



2015 RBC Heritage

(The 23rd of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Hilton Head Island, SC April 13-19, 2015
Harbour Town Golf Links

Purse: \$5,900,000 (\$1,062,000 to the winner)
Par/Yards: 36-35—71/7,101

First-Round Notes – Thursday, April 16, 2015

Thursday Weather

Cloudy, breezy and cool. High of 69. Winds NE 10-15 gusting to 20 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Graeme McDowell	66 (-5)
Matt Every	66 (-5)
Sangmoon Bae	67 (-4)

Graeme McDowell

2013 RBC Heritage champion Graeme McDowell carded a bogey on the opening hole Thursday, but followed the rest of the day with six birdies en route to a 5-under 66 and share of the first-round lead with Matt Every.

R1 at a glance: 10 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens, 1 of 1 sand saves, 26 putts.

McDowell is making his sixth start at the RBC Heritage (T70-2005, MC-2006, T61-2011, Won-2013, T23-2014).

Most recently, McDowell finished T52 at the Masters Tournament with rounds of 71-74-76-73.

McDowell is one of 10 international winners of the RBC Heritage: McDowell (2013), Carl Pettersson (2012), Aaron Baddeley (2006), Peter Lonard (2005), Jose Coceres (2001), Nick Price (1997), Greg Norman (1988), Bernhard Langer (1985), Nick Faldo (1984) and Graham Marsh (1977).

McDowell is hoping to become the 10th player to win the RBC Heritage more than once. Multiple winners include Davis Love III (5), Hale Irwin (3), Johnny Miller (2), Hubert Green (2), Tom Watson (2), Fuzzy Zoeller (2), Payne Stewart (2), Stewart Cink (2) and Boo Weekley (2).

This marks the sixth time McDowell has held at least a share of the opening-round lead: 2006 Zurich Classic of New Orleans (T15), 2006 Open Championship (T61), 2008 Open Championship (T19), 2013 WGC-Cadillac Championship (T3), 2014 WGC-HSBC Champions (T3).

Matt Every

Two-time Arnold Palmer Invitational champion Matt Every, who missed the cut at last week's Masters Tournament with rounds of 73-74, opened the RBC Heritage with a 5-under 66. His lone bogey – against six birdies – came on the par-4 18th hole (his ninth hole of the day).

R1 at a glance: 8 of 14 fairways, 7 of 18 greens, 2 of 2 sand saves, 20 putts.

Every is making his fifth start at the RBC Heritage (MC-2010, T8-2012, T83-2013, T12-2014).

Earlier this season, Every successfully defending his title at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, joining Tiger Woods and Loren Roberts (1994-95) as the only players to win in back-to-back years at Bay Hill.

This marks the fourth time Every has held at least a share of the opening-round lead on the PGA TOUR: 2010 Greenbrier Classic (T66), 2012 Valero Texas Open (T2), 2014 Valspar Championship (T8).

First-Round Leader Notes

There have been three first-round leaders/co-leaders that have gone on to win in 22 stroke-play events in 2014-15: Sangmoon Bae (Frys.com Open), James Hahn (Northern Trust Open), Jordan Spieth (Masters Tournament).

The last first-round leader to go on to win the RBC Heritage was Matt Kuchar in 2014. Prior to that, Peter Lonard last performed the feat in 2005.

The lowest first-round score at the RBC Heritage is 62, set by Peter Lonard (2005) and Davis Love III (2002).

Since the RBC Heritage moved into its slot after the Masters in 1983 (2011 the exception when it was played two weeks after the Masters), just six players have won the event without having competed in the Masters the week before: Carl Pettersson (2012), Brian Gay (2009), Boo Weekley (2007), Aaron Baddeley (2006), Bob Tway (1995) and Davis Love III (1987).

A year ago, eventual champion Matt Kuchar, Scott Langley and William McGirt shared the first-round lead following 5-under 66s.

Sangmoon Bae

Sangmoon Bae opened with a 4-under 67 in his third start at the RBC Heritage. In 2012, he posted an opening round 83 before withdrawing. In 2013, he posted rounds of 70-71-71-75 en route to a T48 finish.

R1 at a glance: 8 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens, 2 or 2 sand saves, 27 putts.

Bae is coming off a T33 finish at last week's Masters Tournament. Earlier this year, he posted his second PGA TOUR victory, winning the season-opening Frys.com Open. His first win came at the 2013 AT&T Byron Nelson Championship.

Jordan Spieth

Fresh off his win at last week's Masters Tournament, 21-year old Jordan Spieth posted a 3-over 74, snapping a streak of 16 consecutive under-par rounds (and 17 consecutive par-or-better rounds). His last over-par round was a third-round 73 at the WGC-Cadillac Championship).

Since 1934, a player has followed a Major Championship victory with a win the next week 10 times, most recently Tiger Woods (2006 PGA Championship and the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational). Bernhard Langer is the only player to follow a Masters Tournament win with a victory the following week, going on to win the 1985 RBC Heritage.

With his victory at the Masters Tournament, Spieth (21 years, 8 months, 16 days) became the second-youngest winner of the Green Jacket in the tournament's 79-year history behind Tiger Woods (21 years, 3 months, 14 days) and his 18-under-par 270 total matched Woods' record-setting 1997 performance.

With his victory in Augusta, Spieth took over the lead in the FedExCup standings for the first time in his career. In his last four starts, he has two victories (Masters Tournament and Valspar Championship) and two runners-up (Valero Texas Open and Shell Houston Open).

Spieth leads the TOUR win seven top-10 finishes in 10 starts in 2014-15.

Matt Kuchar

In his bid to join Payne Stewart (1989-90), Davis Love III (1991-92) and Boo Weekley (2007-08) as back-to-back winners at the RBC Heritage, Matt Kuchar opened with a 3-under 68.

Kuchar is looking to keep a 21-year streak intact, as no defending champion has missed the cut at the RBC Heritage since Davis Love III in 1993.

Kuchar won in his 11th start at Harbour Town. After missing the cut in his inaugural start in 2003, has reeled off 10 consecutive made cuts, with a T7 in 2008 and T10 in 2005 his previous-best finishes.

Andrew Svoboda

During today's opening round of the RBC Heritage, Andrew Svoboda aced the seventh hole with a 7-iron from 177 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 (Rhett R. from Evansville, Wisconsin) 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.

Svoboda's ace was the 21st of the season on the PGA TOUR. It was his first on the PGA TOUR.

Additional Player Notes

Tom Watson, a winner here in 1979 and 1982, posted a 1-over 72 in his 24th start at the RBC Heritage. Watson has made the cut in 19 of 24 previous starts here and has seven top-10 finishes, including a runner-up effort in

1977. Watson was one of three World Golf Hall of Fame members are in the field, joined by Vijay Singh (71) and Ernie Els (71).

Miscellaneous Notes

Graeme McDowell led all past RBC Heritage champions in the field with a 5-under 66. The others include Matt Kuchar (68), Stewart Cink (70), Aaron Baddeley (70), Jim Furyk (71), Glen Day (71), Carl Pettersson (72), Tom Watson (72), Justin Leonard (73), Boo Weekley (74), Brandt Snedeker (77).

Players who have made the RBC Heritage their first PGA TOUR victory include Hale Irwin (1971), Graham Marsh (1977), Doug Tewell (1980), Nick Faldo (1984), Davis Love III (1987), Glen Day (1999), Jose Coceres (2001), Peter Lonard (2005), Aaron Baddeley (2006) and Boo Weekley (2007).

Jim Furyk managed the only bogey-free round Thursday, doing so with 18 pars.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Jim Furyk (71)

Scoring Averages:	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)	Cumulative
First round	35.794	36.275	72.069	---

Morning scoring average (72.52) vs. afternoon scoring average (71.20).

Camilo Villegas withdrew during the opening round.