



LATINOAMÉRICA



CHINA SERIES

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**E-NOTES – October 13, 2015**

**PGA TOUR -- @FrysOpenGolf**

**Featured groupings – Frys.com Open**

**Thursday, October 15**

**12:40 p.m., No. 1 (7:50 a.m., No. 10 on Friday)** – Hideki Matsuyama, Charl Schwartzel, Steven Bowditch

**12:50 p.m., No. 1 (8 a.m., No. 10 on Friday)** – Ryan Moore, Brooks Koepka, James Hahn

**Friday, October 16**

**12:40 p.m., No. 1 (7:50 a.m., No. 10 on Thursday)** – Rory Mcllroy, Justin Rose, Brandt Snedker

**12:50 p.m., No. 1 (8 a.m., No. 10 on Thursday)** – Webb Simpson, Hunter Mahan, Geoff Ogilvy

This week, the PGA TOUR begins its third season featuring a wraparound schedule that bridges two years with 47 events. The 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season kicks off with the Frys.com Open and includes seven events during the fall of 2015, all of which will award FedExCup points. After a seven week break, the season will resume in January with the traditional swing through Hawaii before moving to the West Coast. The FedExCup Playoffs once again features four events and concludes in September 2016 with the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola and the crowning of the FedExCup champion. Every week is significant in the race for the FedExCup – four of the seven winners from the fall calendar of 2014 (**Sangmoon Bae, Robert Streb, Bubba Watson and Charley Hoffman**) qualified for the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola and two others (**Ryan Moore and Ben Martin**) finished inside the top 40.

Four players who competed in the Presidents Cup are in the field (2015 record listed): **Steven Bowditch** (1-2-0), **Chris Kirk** (1-2-0), **Hideki Matsuyama** (2-1-1) and **Charl Schwartzel** (1-3-0). International teammates Bowditch, Matsuyama and Schwartzel will be grouped together in the first and second rounds.

Due to military obligations in South Korea, 2014-15 Frys.com Open champion **Sangmoon Bae** will be unable to defend his title. In 2015, a court ruling in South Korea confirmed he must return to fulfil a two-year military obligation. Bae will be eligible for a “mandatory obligation” exemption under the major medical and family crisis exemption and he can return to TOUR under his current exempt status.

The U.S. won the 11th playing of The Presidents Cup 15.5-14.5, improving its record to 9-1-1 in the event, with the only International win coming in 1998 and 2003 ending in a tie. It was the closest final result since that tie in 2003. The matches came down to the final match on the final hole for the third time, as **Sangmoon Bae** and **Bill Haas**’ match decided The Presidents Cup (2003, 2005). In 1996, the Presidents Cup was decided by the final group, but on the 17th hole, with Fred Couples winning 2 and 1.

World No. 3 **Rory Mcllroy** and world No. 7 **Justin Rose** will make their debut at the Frys.com Open. Mcllroy comes off a season where he posted seven top-10 finishes in just 12 starts, including wins at the World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play (played at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco) and the Wells Fargo Championship. Last season, Rose captured his seventh TOUR title at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, totaling eight top-10 finishes, finishing the season with a runner-up at the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola to end the season eighth in the FedExCup standings.

In his sixth appearance at the Frys.com Open, **Jarrod Lyle** will make his first start on the PGA TOUR since the 2015 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial. Lyle finished T31 at last year’s Frys.com Open, one of three made cuts in 10 starts in 2014-15 before returning to Australia, stating that while healthy, he was “mentally, physically and emotional exhausted.” A cancer survivor (myeloid leukemia), Lyle will have 10 events to earn \$283,825 to satisfy the requirements of his Major Medical.

Rule 14-1b, which prohibits anchoring a club when making a stroke, takes effect on January 1, 2016, as part of the 2016 edition of the Rules of Golf. Rule 14-1b focuses only on the method of stroke; it does not limit the conforming equipment that may be used. While making a stroke, a player may not anchor the club (i) “directly” or (ii) indirectly through use of an “anchor point.”

10 of 17 2015-16 PGA TOUR Rookies will compete at the Frys.com Open: **Abraham Ancer, Bronson Burgoon, Smylie Kaufman, Michael Kim, Dawie Van Der Walt, Harold Varner III, Rhein Gibson, Emiliano Grillo, Hiroshi Iwata and Brett Stegmaier.**

**CHAMPIONS TOUR**

**Tom Lehman** defeated **Joe Durant** by one stroke to win the 15<sup>th</sup> annual SAS Championship. Lehman finished bogey-free 7-under-par

65 for a 54-hole total of 12-under-par 204. Playing one group in front, Lehman closed the door when he drained a 12-footer for birdie from just off the green on No. 18. Lehman's finish included 15-foot birdies on Nos. 15 and 16 and a 20-footer for eagle on No. 17.

The San Antonio Championship will be played at TPC San Antonio on the AT&T Canyons Course this week. Golf Channel will broadcast all three rounds live beginning Friday and each day's airtimes will be from 1:30-4 p.m. CT. **Michael Allen** is the defending champion.

The San Antonio Championship holds the distinction of being the tournament that has been played the longest in one metropolitan area on the Champions Tour. This year's stop in San Antonio will be the 31st consecutive in the Alamo City.

This week marks the fourth time on the 2015 Champions Tour that a course from the TPC Network has served as a tournament venue – Greater Gwinnett Championship (TPC Sugarloaf), 3M Championship (TPC Twin Cities), Boeing Classic (TPC Snoqualmie Ridge).

**Colin Montgomerie's** closing 66 at Prestonwood Country Club moved him up into a T5 finish last week at the SAS Championship. As a result, Montgomerie earned 86 Charles Schwab Cup points and moved back into the lead by just 39 points over **Jeff Maggert** who finished T9 and earned 47 points last week. Both players came into the event in Cary, N.C., tied for the top spot. **Bernhard Langer** remained in third place and his third-place finish at the SAS Championship earned him 138 Charles Schwab Cup points. Langer now trails Montgomerie by only 336 points with three events remaining on the 2015 schedule. Two hundred and seventy Schwab Cup points will go to the winner of this week's San Antonio Championship.

With **Colin Montgomerie** leading **Jeff Maggert** by just 39 points with three events remaining, this marks the second-closest race for the Charles Schwab Cup this late in any season since the Schwab Cup began in 2001. Here are some examples of previous close races at this point in the season:

**2008** – **Fred Funk** led **Jay Haas** by 28 points with three events remaining. Haas won by 12 points.

**2012** – **Bernhard Langer** led **Tom Lehman** by 69 points with three events remaining. Lehman won by 435 points.

**2006** - **Loren Roberts** led **Jay Haas** by 84 points with three events remaining. Haas won by 20 points.

Colin Montgomerie has now finished in the top five in seven consecutive events dating back to May. During that span 19 of his 25 rounds have been under par. In those seven events, he's earned \$1,593,449, an average of \$227,635 per start.

#### **WEB.COM TOUR**

Five more Web.com Tour Qualifying School-First Stage qualifiers will take place this week - in Lantana, Texas, The Woodlands, Texas, Dothan, Ala., West Palm Beach, Fla. and Kannapolis, N.C. The first four were held last week with medalists **Adam Mitchell** (at Pine Mountain, Ga.) **Doug Letson** (at Lakeland, Fla.), **Chris Satterlee** (at Maricopa, Ariz.) and **Wil Collins** (at Nebraska City, Neb.).

There will be five Second Stage qualifiers in mid-November, followed by the Final Stage at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (Dec. 10-13).

To track Qualifying Tournament results through the Final Stage, click on the following link: <http://qualifying.pgatourhq.com/>, and go to "Qualifying Site Information" under Web.com Tour.

**Patton Kizzire**, the 2015 Web.com Tour leading money winner will host "Inside the PGA TOUR" next week, with the first airing on Tuesday (Oct. 20th) at 5 p.m. ET, followed by five re-airs on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The 2015-16 PGA TOUR season will get underway this week with 34 graduates from the recent Web.com Tour class in the Frys.com Open field.

Only \$6,596 separated players who were between the 25th and 40th positions on the Web.com Tour Finals money list when the Web.com Tour Championship ended. Those who finished T12 at TPC Sawgrass earned \$19,000 and the players one shot back of them at T18 earned \$12,600, a difference of only \$6,400. Last year, the separation between Nos. 25 and 40 at the end of the Finals was greater, at \$10,851.

#### **Ping An Bank China Tour – PGA TOUR China Series**

With Order of Merit leader **Josh Geary** playing on the PGA Tour of Australasia's Fiji International this week, **Bryden Macpherson**, No. 2 on the earnings list, has a chance to pass Geary. Macpherson, who has won two of the last three PGA TOUR China Series tournaments is ¥202,130 (approximately US \$33,100) behind Geary. Should Macpherson win this week's Chongqing Jiangnan NewTown KingRun Open and its ¥216,000 first-place check, the Australian would move to No. 1.

In his four PGA TOUR China Series start this season (16 rounds), **Bryden Macpherson** has made 67 birdies, an average of 4.2 per round. China's **Yi Cao** and **Xinjun Zhang** lead the Series, with 114 total birdies, both averaging 3.6 per round in 32 rounds each.

**Sejun Yoon**, a South Korean who grew up in the United States, has played in every event this season and made every cut. Last week at the Lushan Open, Yoon recorded his career-best finish when he tied for second. With his ¥105,600 payday, he moved to No. 7 on the Order of Merit, only ¥21,892 behind No. 5 **Shih Chang Chan**.