



2015 PGA Championship

(The 42nd of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Whistling Straits (Straits)

August 10-16, 2015
Par/Yards: 72/7,501

FedExCup Points (to winner): 600
Purse: \$10,000,000

EARLY First-Round Notes – Thursday, August 13, 2015

Weather: Mostly cloudy early, turning to partly cloudy in the afternoon. High of 86. Winds SW 10-20 mph.

World Number One Scenarios

If Rory McIlroy wins or is solo-second at the PGA Championship, his hold on the World Number One spot is secure.

Jordan Spieth can overtake the World's Number One position with any of these scenarios:

Spieth wins and McIlroy is not second alone.

Spieth is second alone and McIlroy is not in the top six.

Spieth is tied second with one other and McIlroy is not in the top 13.

Spieth is tied second with two others and McIlroy is not in the top 33.

Spieth is third alone and McIlroy misses the cut.

Spieth finishes lower than solo-third, McIlroy will remain at the top of the Official World Golf Ranking.

First Round Leaderboard

Dustin Johnson 66 (-6)

David Lingmerth 67 (-5)

Dustin Johnson

Beginning on No. 10, Dustin Johnson made one eagle (par-5 15th), five birdies and one bogey, good for a 6-under 66.

En route to his T5 finish at Whistling Straits in 2010, Johnson played the par fives in 11-under-par. He was five-under on the fifth hole alone (birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie). He played the four par fives today in four-under-par.

Johnson has now led after round one in each of the season's final three majors, the U.S. Open (T2), The Open Championship (T49) and PGA Championship (??). Dating to at least 1990, no other player has held such a distinction.

Johnson is making his sixth start in the PGA Championship this week; 2009/T10, 2010/T5, 2011MC, 2012/T48 and 2013/T8. Johnson's T5 at Whistling Straits in 2010 was the result of a 2-stroke penalty incurred on the 72nd hole after grounding his club in an area deemed a hazard.

Johnson, who claimed his ninth career PGA TOUR win earlier this season at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship, hit 10 of 14 fairways in regulation in round one and missed just four of Whistling Straits' 18 greens. He took 28 putts.

Johnson has previously held an 18-hole lead/co-lead 10 times. Of the previous nine, only the 2010 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am resulted in a win. This is the third time he has held an 18-hole lead in a major championship, with the other two coming this season (U.S. Open and Open Championship).

First-Round Lead Notes at the PGA Championship

Last year, Lee Westwood, Kevin Chappell and Ryan Palmer led by a stroke with 6-under 65s.

The low score after the first round of the first two PGA Championships at Whistling Straits was 65 in 2004 (Darren Clarke) and 67 in 2010 (Matt Kuchar).

Since the PGA Championship moved to a stroke-play event in 1958, the first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win the PGA Championship 11 times in 57 events, most recently Phil Mickelson in 2005.

On the PGA TOUR this season, the first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win just five of 40 times, most recently Bubba Watson at the Travelers Championship.

The largest 18-hole lead at the PGA Championship is three strokes, held by Bobby Nichols (1964) and Raymond Floyd (1982).

The best first-round score at the PGA Championship is 63, set by Raymond Floyd (1982), Michael Bradley (1995) and Steve Stricker (2011).

Best comeback by a winner following 18 holes at the PGA Championship: 8 shots (John Mahaffey/1978, Payne Stewart/1989, Keegan Bradley/2011).

David Lingmerth

In the five events leading up to the Memorial Tournament, where David Lingmerth claimed his first career PGA TOUR victory, he missed four cuts. In the five events since his win at Muirfield Village Golf Club, he has amassed three top-6 finishes and missed no cuts.

With today's 5-under 67, Lingmerth is now 22 for 25 in rounds of par-or-better, dating to round one of the Memorial Tournament.

Lingmerth hit 10 of 14 fairways in regulation, 12 of 18 greens and took 26 putts.

Lingmerth is making his fourth start in a major championship this week (2013 U.S. Open/T13, 2013 PGA Championship/MC and 2015 Open Championship/T74).

With his Memorial Tournament win, Lingmerth became the ninth player from Sweden to win on the PGA TOUR, joining Jesper Parnevik (5), Carl Pettersson (5), Henrik Stenson (4), Gabriel Hjertstedt (2), Daniel Chopra (2), Jonas Blixt (2), Freddie Jacobson (1) and Richard S. Johnson (1).

While no Swedish player has ever won a major championship, international players have won four of the last six PGA Championships (Padraig Harrington/2008, Y.E. Yang/2009, Martin Kaymer/2010 and Rory McIlroy/2012). Keegan Bradley (2011) and Jason Dufner (2013) are the exceptions.

J.B. Holmes

With five birdies in a six-hole stretch on his inward nine (Nos. 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15), J.B. Holmes posted a 4-under 68, his lowest opening-round score in relation to par in seven starts in the event. Last year at Valhalla GC, Holmes opened with a 3-under 68.

Holmes' best finish in six previous PGA Championship starts is T24 at Whistling Straits in 2010.

Holmes is making his 21st major championship start this week, where he remains in search of his first top-10 finish. His best finish is a T14 from the 2010 Open Championship.

Holmes, a three-time winner on the PGA TOUR is in search of his first victory since the 2014 Wells Fargo Championship. Prior to that, Holmes won the 2006 and 2008 Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Russell Henley

Making his third start in the PGA Championship, Russell Henley is still looking to make his first cut in the event. A 4-under 68 in round one is a good start to doing so.

After a benign, even-par front nine, Henley made consecutive birdies on Nos. 10-12, with another at the par-5 16th.

Henley hit 8 of 14 greens in regulation, just 10 of 18 greens, but needed only 24 putts to complete his round.

Henley is making his 14th start in a major championship this week, with a T16 at the 2010 U.S. Open as an amateur his best showing.

Henley, a two-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is in search of his first win since the 2014 Honda Classic. He first won the 2013 Sony Open in Hawaii in his first start on TOUR as a professional.

Matt Kuchar

Beginning on No. 10, Matt Kuchar made birdie on his first two holes and three of his last five en route to a 4-under 68.

Kuchar is making his seventh start in the PGA Championship this week, with his lone top-10 finish coming at Whistling Straits in 2010 (T10).

This week is Kuchar's 40th major championship start, where he has collected six top-10 finishes. His best among them is a T3 at the 2012 Masters.

Kuchar is looking for his eighth win on the PGA TOUR this week, and first since the 2014 RBC Heritage. In 20 starts on TOUR this season before this week, a T2 at the CareerBuilder Challenge is his best finish.

Jason Day

With an eagle-three at No. 2, three birdies and just one bogey, Jason Day opened with a 4-under 68 in his sixth PGA Championship start.

In Day's first start at the PGA Championship, he finished T10 at Whistling Straits in 2010. His best showing in the event is T8 in 2013 (Oak Hill CC).

With his T4 finish at The Open Championship last month, Day claimed his ninth top-10 finish in 20 major championship appearances.

Last month, Day captured his fourth career PGA TOUR win at the RBC Canadian Open to join Jimmy Walker, Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth and Bubba Watson in the group of multiple winners this season. Day first won this season at the Farmers Insurance Open in February in a playoff.

Danny Lee

En route to his 4-under 68, South Korea's Danny Lee was nearly perfect off the tee in round one, hitting 13 of 14 fairways in regulation. His only missed fairway was No. 14.

Lee's first professional major championship start, The Open Championship (MC), came by virtue of his win at The Greenbrier Classic. As an amateur, Lee competed in the 2009 Masters, also missing the cut.

Lee collected two top-10 finishes in first 68 professional starts on PGA TOUR. In 31 starts just this season, he has amassed seven, four of which have come in his last five starts. The highlight among those four was his first career PGA TOUR win at The Greenbrier Classic.

Lee's 32 starts this season is the most of any player on the PGA TOUR.

Rory McIlroy

Defending PGA Championship winner Rory McIlroy opened with a 1-under 71. En route to a T3 finish in the 2010 PGA Championship at Whistling Straits, McIlroy also opened with a 1-under 71.

With last year's win at Valhalla, McIlroy won his third consecutive PGA TOUR start, becoming the fifth different player to win three or more consecutive starts: Tiger Woods (5 times), Tom Watson (1980), David Duval (1997) and Vijay Singh (2004). Woods' resume included winning streaks of seven (2006-07), six (1999-00), five (2007-08), three (2000) and three (2001).

With last year's PGA Championship win, McIlroy claimed his fourth major championship victory. He owns five top-10 finishes in six previous starts at the PGA Championship, winning in 2012 and 2014, finishing T3 in 2009 and 2010 and T8 in 2013.

Jordan Spieth

Unable to mount much of a charge in round one, FedExCup points leader Jordan Spieth opened with a 1-under 71. Spieth leads Bubba Watson by 1,481 points. Watson opened with an even-par 72.

Of the 12 rounds in the season's first three major championships, Spieth posted sub-par scores in 10 of them, with eight being in the 60s. His only over-par round was a 1-over 71 in round three of the U.S. Open.

Spieth has played the season's first three majors in a combined 37-under-par. The previous record of 35-under-par belonged to Tiger Woods (2000) and Nick Faldo (1990).

The last player to win three majors in a calendar year was Tiger Woods in 2000 (U.S. Open, Open Championship and PGA Championship).

Spieth is making his third start in the PGA Championship this week, coming off missed cuts in the previous two in 2013 and 2014. This week's PGA Championship is Spieth's 12th major championship start.

Phil Mickelson

Phil Mickelson opened with an even-par 72 in his 23rd PGA Championship and 93rd major championship start this week. He owns nine top 10s at the PGA Championship, including a win in 2005 and second-place finish last year. In all, he owns five major championship titles (2004, 2006 & 2010 Masters, 2005 PGA Championship, 2013 Open Championship).

Mickelson hit just four of 14 fairways in regulation (ranked T153) and seven of 18 greens (ranked T137). He needed 24 putts to complete his round.

Mickelson, who is ranked 56th in the FedExCup standings with 796 points, is in jeopardy of not being an automatic selection for the Presidents Cup Team for the first time in history. Dating to 1994, he has been a member on each of the previous 10 squads. His 796 points is 739 behind No. 10 on the Presidents Cup points list (1,535).

Most rounds in the 60s at the PGA Championship: Jack Nicklaus (41), Phil Mickelson (31), Jay Haas (28), Tom Watson (27).

Players with most sub-par rounds at the PGA Championship: Jack Nicklaus (53), Tom Watson (41), Phil Mickelson (37), Jay Haas (37) and Nick Faldo (34).

Tiger Woods

Tiger Woods, a four-time winner of the PGA Championship (1999,-2000, 2006-07), opened with a 3-over 75 in his 18th start at the PGA Championship.

Woods' highest opening-round score in a PGA Championship is 7-over 77 from Atlanta Athletic Club in 2011 (MC).

Woods' over-par opening rounds in the major championships: Masters (7-of-20), U.S. Open (13-of-19), Open Championship (7-of-19), PGA Championship (9-of-18).

Woods opened with an over-par score in his last two major victories (2008 U.S. Open/1-over 72 and 2007 PGA Championship/1-over 71).

Woods has a total of just five over-par rounds in his 14 major championship wins (56 total rounds). He did not have an over-par round in any of his first seven major championship victories.

R1 at a glance: 7 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens, 33 putts.

Woods is winless in his last 23 major championships.

Miscellaneous Notes

Martin Kaymer, who won the 2010 PGA Championship the last time it was contested at Whistling Straits, opened with a 2-under 70. After 18 holes in 2010, Kaymer was five strokes back with an even-par 72.

With a 3-under 69, Brendan Steele posted the only bogey-free round Thursday.

PGA Championship Past Champions in the field

Player (Year won)	R1
Rory McIlroy (2012, 2014)	71
Phil Mickelson (2005)	72
Martin Kaymer (2010)	70
Vijay Singh (1998, 2004)	73
Davis Love III (1997)	79
Shaun Micheel (2003)	74
Padraig Harrington (2008)	76
Rich Beem (2002)	76
Keegan Bradley (2011)	76
Tiger Woods (1999, 2000, '06, '07)	75
Y.E. Yang (2009)	70
John Daly (1991)	73
Mark Brooks (1996)	84
Jason Dufner (2013)	71

PGA Professionals Leaderboard

Player	R1
Brian Cairns	83
Matt Dobyns	76
Sean Dougherty	79
Charles Frost	76
Brian Gaffney	71
Ryan Helminen	76
Brett Jones	75
Ryan Kennedy	79
Johan Kok	77
Alan Morin	87
Jeff Olson	79
Austin Peters	82
Ben Polland	76
Adam Rainaud	74
Brent Snyder	76
Bob Sowards	75
Grant Sturgeon	77
Omar Uresti	77
Daniel Venezia	89
Steven Young	77

Scoring Averages at Whistling Straits:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	37.377	36.768	74.145	---

Morning Scoring Average: 73.41

Afternoon Scoring Average: 74.91

The par-4 18th hole played the toughest in round one, yielding a 4.654 average and just six birdies. The par-5 16th hole was the easiest at 4.718.

Prior to round one, Gary Woodland withdrew and was replaced in the field by Carl Pettersson (76).