



2015 Shell Houston Open
(The 21st 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

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, April 4, 2015

Weather

Mostly cloudy, with a high of 68 degrees. Winds N-NE 10-20 mph

Third-Round Leaderboard

Jordan Spieth	69-66-67—202 (-14)
Austin Cook	68-65-70—203 (-13)
Scott Piercy	63-74-66—203 (-13)
Johnson Wagner	69-68-66—203 (-13)

Jordan Spieth

A week removed from his runner-up finish at the Valero Texas Open in San Antonio, a finish that moved him to No. 4 in the Official World Golf Rankings, Jordan Spieth made six birdies against just one bogey in round three.

Spieth has previously held a lead/co-lead after 54 holes three times, though none have resulted in victory; 2014 Hyundai Tournament of Champions (2nd), 2014 Masters Tournament (T2) and 2014 PLAYERS Championship (T4).

In Spieth's last two starts on the PGA TOUR, he claimed his second career TOUR title at the Valspar Championship and finished second a week ago at TPC San Antonio.

Spieth's other top-10 finishes this season are a pair of T7s at the Waste Management Phoenix Open and AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and a T4 at the Northern Trust Open. This week's Shell Houston Open is his ninth start of the season.

Jordan will be 21 years, 8 months, 9 days tomorrow.

When he won the Valspar Championship, Spieth became the fourth different player since 1940 to win twice on the PGA TOUR before reaching their 22nd birthday. Below is the list of players to accomplish the feat:

Jordan Spieth	2013 John Deere Classic	19 years, 11 months, 18 days
Jordan Spieth	2015 Valspar Championship	21 years, 7 months, 19 days
Tiger Woods	1996 Las Vegas Invitational	20 years, 9 months, 6 days
Tiger Woods	1996 Walt Disney World Classic	20 years, 9 months, 20 days
Tiger Woods	1997 Mercedes Championship	21 years, 13 days
Tiger Woods	1997 Masters Tournament	21 years, 3 months, 14 days
Tiger Woods	1997 GTE Byron Nelson Golf Classic	21 years, 4 months, 18 days
Tiger Woods	1997 Motorola Western Open	21 years, 6 months, 6 days
Sergio Garcia	2001 MasterCard Colonial	21 years, 4 months
Sergio Garcia	2001 Buick Classic	21 years, 5 months, 16 days
Sergio Garcia	2002 Mercedes Championships	21 years, 11 months, 28 days
Robert Gamez	1990 Northern Telecom Tucson Open	21 years, 6 months, 2 days
Robert Gamez	1990 Nestle Invitational	21 years, 8 months, 13 days

With Jimmy Walker not in this week's field, a win for Spieth would give him a 14-point lead in the race for the FedExCup.

In round three, Spieth hit an impressive 13 of 14 fairways in regulation (92.9 percent) and 16 of 18 greens (88.9 percent). Spieth missed the fairway right on the second hole and failed to hit the green on Nos. 5 and 16.

His streak of three-putt avoidance came to an end at 280 holes, with his extra stroke at the 14th hole today.

En route to his first TOUR victory at the 2013 John Deere Classic (via a playoff), Spieth began the final round six strokes back. At the Valspar Championship last month, he trailed Ryan Moore by a stroke beginning the final round before his playoff win.

Unlike with his first two wins, Spieth's parents and little sister are in the week's gallery.

Third-Round Lead Statistics

Through 20 events this season of the PGA TOUR, six have converted for the win. Most recently, Jimmy Walker achieved the feat at last week's Valero Texas Open.

The 54-hole leader has won the Shell Houston Open four of the last seven years and 10 times since 2000.

The biggest come-from-behind win at the Shell Houston Open since it's been played at Golf Club of Houston is six shots by Matt Jones last year.

Johnson Wagner

With five birdies on his first eight holes, 2008 Shell Houston Open champion Johnson Wagner posted a 6-under 66, his lowest score in relation to par since a 6-under 65 in the second round of the 2014 John Deere Classic.

Winning the 2008 Shell Houston Open was Wagner's first of three wins on the PGA TOUR. Following his victory at the Golf Club of Houston, he followed suit with others at the 2011 OHL Classic at Mayakoba and 2012 Sony Open in Hawaii. Since that third victory, it has been an uphill battle for the Amarillo, Texas native.

Playing as a sponsor exemption this week, Wagner finished 150th on last year's FedExCup points list. In 2013, he was 121st at season's end. Between the 2012 Sony Open in Hawaii and this week's Shell Houston Open, Wagner made 80 starts. Of them, he made 50 percent of the cuts and claimed just five top-10 finishes.

The Houston area has been good to Wagner over the years. In 2006, he finished 13th at the Web.com Tour Championship at the Houstonian Golf & Country Club to earn his first PGA TOUR card. A year later, he was in the final group on Sunday at the Shell Houston Open, where he finished T9.

Wagner is making his eighth start of the season this week, where he has made five cuts in his first seven starts, but finished inside the top 50 just once (T16 OHL Classic at Mayakoba). His only top-10 finish last season came at the John Deere Classic (T7).

Should he win this week, Wagner would become the first player to win on the PGA TOUR on a sponsor exemption since Lee Westwood at the 2010 FedEx St. Jude Classic.

When he won the event in 2008, Wagner became the first player to capitalize on the "win-and-you're in" berth into the following week's Masters Tournament.

Last Thursday, Wagner's father returned home from the hospital, where he underwent lung surgery. The surgery was a success and he is reportedly "doing great."

Scott Piercy

Two days after his course-record-tying, 9-under 63, Scott Piercy got himself back on track during the third-round, making six birdies and no bogeys en route to his 66. The 18-hole leader struggled in round two with a 2-over 74 and ended up five strokes off the pace at day's end.

Piercy began the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season on a Major Medical Extension, as he continued to recover from surgery to repair a torn flexor in February of last year. He had 14 events this season to earn 200 FedExCup points or \$300,710. It took him just five starts to surpass the necessary points/money.

Piercy is making his fifth start at the Shell Houston Open and first since 2012. His best finish in the event is a T42 (2009 and 2011).

Piercy is making his 13th start of the season, having collected top-10 finishes at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (T7) and Sony Open in Hawaii (2nd).

Piercy is in search of his third career PGA TOUR win this week, with previous victories coming at the 2011 Barracuda Championship and 2012 RBC Canadian Open.

Austin Cook

Paired with World Golf Hall of Famer Phil Mickelson in the last group, Monday qualifier Austin Cook's lone snag was a double bogey at the par-5 15th. Cook rebounded nicely with a birdie-3 two holes later at No. 17 and made par at 18 for a 2-under 70. At 13-under 203, he will begin the final round just one stroke back.

The last two players to win on the PGA TOUR after earning a spot into that week's field via Monday qualifying were Arjun Atwal (2010 Wyndham Championship) and Fred Wadsworth (1986 Southern Open).

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

The 24-year-old Cook is a 2013 biology graduate from the University of Arkansas.

Shawn Stefani

In his fourth-consecutive start at the Shell Houston Open, local resident and Lamar University alum Shawn Stefani posted a second-consecutive, 3-under 69 to get a step closer to his first PGA TOUR title. Fifteen players have made the Shell Houston Open their first PGA TOUR victory, including 2014 champion Matt Jones.

Previous to last year's fifth-place finish at the Golf Club of Houston, Stefani missed the cut in 2013 and finished T36 in 2012.

In 13 starts this season prior to this week, Stefani has collected a pair of top-10 finishes, first at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba (2nd) and then the Sony Open in Hawaii (T6).

Phil Mickelson

Phil Mickelson wasn't able to keep the heat on in round three, taking three bogeys and a double bogey on his way to a 3-over 75. At 8-under 208, he will begin the final round six strokes back.

In 29 rounds since the event moved to the Tournament Course at Golf Club of Houston in 2006, Mickelson has now posted four over-par scores.

Of his 42 career PGA TOUR wins, Phil Mickelson has come from behind in the final round to win 17 times. En route to his most recent win, Mickelson overcame a five-stroke deficit beginning the final round of the 2013 Open Championship to win by three strokes over Henrik Stenson.

Mickelson is looking to become the 10th multiple winner of the Shell Houston Open. The others: 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).

Since 1993, Mickelson has recorded at least one win each year, with the exceptions of 1999, 2003 and 2014. Prior to last year's runner-up finish at the PGA Championship, Mickelson had recorded multiple top-10 finishes on the PGA TOUR every year since turning professional in 1992.

Miscellaneous Notes

During today's third round of the Shell Houston Open, Patrick Reed aced the 16th hole with a 5-iron from 178 yards. As the Official Mortgage Sponsor of the PGA TOUR, Quicken Loans will award one year's worth of mortgage payments to a registered sweepstakes participant 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.

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, 12 players have won the week before winning a major championship:

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).

R3: Scott Piercy (66), Kelvin Day (68).

Scoring Averages:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	35.438	35.514	70.951	---
R2	35.169	34.937	70.106	70.531
R3	36.225	35.549	71.775	70.779

The most difficult hole in round three was the par-4 fifth (4.662). The easiest hole was the par-5 13th (4.465).