



2015 RBC Heritage

(The 23^d 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

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, April 18, 2015

Weather

Mostly cloudy. High of 78. Winds SSE 5-10 mph.

With expected inclement weather Sunday, fourth-round play will feature threesomes off of splits tees from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Television airtimes will remain the same.

Third-Round Leaderboard

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Troy Merritt | 69-61-69—199 (-14) |
| Brendon Todd | 73-66-63—202 (-11) |
| Kevin Kisner | 68-67-67—202 (-11) |
| Matt Kuchar | 68-66-68—202 (-11) |

Troy Merritt

One day after equaling the RBC Heritage tournament record with a 10-under 61 Friday (David Frost performed the feat in 1994), Troy Merritt carded a third-round 2-under 69 to maintain his lead at the RBC Heritage. He'll enter the final round leading past champion Matt Kuchar, Brendon Todd and Kevin Kisner by three strokes.

Should Merritt win Sunday, the victory would come at the age of 29 years, 5 months and 25 days.

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). Merritt would be the seventh player to perform the feat.

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 entered the week No. 122 in the FedExCup standings, with a sixth-place finish at the Valspar Championships his lone top-10 finish. With a win Sunday, he is projected to move to No. 21 in the standings.

Merritt is making his third start at the RBC Heritage, missing the cut in 2010 and finishing T52 in 2011.

Merritt's only other leads on TOUR were a share of the opening-round lead at the 2010 Sony Open in Hawaii (finished T20) and the second-round lead this week.

Merritt's week has included a back-nine 7-under 28 Friday, topping the previous record on that nine by one stroke (Jeff Maggert/2006, Steve Flesch/2001, Chris Perry/2000, Brad Faxon/1997). The only other 28 at the RBC Heritage occurred on the front nine (Craig Barlow in 2003).

Merritt closed his round with four birdies Friday, becoming just the ninth player to birdie the last four holes in the same round at the RBC Heritage since 1983 (Charley Hoffman was the last to do so during the second round in 2012).

Third-Round Lead Statistics

Seven of 22 third-round leader/co-leaders have gone on to win this season, most recently Jordan Spieth at the Masters Tournament.

The third-round lead/co-leader has won 31 of 46 times at the RBC Heritage, most recently Carl Pettersson in 2012.

The largest final-round comeback at the RBC Heritage is nine strokes (Stewart Cink, 2004).

The lowest first 54-hole score at the RBC Heritage is 197, set by Justin Leonard in 2002.

Brendon Todd

Brendon Todd turned in the round of the day with an 8-under 63, jumping from T29 to T2. It equals his career-low round on the PGA TOUR, set during the second round of the 2014 Humana Challenge in partnership with the Clinton Foundation.

Todd is making his 101st PGA TOUR start this week, with his lone victory coming at the 2014 AT&T Byron Nelson Championship.

During the 2013-14 PGA TOUR Season, a total of eight victories were recorded by former University of Georgia golfers, including Chris Kirk (2), Bubba Watson (2), Russell Henley, Harris English, Brendon Todd and Brian Harman. So far this season, Watson owns the lone victory by a former Bulldog, winning the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions.

Todd is making his third start at the RBC Heritage, missing the cut in 2012 and finishing T38 in 2014.

Kevin Kisner

Kevin Kisner, a 31-year-old native of Aiken, South Carolina, sits T2 as he attempts to become the first South Carolinian to win in the 47-year history of the RBC Heritage.

Kisner is making his third start at the RBC Heritage, missing the cut in 2011 and finishing T38 in 2014.

All three of Kisner's best finishes in 89 previous PGA TOUR starts have come in the southeast, including a career-best T4 at the 2014 McGladrey Classic, T6 at the 2014 Wells Fargo Championship and T8 at the 2014 Wyndham Championship.

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 68-66-68 and is currently T2 through 54 holes.

The 2014-15 Season has included three players who have successfully defended titles from last season, including CIMB Classic winner Ryan Moore, Sony Open in Hawaii champion Jimmy Walker and Arnold Palmer Invitational winner Matt Every.

No one has been more consistent than Kuchar on the PGA TOUR since the start of the 2010 season, having racked up a TOUR-leading 50 top-10 finishes during that time frame.

Kuchar kept a 22-year streak intact this week 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).

Jordan Spieth

One day after equaling his career-best round on the PGA TOUR (62), Masters champion Jordan Spieth sits T8 through three rounds following a 3-under 68 Saturday.

The 21-year-old Spieth currently has the most first- and second-place finishes of any player before turning 22 years of age on the PGA TOUR (since 1970). The list includes Spieth (10), Tiger Woods (7), Sergio Garcia (6), Bobby Clampett (5) and Rickie Fowler (3).

The youngest winner of the RBC Heritage is Davis Love III, winning in 1987 at the age of 23 years and six days.

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 at the RBC Heritage, doing so in 1985. Other Masters Tournament champions who won the following week include 1978 winner Gary Player (won the Tournament of Champions the following week) and 1950 champion Jimmy Demaret (won the North Fulton Open the following week).

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 third-round 69 to move to T54. He owns 20 made cuts in 25 starts at the RBC Heritage and has seven top-10 finishes, including two wins and a runner-up effort in 1977.

Watson made the cut Friday at the age of 65 years, 7 months and 13 days. By comparison, 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.

The oldest player to make the cut at the RBC Heritage was Sam Snead in 1978 (65 years 9 months).

Watson was one of three World Golf Hall of Fame members in the field: Vijay Singh (T27) and Ernie Els (MC).

Additional Player Notes

The leading international player on the leaderboard is South African Branden Grace (T5). He is seeking to become the 11th international winner of the RBC Heritage: Graeme 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).

Miscellaneous Notes

This is the final week for players to move into the top 64 in the Official World Golf Ranking to qualify for the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Match Play.

The lone amateur to make the cut was 2014 Players Amateur Champion Scott Vincent (T54).

At T2, defending champion Matt Kuchar leads all past RBC Heritage champions in the field. The others include Jim Furyk (T5), Graeme McDowell (T10), Stewart Cink (T27), Brandt Snedeker (T27), Carl Pettersson (T43), Tom Watson (T54), Aaron Baddeley (T66), Boo Weekley (T75), 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).

R3 – Brendon Todd (63), Brice Garnett (65), Jason Kokrak (65), Anirban Lahiri (66), Branden Grace (66), Luke Donald (66), Kevin Kisner (67), Bo Van Pelt (67), Jim Furyk (68), Justin Thomas (68).

Friday's stroke-average of 69.641 and Saturday's average of 69.763 represent the second- and third-lowest single round stroke averages in RBC Heritage history. 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 |
| Third round | 35.105 | 34.658 | 69.763 | 70.609 |