final spot into next week's Masters Tournament. DeLaet made his first Masters start last year (missed cut), earning his invitation as a top-30 finisher on the previous year's PGA TOUR money list.

### **Luke Guthrie**

Luke Guthrie hit his first 30 greens in regulation, supplanting the season-best 27 by Brandt Snedeker. He has now gone 36 holes without a bogey.

Guthrie is making his third-consecutive start in the Shell Houston Open this week. He missed the cut in both previous starts.

Guthrie is making his 13<sup>th</sup> start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season and 70<sup>th</sup> on the PGA TOUR. Still in search of his first TOUR win, Guthrie's best finish is third at the 2013 Honda Classic.

### Additional Player Notes

Phil Mickelson and Austin Cook, both T2, lead the field with most birdies at 14.

Playing in his 54<sup>th</sup> career start, Houston resident and Lamar University alum Shawn Stefani (T6) is in search of his first PGA TOUR title. Fifteen players have made the Shell Houston Open their first PGA TOUR victory, including 2014 champion Matt Jones.

J.B. Holmes (T6) hit 17 of 18 greens in regulation (94.4%), with his GIR streak ending on the final hole of the day. He's averaged 302.1 driving distance to rank third for the tournament.

2012 Shell Houston Open champion Hunter Mahan is making his 12<sup>th</sup> start at the event and is currently in a six-way tie for sixth. Since his win at the Golf Club of Houston, he has missed the cut (2013) and finished T31 (2014).

Keegan Bradley hit 12 of 14 fairways in regulation (85.7%) and 17 of 18 greens (94.4%) in the second round.

Paul Casey (T18) made the cut at the Shell Houston Open for the first time since his 2009 victory (he missed the cut in 2012-14).

### Miscellaneous Notes

This week's Shell Houston Open winner receives, if not previously eligible, the last "win and you're in" invitation to the Masters Tournament.

There are 35 players in this week's Shell Houston Open scheduled to compete in next week's Masters Tournament.

Since 1934, just 10 players have won the week before winning a Major Championship:

2007	Tiger Woods	won WGC-Bridgestone Invitational followed by PGA Championship
<b>2006</b>	<b>Phil Mickelson</b>	<b>won BellSouth Classic followed by Masters</b>
<b>1988</b>	<b>Sandy Lyle</b>	<b>won Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters</b>
1971	Lee Trevino	won the Canadian Open followed by the British Open
<b>1959</b>	<b>Art Wall</b>	<b>won the Azalea Open followed by the Masters</b>
<b>1949</b>	<b>*Sam Snead</b>	<b>won the Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters</b>
1946	*Ben Hogan	won the Winnipeg Open followed by the PGA
1945	*Byron Nelson	won the Chicago Victory Open followed by the PGA
<b>1939</b>	<b>Ralph Guldahl</b>	<b>won the Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters</b>
1939	*Henry Picard	won the Scranton Open followed by the PGA

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Scott Piercy (63), Luke Guthrie (66), Charles Howell III (66), Shawn Stefani (66), Alex Prugh (67), Michael Thompson (68), Scott Brown (68), Johnson Wagner (69), Jhonattan Vegas (69), Russell Henley (69), Bryce Molder (69) and Cody Gribble (70).

R2 – Jason Bohn (67), Keegan Bradley (66), Erik Compton (66), Kelvin Day (69), Brendon de Jonge (67), Tony Finau (68), Fabian Gomez (71), Luke Guthrie (68), Bill Haas (70), Chesson Hadley (66), Jim Herman (68), Kevin Kisner (68), Francesco Molinari (70), Louis Oosthuizen (70), Pat Perez (68), Andrew Putnam (65), Charles Schwartzel (68), Jordan Spieth (66), Kevin Streelman (69) Justin Thomas (68), Johnson Wagner (68) and Mark Wilson (66).

Scott Verplank was disqualified in the second round for signing an incorrect scorecard.

Scoring Averages:

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
R1	35.438	35.514	70.951	---
R2	35.169	34.937	70.106	70.531

The most difficult hole through two rounds has been the par-4 18<sup>th</sup> at 4.213. The easiest hole through two rounds has been the par-5 No. 8 at 4.542.