



2015 the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide
(The 30th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Dublin, Ohio
Muirfield Village Golf Club

June 1-7, 2015
Par/Yardage: 36-36—72/7,392

FedExCup Points: 500
Purse: \$6,200,000 (\$1,116,000)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, June 4, 2015

Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 81 degrees. Winds SE 4-8 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Hideki Matsuyama 64 (-8)
Bo Van Pelt 64 (-8)

Bo Van Pelt

Oklahoma resident Bo Van Pelt reeled off five consecutive birdies on Nos. 5-9 en route to a front-nine, 6-under 30. He had additional birdies at 3, 11, 13, 14 and 15 for a career-best total of 10 birdies. His 64 is a stroke shy of his career-low, and his best since a 9-under 63 in round two of the 2014 Zurich Classic of New Orleans (T25).

Van Pelt hit 10 of 14 fairways in regulation and 14 of 18 greens. He needed 27 putts to complete his round.

Van Pelt is making his 12th consecutive start in the Memorial Tournament this week, where he has finished inside the top 25 each year since 2010 (T3/1010, T13/ 2011, T13/2012, T21/2013, T19/2014). This also marks the first time since 2010 that Van Pelt has opened with a sub-par score. That year, he posted a 2-under 70.

Van Pelt has missed just two cuts in 11 previous Memorial Tournament starts (2004, 2009). In 2009, Van Pelt opened with a 9-over 81.

Van Pelt is in search of his second career PGA TOUR title. He won the 2009 U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee. A win this week would come in his 156th TOUR start since that victory in Wisconsin.

Van Pelt is making his 20th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, with his lone top-10 finish being a T9 at the RBC Heritage. In his five starts since Hilton Head, he has missed two cuts and been unable to finish inside the top 25 in the other three.

Van Pelt has previously held an 18-hole lead/co-lead eight times, though none have resulted in victory. He most recently held a one-stroke lead at the 2014 Barclays, before finishing T13.

Hideki Matsuyama

Like Van Pelt, defending Memorial Tournament champion Hideki Matsuyama made five consecutive birdies en route to his bogey-free, 8-under 64. Matsuyama birdied Nos. 9-14, in addition to 2, 3 and 8. Matsuyama won last year in his first start in the event.

Matsuyama was one of just two players to avoid a bogey in round one. Francesco Molinari (68) was the other.

With his 64, 23-year-old Matsuyama is making early strides to join Tiger Woods as players who've successfully defended a Memorial Tournament title. Woods, who has five tournament titles, won three consecutively from 1999-2001.

En route to his 2014 victory, his first and only PGA TOUR title, Matsuyama opened with a 2-under 70 and was seven strokes back.

Matsuyama is making his 16th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, having collected seven top-10 finishes. His seven top-ten finishes is one shy of Jordan Spieth, who leads the TOUR in that category.

Matsuyama has previously held an 18-hole lead/co-lead just once. At this year's PLAYERS Championship, Matsuyama held a share of the first-round lead at 5-under 67 with three others. He finished T17.

First-Round Lead Notes

Dating to the Memorial Tournament's inaugural year of 1976, only two first-round leaders/co-leaders have managed to convert for the win; Ernie Els (2004) and Justin Rose (2010).

Four of 28 first-round leaders have managed to convert for the win this year on the PGA TOUR. Steven Bowditch most recently achieved the feat at the AT&T Byron Nelson last week.

Russell Knox

A year after missing the cut in his first start at the Memorial Tournament, Scotland's Russell Knox birdied three of his last four holes (Nos. 6-8) en route to a 6-under 66.

Knox is making his 19th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, having already collected two third-place finishes; Shriners Hospitals for Children Open/3rd and The Honda Classic/T3.

Knox is making his 80th start on the PGA TOUR this week, with his best finish being a playoff loss to Russell Henley at the 2014 Honda Classic.

Jason Dufner

Cleveland native Jason Dufner made five birdies and two eagles in round one, before a costly double bogey at the par-4 18th pulled him from a share of the 8-under lead. Dufner made eagles at the par-5 fifth and par-5 15th.

This marks Dufner's fourth start in the Memorial Tournament, where he has previously not enjoyed much success. After missed cuts in his first two starts of 2009 and 2010, he managed a T19 finish last year with, among others, Bo Van Pelt and Jordan Spieth.

Dufner comes to Muirfield Village Golf Club this week in search of his fourth career PGA TOUR title. He won the 2012 Zurich Classic of New Orleans, 2012 AT&T Byron Nelson and 2013 PGA Championship.

In 14 starts this season before this week, he has collected top-10 finishes at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions (T10) and last week's AT&T Byron Nelson (T8).

Dufner is contributing \$50 to the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational's "Birdies for Kids" program for every birdie, eagle or double eagle he makes in the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season. In round one today, Dufner made five birdies and two eagles to add to the 158 birdies and 5 eagles to date to raise charitable funds for designated children's hospitals in Northeast Ohio.

Kevin Kisner

PGA TOUR sophomore Kevin Kisner kept his solid play of late alive in round one, posting a 5-under 67.

In Kisner's last five starts before this week, dating to his playoff loss at the RBC Heritage, he has earned \$1,812,160. In his 41 career starts before the RBC Heritage, he collected a total of \$1,356,424. Before the RBC Heritage, Kisner was ranked 107th in FedExCup standings. He began this week's Memorial Tournament ranked 18th.

Jordan Spieth

In search of a sixth top-5 finish in 12 starts, World No. 2 Jordan Spieth opened with a 4-under 68.

With eight top-10 finishes so far this season, Spieth leads in that category over defending Memorial Tournament champion Hideki Matsuyama, who has seven.

After missing the cut at THE PLAYERS Championship last month, Spieth finished T2 at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial and T30 at last week's AT&T Byron Nelson.

Spieth is making his third start at the Memorial. Following a T63 finish in 2013, he improved to T19 last year.

Phil Mickelson

Making his 15th start at the Memorial, Phil Mickelson opened with an even-par 72, his fifth-consecutive, opening-round score of par-or-higher in the event. His last score below par in the first round was a 5-under 67 in 2010.

In his 14 previous starts, Mickelson has collected three top-10 finishes; T9/2002, T4/2006 and T5/2010. In his last two starts at the Memorial Tournament, Mickelson withdrew after an opening-round, 7-over 79 in 2012 and finished T49 last year.

The par-3 16th hole has proved to be Mickelson's nemesis over the years. Although he salvaged par from the greenside bunker in round one today, he is 14-over in 48 rounds on that hole.

Tiger Woods

Tiger Woods' 1-over 73 marks just the second occasion in 15 Memorial Tournament starts to have opened with an over-par score. In 2002, he posted a 2-over 74.

With his double-bogey six at the 18th hole in round one, Tiger Woods is now 8-over on the hole in his last nine rounds. Woods also made a double bogey on the hole in round one of 2012 en route to his fifth and most recent win in the event. On his way to a third-round, 7-over 79 in 2013, Woods took a triple bogey at the home hole.

Tiger Woods is the only player to win the Memorial Tournament five times (1999, 2000, 2001, 2009 and 2012). Kenny Perry won the Memorial Tournament three times (1991, 2003, 2008) while Jack Nicklaus (1977, 1984), Tom Watson (1979, 1996), Hale Irwin (1983, 1985) and Greg Norman (1990, 1995) all won twice.

Tiger Woods holds the longest active streak of consecutive cuts made at the Memorial having made the cut in each of his 14 times playing the event.

This week's Memorial Tournament is Woods' 12th PGA TOUR start since the end of 2013.

Miscellaneous Notes

Playing on his last sponsor exemption, Patrick Rodgers opened with a 3-under 69.

Rodgers is not a member of the PGA TOUR, but can earn Special Temporary Membership for the remainder of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season. He needs to earn more than the player that finished No. 150 on the 2013-14 FedExCup points list (323/Johnson Wagner). When he surpasses that number and becomes eligible for Special Temporary Membership, he would be able to accept unlimited sponsor exemptions for the remainder of his 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season in his attempt to earn his 2015-16 TOUR card. Rodgers has 315 FedExCup points, which leaves him nine points shy of STM. With this week's Memorial Tournament being his last available event via a sponsor exemption (7), his only way to get into a PGA TOUR field the remainder of this season, unless he earns STM, is via a top-10 finish this week at the Memorial or through Monday Qualifying. He can also earn a spot in the U.S. Open via qualifying. To earn STM this week at the Memorial Tournament, Rodgers needs to finish in sole possession of 62nd (a multiple-way tie for 57th – 61st would not be a guarantee).

Interestingly, prior to last year's Zurich Classic of New Orleans, Brooks Koepka found himself in similar position. Seven points shy of earning Special Temporary Membership, Koepka shot 64 in the Monday Qualifying event to earn a spot into the New Orleans field. Needing to simply make the cut to earn the necessary points, Koepka finished at 9-under, good for T21 honors and STM.

In the 39-year history of the Memorial Tournament, only eight International players have won at Muirfield Village Golf Club, most recently Hideki Matsuyama in 2014 and Justin Rose in 2010.

Kenny Perry's victory in 2008 came at the age of 47 years, 9 months and 22 days, making him the tournament's oldest champion. Last year Hideki Matsuyama (22 years, 3 months and 7 days) supplanted Tiger Woods (1999 at 23 years, 5 months and 7 days) as the youngest champion in tournament history.

The tournament record at the Memorial Tournament is 268 (-20) by Tom Lehman in 1994, while the course record at Muirfield Village Golf Club is 61 (-11) by John Huston in 1996.

Bogey-Free rounds:

R1: Hideki Matsuyama (64), Francesco Molinari (68).

Scoring averages at the par-72 Muirfield Village Golf Club

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	34.983	36.317	71.300	

In 2014, Thursday's first round scoring average was 72.158.

The most difficult hole in round one was the par-4 18th, playing to an average of 4.325. The easiest were the par-5 seventh and par-5 15th, tied with an average of 4.650.