



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

Second-Round Notes – Friday, April 17, 2015

Weather

Cloudy. High of 69. Winds NE 6-12 mph.

Second-Round Leaderboard

Troy Merritt	69-61—130 (-12)
Matt Kuchar	68-66—134 (-8)
John Merrick	69-65—134 (-8)

36-Hole Cut

76 players (75 professional and one amateur) at even-par 142 from field of 130 professionals and two amateurs.

This year's total of 142 equals the lowest 36-hole cut at the RBC Heritage, set on eight occasions (2015, 2011, 2010, 2006, 2003, 2002, 2001, 1996).

Troy Merritt

Troy Merritt equaled the RBC Heritage tournament record with a 10-under 61 Friday, moving four clear of defending champion Matt Kuchar and John Merrick. David Frost owns the only other 61 at the RBC Heritage, performing the feat during the second round in 1994.

Merritt's 61 equals the low score on TOUR this season (Ryan Palmer/R2/Humana Challenge in partnership with the Clinton Foundation; Justin Thomas/R2/Sony Open in Hawaii).

Merritt's previous-low score on the PGA TOUR was 64, set on three occasions and most recently during the second round of the 2015 Sony Open in Hawaii.

Merritt's 130 total through two rounds is one shy of the RBC Heritage record of 129, set by Jack Nicklaus in 1975 and Phil Mickelson in 2002.

Merritt is making his 86th TOUR start, with a runner-up finish at the 2014 FedEx St. Jude Classic his best result.

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).

Merritt's four-stroke lead after 36 holes is two shy of the largest 36-hole lead at the RBC Heritage: 6 (Darren Clarke/2005, Jack Nicklaus/1975, Johnny Miller/1974).

Merritt's four-stroke 36-hole lead is the second largest on TOUR this season, coming one week after Jordan Spieth led by five at the midway point of the Masters Tournament.

Merritt's only other lead on TOUR was a share of the opening-round lead at the 2010 Sony Open in Hawaii (finished T20).

Second-Round Leader Notes

There have been five second-round leaders/co-leaders that have gone on to win in 22 stroke-play events in 2014-15, most recently Jordan Spieth at the Masters Tournament.

The last second-round leader/co-leader to go on to win the RBC Heritage was Jim Furyk in 2010.

The lowest first 36-hole score at the RBC Heritage is 129, set by Jack Nicklaus (1975) and Phil Mickelson (2002).

A year ago, K.J. Choi, Jim Furyk and Ben Martin shared the 36-hole lead at 5-under 137. Eventual champion Matt Kuchar was two behind at 3-under 139.

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 has carded rounds of 68-66 and is currently T2 (along with John Merrick) through 36 holes.

Kuchar keeps a 22-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, Kuchar has reeled off 11 consecutive made cuts, with a T7 in 2008 and T10 in 2005 his previous-best finishes.

Kuchar has now made the cut in all 12 starts this season, with a runner-up finish at the Humana Challenge in partnership with the Clinton Foundation and T3 at the Sony Open in Hawaii his best finishes. The last of his seven PGA TOUR victories came at the 2014 RBC Heritage.

In his most recent start, Kuchar finished T46 at the Masters Tournament with rounds of 72-74-72-72.

Kuchar 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).

Graeme McDowell

2013 RBC Heritage champion Graeme McDowell, at 7-under 135 after a second-round 69, 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).

Jordan Spieth

Fresh off his win at last week's Masters Tournament, 21-year old Jordan Spieth (T7) followed a lackluster opening round of 3-over 74 (which snapped a streak of 16 consecutive under-par rounds and 17 consecutive par-or-better rounds) with a scintillating 9-under 62. It fell just one shy of the RBC Heritage tournament record of 61, set during the second round in 1994 by David Frost and matched Friday by Troy Merritt.

Spieth's 62 Friday equals his career-best round on TOUR (R4 at the 2013 Deutsche Bank 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 runner-up showings (Valero Texas Open and Shell Houston Open).

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

Tom Watson

Tom Watson, a winner here in 1979 and 1982, carded a second-round 1-under 70 to move to T67. He has now made the cut in 20 of 25 starts at the RBC Heritage and has seven top-10 finishes, including two wins and a runner-up effort in 1977.

Watson is one of three World Golf Hall of Fame members are in the field, joined by Vijay Singh (T22) and Ernie Els (missed cut).

Watson makes the cut at the age of 65 years, 7 months and 13 days.

The oldest player to make the cut on the PGA TOUR is Sam Snead, doing so at the 1979 Manufacturers Hanover Westchester Classic at the age of 67 years, 2 months and 21 days.

Miscellaneous Notes

Brandt Snedeker followed an opening-round 6-over 77 with a 7-under 64 to move to T48.

The lone amateur to make the cut was 2014 Players Amateur Champion Scott Vincent (T40).

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).

At T2, defending champion Matt Kuchar leads all past RBC Heritage champions in the field. The others include Graeme McDowell (T4), Jim Furyk (T4), Stewart Cink (T12), Aaron Baddeley (T12), Carl Pettersson (T48), Boo Weekley (T48), Brandt Snedeker (T48), Tom Watson (T67), Justin Leonard (MC), Glen Day (MC).

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Jim Furyk (71)

R2 – Troy Merritt (61), Jordan Spieth (62), Russell Knox (64), Bryce Molder (64), Brandt Snedeker (64), Chris Stroud (67), Daniel Berger (68), Freddie Jacobson (68).

Friday's stroke-average of 69.641 is the second-lowest in the history of the RBC Heritage. The only other sub-70 single-round stroke average occurred during the third round in 2000 (69.162).

Scoring Averages:	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)	Cumulative
First round	35.794	36.275	72.069	---
Second round	34.824	34.817	69.641	70.855

R1: Morning scoring average (72.52) vs. afternoon scoring average (71.20).

R2: Morning scoring average (70.18) vs. afternoon scoring average (69.11).