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## 2015 RBC Canadian Open Tournament Notes

Dates: July 20-26, 2015

Where: Glen Abbey Golf Club, Oakville, Ontario

Par/Yards: 35-37--72/7,273 yards

**Field:** 156

2014 champion: Tim Clark

**Purse:** \$5,800,000/\$1,044,000 (winner) **FedExCup:** 500 points to the winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play
Website: rbccanadianopen.com
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## A look at the 2014 RBC Canadian Open

Tim Clark, who entered the final round at Royal Montreal Golf Club trailing Jim Furyk by three strokes, stumbled out of the gate with a bogey on the opening hole to fall four shots back. He rebounded with birdies on Nos. 6, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17 (a 5-under 30 on the back nine) to post a final-round 5-under 65, good for a one-stroke victory over Furyk.

## More on Tim Clark

Tim Clark will be making his fifth start in this week's RBC Canadian Open. After a missed cut in his first start of 2002, he rebounded with finishes of T4 (2010), T15 (2012) and 1<sup>st</sup> (2015). So far this year, he has recorded six cuts in eight starts, highlighted by a playoff loss to Bubba Watson at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions in Shanghai in November. As he continued to recover from a lingering elbow injury, Clark missed five months from the PGA TOUR, from the Sony Open in Hawaii (T30) to the Travelers Championship (MC). Because of travel visa issues, Clark was forced to miss last week's Open Championship.

## RBC Canadian Open and the FedExCup

With just six events (five weeks) remaining before the start of the FedExCup Playoffs, the RBC Canadian Open will once again play a pivotal role in the shaping of the Playoff fields.

- 2014 winner Tim Clark jumped from No. 85 to 27 in the standings and qualified for the first two Playoffs events.
- 2012 winner Scott Piercy's win moved him from No. 39 to 13 in the standings, good for a berth into all four Playoffs events.

# Noteworthy players currently outside the top 125 (\*in this week's field)

Player	FEC standing	Notes
Camilo Villegas	138	First two of (four) TOUR wins were Playoffs events; 2008 BMW
		Championship and 2008 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola.
Geoff Ogilvy	136	Eight-time TOUR winner, including 2006 U.S. Open and three World Golf
		Golf Championships events
Graeme McDowell*	155	Two-time PGA TOUR winner; 2010 U.S. Open, 2013 RBC Heritage



### Noteworthy players outside the top 30 (\*in the RBC Canadian Open field)

Player	FEC standing	Notes
Matt Kuchar*	34	7-time TOUR winner, 3 top 10s in 18 starts this season
David Hearn*	63	3 top 10s this season, including a playoff loss at The Greenbrier Classic
Hunter Mahan*	71	6-time TOUR winner, 3 top 10s this season, including T9 at the Masters
Graham DeLaet*	83	3 career runner-up finishes and 3 top 10s this season
Luke Donald*	118	Former World No. 1, 5 TOUR wins, 2 top 10s this season

### A look at the field

- Eight of the top 30 in current FedExCup standings: Bubba Watson (3), J.B. Holmes (10), Charley Hoffman (11), Jason Day (16), Brooks Koepka (18), Scott Piercy (21), Jim Furyk (25), Sangmoon Bae (29).
- Nine RBC Canadian Open champions in the field: Tim Clark (2014), Brandt Snedeker (2013), Scott Piercy (2012), Sean O'Hair (2011), Carl Pettersson (2010), Chez Reavie (2008), Jim Furyk (2006, 2007), Vijay Singh (2004) and Scott Verplank (2001).
- Canadians in the field: Albin Choi, Austin Connelly, Corey Conners, Graham DeLaet, Brad Fritsch, Adam Hadwin, Blair Hamilton, David Hearn, Richard Jung, Taylor Pendrith, Garrett Rank, Justin Shin, Roger Sloan, Adam Swanson, Nick Taylor and Billy Walsh.
- Eleven major championship winners, representing all four majors.

#### Player notes

- 2006 (Hamilton G&CC) and 2007 (Angus Glen GC) RBC Canadian Open champion *Jim Furyk* will make his 13<sup>th</sup> start north of the border this week. Furyk returns to Canada after having snapped a four-year winless drought at the RBC Heritage. Before his win at Hilton Head, the 17-time PGA TOUR champion hadn't won since the 2010 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola en route to taking the FedExCup title. In addition to the Harbour Town win this season, he claimed additional top 10s at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (T7), World Golf Championships-Cadillac Match Play (4<sup>th</sup>) and the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide (T5).
- Following his T4 finish at The Open Championship, *Jason Day* is poised to make just his third start in the RBC Canadian Open and first since 2009 (52<sup>nd</sup>). In his first start, he finished T48 in 2008. Glen Abbey was host to the RBC Canadian Open both of those years. Day, who has amassed three PGA TOUR titles, added his third victory via sudden death at this year's Farmers Insurance Open. He owns five additional top-10 finishes this season, including a T4 at the PLAYERS Championship, T4 at The Open Championship and T9 at the U.S. Open.
- **Bubba Watson** will be making his sixth start in the RBC Canadian Open this week, with his only top-20 finish being a T14 in 2006 (Hamilton G & CC). Watson claimed his seventh and eighth PGA TOUR victories both through a playoff at this year's World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions and Travelers Championship. He also finished T2 at the Waste Management Phoenix Open and T3 at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship. Watson's last three starts in the RBC Canadian Open have been Glen Abbey years; (2008/MC, 2009/MC and 2013/T21). Watson is coming off a missed cut at last week's Open Championship at St. Andrews.
- Back, perhaps, to cash in on good karma, *Hunter Mahan's* closest association to the RBC Canadian Open is withdrawing suddenly from the 2013 event at Glen Abbey before Saturday's third round to join his wife, Kandi, who had just gone into labor at home in Dallas with their first child (daughter, Zoe. A son, Miller, was born in February). Mahan was holding a two-stroke lead at the time. Mahan will be making his 11<sup>th</sup> start at this week's RBC Canadian Open, and sixth-consecutive. His two top-10 finishes in the event came in 2004 (T4/Glen Abbey) and 2007 (T5/Angus Glen GC). Mahan, a six-time winner on the PGA



- TOUR, is in search of his first TOUR title since The Barclays 2014. Mahan finished T49 at last week's Open Championship at St. Andrews.
- Scheduled to make his ninth start, and sixth-consecutive, at the RBC Canadian Open, *Matt Kuchar* comes to Canada this week looking to improve on a T4 finish in 2014 and T2 in 2013. Kuchar, No. 30 in the FedExCup standings, has three top 10s in 18 starts on the season, highlighted by a T2 finish at the CareerBuilder Challenge (Palm Springs). Kuchar is coming off a T58 finish at The Open Championship.
- **Steve Stricker** will compete in the RBC Canadian Open as part of his very limited PGA TOUR schedule. He will be making his 12<sup>th</sup> start in the event and first since 2006 (10<sup>th</sup>/Angus Glen G &CC). Stricker's best finish in the event, a T4, came in his first start of 1993 at Glen Abbey. Stricker, a 12-time winner on the PGA TOUR, remains in search of his first win since the 2012 Hyundai Tournament of Champions. In seven starts so far this season, Stricker's best finish is a T27 at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial.
- 2012 RBC Canadian Open Champion Scott Piercy claimed his third career PGA TOUR title by a
  convincing three strokes at last week's inaugural Barbasol Championship in Alabama. Piercy, who
  claimed his RBC Canadian Open title at Hamilton G&CC, will be making his sixth start in Canada's
  national championship. In 2011, Piercy finished T6 in the event at Shaughnessy G&CC.

## Miscellaneous RBC Canadian Open notes

- For the sixth time since 2000, the RBC Canadian Open makes a return to Glen Abbey Golf Club. This will mark the Golf Club's 27<sup>th</sup> time to host Canada's national championship. Glen Abbey first hosted the RBC Canadian Open in 1977 (Lee Trevino). It was the Open's regular host each year from 1981-2000, with the exception of 1997 (Royal Montreal GC). Past champions at Glen Abbey include Greg Norman (1984, 1992), Curtis Strange (1985, 1987), Nick Price (1991, 1994), Tiger Woods (2000) and Brandt Snedeker (2013).
- Since 2000, three of the 14 different winners have made the RBC Canadian Open their first on the PGA TOUR – John Rollins (2002), Chez Reavie (2008) and Nathan Green (2009).
- Since 1990, only two players have won the RBC Canadian Open twice: Nick Price (1991, 1994) and Jim Furyk (2006, 2007). Since the event's 1904 inception, only six players have successfully defended their RBC Canadian Open title. The only player to achieve the feat in the last 50 years has been Jim Furyk (2006-07).
- In the post-World War II era, only 15 players have won the RBC Canadian Open more than once.

## 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season Highlights

So far in the 2015 calendar year, 16 of the 30 tournaments have been won by players in the top 25 in the Official World Golf Ranking at the time of their respective victories: Patrick Reed (23), Jimmy Walker (17th at Sony Open in Hawaii, 13th at Valero Texas Open), Jason Day (8), Dustin Johnson (16), Jordan Spieth (10th at the Valspar Championship, 4th at the Masters, 2nd at U.S. Open and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the John Deere Classic), J.B. Holmes (20), Jim Furyk (10), Justin Rose (8), Rickie Fowler (13), Rory McIlroy (1st at the WGC-Cadillac Match Play and 1st at the Wells Fargo Championship) and Zach Johnson (25).

So far this season, 16 of the 35 stroke-play events have been determined by a playoff, most recently this Monday at The Open Championship (Zach Johnson in a four-hole aggregate playoff over Louis Oosthuizen and Marc Leishman).

The trend of young winners on TOUR has continued into the 2014-15 season as 12 of the 31 different winners have been under the age of 30, accounting for 16 wins, including:



- 25-year-old Rory McIlroy, with his win at the WGC-Cadillac Match Play joined Tiger Woods (29) and Jack Nicklaus (17) as the only players to win 10 events prior to their 26th birthday on TOUR in the last 75 vears.
- 21-year-old Jordan Spieth, with his victories at the Valspar Championship, Masters Tournament, U.S.
  Open and John Deere Classic, became just the sixth player to win the Masters Tournament and U.S.
  Open in the same season. He joins the list which includes Tiger Woods (2002), Jack Nicklaus (1972),
  Arnold Palmer (1960), Ben Hogan (1951, 1953) and Craig Wood (1941). He is the youngest to win two
  career majors since Gene Sarazen in 1922.
- 26-year-old Rickie Fowler finished birdie, eagle, birdie, birdie to shoot a final-round 66 and finish at 12-under-par at THE PLAYERS to enter a three-hole aggregate playoff with Kevin Kisner and Sergio Garcia, eventually prevailing after four holes. The 5-under-par total over the last four holes is a PGA TOUR record since the TOUR began tracking hole-by-hole scores in 1983.
- 24-year-old Patrick Reed became just the fifth player since 1991 to win four times before age of 25, joining Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Rory McIlroy and Sergio Garcia with his Hyundai Tournament of Champions win.

The rookie class of 24 players includes 21 players who began the season under the age of 30. Canadian Nick Taylor, a 2013 graduate of the PGA TOUR Canada and a 2014 graduate of the Web.com Tour, got off to a hot start by winning the Sanderson Farms Championship in October. Rookie members in the top 50 in the FedExCup standings include Daniel Berger (36) and Tony Finau (43).