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## 2015 Puerto Rico Open Media Notes

**Dates:** March 2–8, 2015

**Where:** Trump International Golf Club – Puerto Rico

**Par/Yards:** 36-36—72/7,506 yards

**Field:** 132

**2014 Champion:** Chesson Hadley

**Purse:** \$3,000,000/\$540,000

**FedEx Cup Points:** 300 points to the winner

**Website:** [gotopuertoricooopen.com](http://gotopuertoricooopen.com)

**Facebook:** PuertoRicoOpen

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### A look back at the 2014 Puerto Rico Open

Rookie **Chesson Hadley** entered the final round with a one-stroke lead over **Danny Lee**. He recorded a final-round 67 for a two-shot victory over Lee to finish at 21-under-par 267, breaking 2013 champion **Scott Brown**'s tournament record by one shot.

### More on Chesson Hadley's win:

- Earned his first PGA TOUR victory in his 13<sup>th</sup> career start
- Prior to Hadley's win, **Jordan Spieth** was the last rookie to win on TOUR (2013 John Deere Classic)
- Hadley's lead after the third round was the first time he held a lead after any round on TOUR

### Since his Puerto Rico Open victory:

- Totaled four top 10s and eight top-25 finishes en route to being named 2014 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year
- Finished 49<sup>th</sup> in the FedExCup standings, the best finish for a rookie in the 2013-14 PGA TOUR campaign. Season included strong performances in the FedExCup Playoffs (Deutsche Bank Championship/T9 and BMW Championship/T12)
- Finished T10 at the 2015 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am

### A glance at the field

- Eight major championship winners including **John Daly**, **Lee Janzen**, **Mark Calcavecchia**, **Ben Curtis**, **David Duval**, **Trevor Immelman**, **David Toms** and **Y.E. Yang**.
- Rookie **Daniel Berger** will make his 12<sup>th</sup> start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season. He has recorded five top-25 finishes in 10 starts in 2015 including tying for 10<sup>th</sup> at both the Waste Management Phoenix Open and the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. **Berger** (48) is one of three rookies in the top 50 of the current FedExCup standings.
- **Brandon de Jonge** (21st in FedExCup standings) will make his fifth start at the Puerto Rico Open (his best finishes include 2010/T3 and 2014/T11). This season he lost in a playoff at The McGladrey Classic and finished T13 at the CIMB Classic.

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- **Will Mackenzie** (39th in FedExCup standings), who was in the same playoff at The McGladrey Classic, will make his third start at the Puerto Rico Open. His best finish in 2014-15 thus far was a T9 at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba.
- **Lee Janzen** will make his first PGA TOUR start since his February victory at the Champions Tour's ACE Group Classic, which ended a 16-year winless drought.

### Sponsor exemptions

Sponsor exemptions have had runner-up finishes two of the last three years in Puerto Rico. In 2012, Ryo Ishikawa finished second and in 2013, Jordan Spieth finished T2 at the Puerto Rico Open. Ishikawa's finish in Puerto Rico was enough to give him Special Temporary Membership status. Spieth earned Special Temporary Membership the following week at the Valspar Championship.

### Rookie success

The Puerto Rico Open has historically been a stop for future Rookies of the Year. In 2014, **Chesson Hadley** won en route to being named the 2014 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year. In 2013, **Jordan Spieth** recorded a T2 finish, one of nine top-10s that would lead to Rookie of the Year accolades. Also in 2013, **Peter Uihlein** tied for sixth in the same year he would go on to become the first American to be named European Tour Rookie of the Year. The 2014 European Tour Rookie of the Year **Brooks Koepka** finished inside the top 20 at the 2014 Puerto Rico Open.

### Road to the Masters

Canadian amateur and 2014 U.S. Amateur runner-up Corey Connors will compete as a sponsor exemption at the Puerto Rico Open prior to his first start at the Masters in April. A 2014 graduate of Kent State University, Connors won the Jones Cup Invitational, three college events in his senior season and is No. 16 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking. This will be his third PGA TOUR start having previously competed at the 2013 and 2014 RBC Canadian Open.

### Uihlein makes first PGA TOUR start since November

After battling ailments like dehydration, a sprained wrist and food poisoning on the European Tour this season, **Peter Uihlein** will make his first PGA TOUR start since he tied for fourth at the Sanderson Farms Championship in November, his best career PGA TOUR finish and best since his T6 at the 2013 Puerto Rico Open.

### Puerto Rican players in the field

**Jeronimo Esteve** – Competed in the 2012 Puerto Rico Open as an amateur, but missed the cut after 83-71. He learned to play at age 5, took lessons from Chi Chi Rodriguez and played collegiately at Dartmouth College. Possibly his biggest accomplishment is beating Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2011.

**Edward Figueroa** – Returns to the Puerto Rico Open for the third time after previously competing as an amateur in 2012 and 2013.

**Erick Morales** – Morales previously competed at the Puerto Rico Open in 2010 and 2014, but missed the cuts both times.

**Rafa Campos** – Campos will make his eighth start in the Puerto Rico Open. Campos is the only Puerto Rican player to make the cut in the event more than one time (2008, 2013 and 2014). Miguel Suarez (2008) and Wilfredo Morales (2008) are the only other Puerto Rican players to make the cut at the Puerto Rico Open. Campos' T29 finish last year is the best by a Puerto Rican at the Puerto Rico Open.

### Puerto Rico Open Tournament Records:

Best 18 hole score:	63, Derek Lamely (2010), Chris Tidland (2011), James Driscoll (2011), Scott Brown (2013)
Best opening 36 holes:	130, Andres Romero (2013)
Best 54 holes:	198, Scott Brown (2013), Fabian Gomez (2013)

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Best 72 holes: 267, Chesson Hadley (2014)  
Best come from behind win: 4, Derek Lamely (2010) and Michael Bradley (2011)  
Largest margin of victory: 2, Derek Lamely (2010), George McNeill (2012) Chesson Hadley (2014)  
Playoffs: 1, Michael Bradley defeated Troy Matteson (2011)

#### **Miscellaneous 2014-15 PGA TOUR notes**

- Entering the 2014-15 season, 29 of the top 30 players in the Official World Golf Ranking were PGA TOUR members, including 2014-15 new members Victor Dubuisson and Jamie Donaldson. Thomas Bjorn (30) was the lone non-member inside the top 30.
- The 2014-15 rookie class of 24 players includes 21 players under the age of 30. The list of 24 includes three players playing on medical extensions from previous years but remain in the rookie category.
- Four new members earned PGA TOUR cards through the non-member FedExCup points list but are not considered part of the rookie class: Victor Dubuisson (France); Francesco Molinari (Italy); Jamie Donaldson (Wales); and Brooks Koepka (United States).
- There are 86 active international players representing 24 countries in 2014-15. Australia has the most international members (16).

#### **Notable changes for the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season**

- Starting in January 2015, winners of the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard and the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide will receive a three-year PGA TOUR exemption and a three-year exemption into THE PLAYERS Championship.
- The 2015 Presidents Cup team eligibility for the U.S. Team will be based on FedExCup points instead of money. Presidents Cup points for the FedExCup Playoffs will be weighted the same as World Golf Championships (550 for first place, 315 for second, etc.).
- The Top 125 Money List from the previous season, established following the conclusion of the 2014 Wyndham Championship, will remain as an exempt category in 2014-15 for standard, open events only.
- The Humana Challenge in partnership with the Clinton Foundation included the Top 10 from the Previous Tournament Category, as will the RBC Heritage.

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