

2015 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
(The 36th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

The Old Course
St. Andrews, Scotland

July 16-19, 2015

FedExCup Pts: 600
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,297

First-Round Notes – Thursday, July 16, 2015

Weather: Mostly cloudy. High of 60. Winds SE 15-20 mph, gusting to 25 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Dustin Johnson	65 (-7)
Robert Streb	66 (-6)
Retief Goosen	66 (-6)
Paul Lawrie	66 (-6)
Jason Day	66 (-6)
Zach Johnson	66 (-6)
Danny Willett	66 (-6)

Dustin Johnson

Making his 26th start in a major championship, Dustin Johnson opened his second-consecutive major (U.S. Open) with a 65, equaling his best score in a major. The other 65s came in the round two of the 2014 Open Championship and round three of the 2013 PGA Championship.

Johnson becomes the first player to hold the first-round lead/co-lead at both the U.S. Open and Open Championship in the same season since Gary Player in 1974. The last to do so in back-to-back major championships was Rory McIlroy at the 2011 Masters and U.S. Open.

Johnson is making his seventh Open Championship start. After missing the cut in his inaugural start in 2009, he has finished outside the top 14 just once in his last five starts (T14-2010, T2-2011, T9-2012, T32-2013, T12-2014).

With his win earlier this year at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship, Johnson won for the eighth consecutive season (the best current streak on the PGA TOUR).

Johnson owns nine top 10s in 25 previous Major Championship starts:

2015	U.S. Open	T2	65	71	70	70	276/-4
2011	The Open Championship	T2	70	68	68	72	278/-2
2014	U.S. Open	T4	69	69	70	73	281/+1
2010	PGA Championship	T5	71	68	67	73	279/-9
2015	Masters Tournament	T6	70	67	73	69	279/-9
2013	PGA Championship	T8	72	71	65	69	277/-3
2010	U.S. Open	T8	71	70	66	82	289/+5
2012	The Open Championship	T9	73	68	68	71	280/E
2009	PGA Championship	T10	72	73	73	70	288/E

This week marks Johnson's ninth first-round lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR. He went on to win three of those events (2009 and 2010 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, 2013 Hyundai Tournament of Champions). Most recently, he finished T2 at the 2015 U.S. Open.

First-Round Leader Stats

Since 1975, just six first-round leaders of the Open Championship have gone on to win: Rory McIlroy (2014), Tiger Woods (2005), John Daly (1995), Greg Norman (1993), Seve Ballesteros (1988) and Tom Watson (1980).

Since 1892, 25 first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win The Open Championship.

The lowest opening-round score at the Open Championship is 63, set by Rory McIlroy at St. Andrews in 2010. The lowest opening round by an eventual champion at The Open is 65, set by Louis Oosthuizen in 2010.

The first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win five of 34 stroke-play events on the PGA TOUR in 2015, most recently Bubba Watson at the Travelers Championship.

Jordan Spieth

FedExCup leader Jordan Spieth opened with a 5-under 67 as he attempts to become the second player in the history of the modern game to win the first three major championships of the season. Ben Hogan won the first three in 1953 but did not play the PGA Championship as it overlapped with The Open Championship.

Only once in the last 45 years has the reigning U.S. Open champ shot -5 or better in round one of The Open Championship (Tiger Woods/5-under/2000). Spieth added his name to that list with Thursday's 67 (Elias Sports).

With opening-round 67, Spieth has now posted eight of nine rounds under par in majors this season. A third-round 1-over 71 at Chambers Bay marks the only exception.

Spieth's round included seven birdies and two bogeys. It marks his TOUR-best 13th round this season with seven or more birdies, three more than his nearest competitor on the list.

A player has won the Masters and The Open Championship in the same season eight times: Ben Hogan (1953), Arnold Palmer (1962), Jack Nicklaus (1966), Gary Player (1974), Tom Watson (1977), Nick Faldo (1990), Mark O'Meara (1998) and Tiger Woods (2005).

Six players have won the U.S. Open and The Open Championship in the same season: Bobby Jones (1926, 1930), Gene Sarazen (1932), Ben Hogan (1953), Lee Trevino (1971), Tom Watson (1982) and Tiger Woods (2000).

From 1980-89, 1997-98 and 2004 to the present, the John Deere Classic has preceded The Open Championship. The best finish by a John Deere Classic winner at The Open was Zach Johnson in 2012 (T9 at Royal Lytham & St Annes):

Year	Player	Tournament Name	Open Championship Finish
2015	Jordan Spieth	John Deere Classic	TBD
2014	Brian Harman	John Deere Classic	T26
2013	Jordan Spieth	John Deere Classic	T44
2012	Zach Johnson	John Deere Classic	T9
2011	Steve Stricker	John Deere Classic	T12
2010	Steve Stricker	John Deere Classic	T55
2009	Steve Stricker	John Deere Classic	T52
2008	Kenny Perry	John Deere Classic	DNP
2007	Jonathan Byrd	John Deere Classic	T23
2006	John Senden	John Deere Classic	T35
2005	Sean O'Hair	John Deere Classic	T15
2004	Mark Hensby	John Deere Classic	DNP
1998	Steve Jones	Quad City Classic	T57
1997	David Toms	Quad City Classic	DNP
1980-89	<i>*No winners competed in Open Championship during these years</i>		

Spieth is making his third Open Championship start (T36-2014, T44-2013).

Earlier this season, Spieth became the sixth player to win the Masters and U.S. Open in the same season, joining Tiger Woods (2002), Jack Nicklaus (1972), Arnold Palmer (1960), Ben Hogan (1951, 1953) and Craig Wood (1941). In the process, he became the youngest to win two career majors since Gene Sarazen in 1922.

Spieth became just the second player since 1940 to win four times on TOUR before the age of 22. Tiger Woods won the 1997 Masters (his fourth win) at the age of 21 years, 3 months and 14 days. Here's the list:

With five wins and eight runner-up finishes, has the most first- and second-place finishes by a TOUR player before the age of 22 since 1970: Spieth (13), Tiger Woods (7), Sergio Garcia (6), Bobby Clampett (5), Rickie Fowler (3).

Jason Day

Jason Day's 6-under 66 is his first sub-70 score in 17 rounds at The Open Championship (five starts). He finished T60 in his inaugural appearance at St. Andrews in 2010, followed by T30 in 2011, T32 in 2013 and T58 in 2014.

Day owns eight top-10 finishes in 19 previous Major Championship appearances, including three runner-up finishes.

Four Australians account for nine victories at The Open Championship: Peter Thomson (5), Greg Norman (2), Kel Nagle, Ian Baker-Finch.

Retief Goosen

Retief Goosen's 66 equals his best round in 64 major championship appearances. Two of the six rounds have come at St. Andrews (2005/R3, 2015/R1). The only other time Goosen opened with a 66 in a major championship led to victory at the 2001 U.S. Open.

Winners of the Open Championship from South Africa: Bobby Locke (1949, 1950, 1952, 1957), Gary Player (1959, 1968, 1974), Ernie Els (2002, 2012) and Louis Oosthuizen (2010).

Goosen finished T5 in 2005 and sixth in 2010, the last two Open Championships contested at St. Andrews.

Louis Oosthuizen

2010 Open Championship winner Louis Oosthuizen opened with a 5-under 67. By comparison, he opened with a 65 en route to victory in 2010.

Carrying the largest 54-hole lead (4 strokes) into the final round of an Open Championship since Tiger Woods led by six at St. Andrews in 2000, Oosthuizen carded a final-round 1-under 71 to move to 16-under 272 and a seven-stroke win over Lee Westwood at the 2010 Open Championship.

Oosthuizen owns one of 22 major championship titles held by South Africans: Gary Player (9), Bobby Locke (4), Ernie Els (4), Retief Goosen (2), Charl Schwartzel, Louis Oosthuizen, Trevor Immelman.

Winners of the Open Championship from South Africa: Bobby Locke (1949, 1950, 1952, 1957), Gary Player (1959, 1968, 1974), Ernie Els (2002, 2012) and Louis Oosthuizen (2010).

Tiger Woods

Tiger Woods, a three-time winner of the Open Championship (2000, 2005-06), opened with a 4-over 76 in his 19th start (17 professional) at The Open Championship. His previous high score as a professional at St. Andrews was 73 (second and third rounds in 2010).

Woods' Open Championship record at St. Andrews (T68-1995/amateur; Won-2010, Won-2005, T23-2010).

Woods enters the Open Championship seven years since his last major title at the 2008 U.S. Open. With 14 major titles, he trails all-time leader Jack Nicklaus' 18 by four. He owns 79 TOUR wins, second only to Sam Snead's 82.

Since turning professional, the 2014 Open Championship marked Woods' first time to finish an Open Championship outside the top 30 among his 15 made cuts (he missed the cut in 2009).

Rickie Fowler

One week after winning the Scottish Open, PLAYERS Championship winner Rickie Fowler posted an even-par 72. He is hoping to follow in the footsteps of Phil Mickelson, the last player to win the Scottish Open and Open Championship back-to-back in the same season.

Fowler is making his sixth start at the Open Championship, led by top-5 finishes in 2014 (T2) and 2011 (T5). He debuted at the Open Championship at St. Andrews in 2010, finishing T14.

Additional Player Notes

Zach Johnson never posted an under-par score in his first eight Open Championship starts. He has now added four consecutive such rounds, including Thursday's 6-under 66 (65-66-71-66).

McGladrey Classic champion Robert Streb's 66 is his ninth consecutive under-par round on TOUR. He is making his third major championship start (T42 at '15 U.S. Open, MC at '15 Masters Tournament).

Paul Lawrie, with a 6-under 66, is hoping to become the first player from Scotland to win The Open Championship since he performed the feat in 1999.

21-year-old amateur Jordan Niebrugge carded an opening-round 5-under 67 in his first Open Championship start, marking the best opening round by an amateur at The Open since Tom Lewis opened 65 in 2011. Three amateurs have won the Open Championship a total of six times: Bobby Jones (3), Harold Hilton (2), John Ball Jr.

Ernie Els posted a 1-under 71, his 50th under-par round at The Open Championship. Here's the list of players with the most such rounds: Jack Nicklaus (59), Nick Faldo (53), Ernie Els (50), Tom Watson (46).

Tom Watson opened with a 4-over 76 in his 38th Open Championship appearance. He is a five-time winner of the British Open (1975, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1983).

Lingmerth, winner of the 2015 Memorial Tournament, opened his first-ever appearance at The Open Championship with a 3-under 69. His opening nine-hole score of 29 is one shy of the overall record at The Open (Denis Durnian/1983/R2). It is the fourth 29 at St. Andrews (Tony Jacklin/1970/R1, Ian Baker-Finch/1990/R3, Paul Broadhurst/1990/R3).

Web.com Tour members Greg Chalmers and Rod Pamplung opened with rounds of 70 and 77, respectively.

Past Open Championship Winners

Paul Lawrie	66
Louis Oosthuizen	67
Stewart Cink	70
Phil Mickelson	70
John Daly	71
Ernie Els	71
Sandy Lyle	71
David Duval	72
Padraig Harrington	72
Mark O'Meara	72
Darren Clarke	73
Ben Curtis	74
Todd Hamilton	74
Tom Lehman	75
Tom Watson	76
Tiger Woods	76
Justin Leonard	78
Mark Calcavecchia	80
Nick Faldo	83

Amateur Leaderboard

Jordan Niebrugge	67
Paul Dunne	69
Romain Langasque	69
Paul Kinnear	70
Oliver Schniederjans	70
Ashley Chesters	72
Gunn Yang	73
Alister Balcombe	74
Ben Taylor	82

Champions Tour Leaderboard

Sandy Lyle	71
Mark O'Meara	72
Bernhard Langer	74
Miguel Angel Jimenez	75
Tom Lehman	75
Tom Watson	76
Mark Calcavecchia	80
Nick Faldo	83

Miscellaneous Notes

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Dustin Johnson (65), Jason Day (66), Kevin Na (67), Luke Donald (68)

The par-4 17th hole played the toughest on Thursday, yielding a 4.833 average and no birdies. The easiest was the par-5 fifth hole at 4.506.