



## 2015 THE PLAYERS Championship

(The 26<sup>th</sup> of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.  
THE PLAYERS Stadium  
TPC Sawgrass

May 7-10, 2015  
Par/Yardage: 36-36—72/7,215

FedExCup Points: 600  
Purse: \$10,000,000 (\$1,800,000)

### Second-Round Notes – Friday, May 8, 2015

*Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 80 degrees. Winds variable 7-14 mph. Evening showers brought .02 inches of rain.*

**36-hole cut:** 75 players at even-par 144 from a field of 145 professionals. This is the fifth straight year the 36-hole cut has come at even-par 144.

#### **Second-Round Leaderboard**

Kevin Na	67-69—136 (-8)
Jerry Kelly	71-65—136 (-8)
Branden Grace	71-67—138 (-6)
David Hearn	67-71—138 (-6)
Chris Kirk	70-68—138 (-6)
Rickie Fowler	69-69—138 (-6)

#### **Kevin Na**

Kevin Na has held a share of the 36-hole lead five times in his career, but this marks the first time he has had sole possession of the lead heading into the third round. The last time he held a share of the lead was at the 2012 PLAYERS, where he finished T7 after a final-round 76. He also led through 54 holes at THE PLAYERS Championship in 2012.

Of the five previous times Na has led through 54 holes, he has one win at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in 2011, his only career win.

In eight previous appearances at THE PLAYERS Championship, Na has two top 10s, with his best finish coming in 2009 when he tied for third. He carded his tournament-low round (66) during the second round that year.

Na was born in South Korea but moved to the United States when he was eight and is a U.S. citizen. If eligible, he would play on the Presidents Cup U.S. Team, which will be contested in South Korea later this year. The team will include the top 10 U.S. players who earn the most official FedExCup points beginning with the 2013 BMW Championship through the 2015 Deutsche Bank Championship, with points earned in 2015 doubled. Therefore, Na would earn 1,200 points with a victory at THE PLAYERS Championship, likely moving into the top 10 of the U.S. team standings.

Americans have only won THE PLAYERS Championship three times in the last 10 years: Tiger Woods (2013), Matt Kuchar (2012) and Fred Funk (2005).

In addition to a T2 finish at the CIMB Classic and a T12 finish at the Masters Tournament, Na found success during the Florida Swing: Did not play/The Honda Classic, T9/WGC-Cadillac Championship, T10/Valspar Championship, T6/Arnold Palmer Invitational.

#### **Kevin Na 36-hole statistics:**

Driving Distance: 269.6  
Driving Accuracy: 18 of 28 (64.3 percent)  
Greens in Regulation: 28 of 36 (78 percent)  
Putts: 26  
Strokes Gained Putting: 2.275

#### **Jerry Kelly**

Jerry Kelly posted a 7-under 65 for the best round of the day.

At the age of 48 years, 5 months and 17 days, Kelly looks to become the second oldest PLAYERS champion. Fred Funk was 48 years, 9 months and 14 days when he won in 2005.

Kelly is making his 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive start at THE PLAYERS Championship, the most active consecutive starts in tournament history. He missed the cut in 2014 and recorded his best showing in 2001 when he finished fourth.

In 573 PGA TOUR starts, Kelly has three career TOUR wins, with his last coming in 2009 at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans at TPC Louisiana, also a Pete Dye design.

His best performances in the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season: 5/OHL Classic at Mayakoba and T6/Sony Open in Hawaii.

Kelly has led/co-led after 36-holes four times in his career, with the last time coming at the 2009 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. He has twice held a 36-hole lead/co-lead at THE PLAYERS. In 2001, he held sole possession after two rounds and in 2004, he had a share of the lead going into the third round.

#### **Jerry Kelly 36-hole statistics:**

Driving Distance: 272.5

Driving Accuracy: 19 of 28 (68 percent)

Greens in Regulation: 27 of 36 (75 percent)

Putts: 54

Strokes Gained Putting: 2.248

#### **Second-Round Statistics**

The second-round leader or co-leader has gone on to win THE PLAYERS Championship 11 times since the tournament began in 1974, most recently Martin Kaymer in 2014.

The second-round leader/co-leader has won five of 24 times this season, most recently Jordan Spieth at the Masters.

The largest 36-hole lead of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season is five strokes by Jordan Spieth at The Masters. Sixteen of 42 stroke play events of the season have been decided by one stroke or playoff.

#### **Branden Grace**

Grace of South Africa is making his second appearance at THE PLAYERS after a T48 finish in 2013.

International players have won eight of the last 13 PLAYERS Championships. A total of 13 international players have won THE PLAYERS Championship in the 40-year history of the event, with Tim Clark being the lone South African to win (2010).

Making his 37<sup>th</sup> career start on the PGA TOUR, Grace is in search of his first win. Adam Scott holds the record at 41 for fewest PGA TOUR starts by an eventual PLAYERS champion.

Grace recorded his two career top 10s on the PGA TOUR in his last two starts: T7/RBC Heritage, T9/World Golf Championships-Cadillac Match Play Championship.

Grace 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). Once he passes that number, he will be eligible for unlimited sponsor exemptions for the remainder of the 2014-15 season in an attempt to earn his 2015-16 TOUR card.

Grace currently has 220 Non-Member FedExCup points and will earn enough points for STM if he finishes in a tie for fifth or better.

Grace is No. 40 in the Official World Golf Ranking. He has won two times this season on the European Tour, at the Alfred Dunhill Championship in December and the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters, totaling six career wins on the European Tour.

Grace is currently ranked No. 7 in Presidents Cup International Team standings.

#### **David Hearn**

David Hearn is searching for his first PGA TOUR win. The only players that have captured their first win at THE PLAYERS Championship were Craig Perks (2002) and Tim Clark (2010).

Hearn has three made cuts in three previous PLAYERS starts, including a T6 finish last year.

In the 2014-15 season, Hearn has posted two top-10 finishes (T7/Shriners Hospitals, T6/Zurich Classic).

Hearn played six full seasons on the Web.com Tour, with a victory at the 2004 Alberta Classic.

Hearn has two top-10 finishes in 16 starts this season, including a T6 in his last outing at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans. He is 77th in the FedExCup standings.

### **Chris Kirk**

Chris Kirk celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday by shooting a bogey-free, 4-under 68 and tied for third. Kirk's four birdies came at holes 9, 11, 16 and 17.

In four previous PLAYERS appearances, Kirk has made three cuts and recorded one top-25 finish (T13/2014).

Kirk has three career PGA TOUR wins: 2014 McGladrey Classic and Deutsche Bank Championship, and the 2011 Sanderson Farms Championship.

Kirk's two top-10 finishes of the 2014-15 season came at The McGladrey Classic (T4) and the Valero Texas Open (T8).

### **Rickie Fowler**

Making his sixth start at THE PLAYERS, Fowler has finished T2 (2012), T77 (2014), and missed three cuts.

Fowler birdied No. 17 in both the first and second rounds. Only one player, Paul Azinger in 1987, has birdied No. 17 at TPC Sawgrass all four rounds of a single tournament.

Through 10 events of the 2014-15 season, Fowler's best finish came at the WGC-HSBC Champions (T3). He added his second top-10 finish of the season at last week's WGC-Cadillac Match Play Championship (T9).

Fowler still sits at one PGA TOUR victory (Wells Fargo Championship, 2012), but owns a top-10 finish in each of the four majors and World Golf Championships events.

### **Additional Player Notes**

In 17 starts at THE PLAYERS, 2001 and 2013 champion Tiger Woods carded rounds of 71-71 to make his 17<sup>th</sup> cut. Tom Kite holds the record for most cuts made at 23. Woods (E) is eight shots off the lead.

With rounds of 75-72, Jordan Spieth missed his first cut since the 2015 Farmers Insurance Open. Spieth is the first Masters champion to miss THE PLAYERS cut since Mike Weir in 2004.

Robert Streb eagled No. 18 with a 6-iron from 179 yards, marking the fifth eagle on No. 18 in tournament history.

Eagles on 18:

2015	Robert Streb	Second Round
2013	Jason Dufner	First Round
2013	Marc Leishman	Second Round
2002	Carlos Franco	Third Round
1998	Glen Day	First Round

After posting a 41 on the back nine in the opening round, Brooks Koepka carded a 31 on the back nine in round two. With eagles on Nos. 11 and 16, Koepka became the 23<sup>rd</sup> player in tournament history since 1982 to record two eagles in one round, and the first since Henrik Stenson in 2013 (No. 2 and No. 9, second round).

Jason Day posted a second-round 81, marking just the third time in his PGA TOUR career he has recorded a round in the 80s. He recorded an 82 in the second round of the 2008 Memorial and an 81 in the second round of the 2012 PGA Championship at the Ocean Course on Kiawah Island.

### **First-Timer Leaderboard and Notes**

Ben Martin	T7
Brendon Todd	T13
Robert Streb	T46
Ryo Ishikawa	T13
Andrew Svoboda	MC
Nick Taylor	T38
Danny Lee	MC
Kevin Kisner	T13
Justin Thomas	T46
Shane Lowry	MC
Billy Hurley III	MC
Adam Hadwin	MC
Anirban Lahiri	MC
Brice Garnett	MC
Brooks Koepka	MC
Derek Fathauer	T13
Danny Willett	MC

Daniel Berger MC  
 Bernd Wiesberger MC

Other than Jack Nicklaus, who won THE PLAYERS in its inaugural year in 1974, only Hal Sutton (1983) and Craig Perks (2002) have won the event in their first appearance.

**Miscellaneous Notes**

Of nine former champions in the field, six made the cut: Sergio Garcia (T27), Henrik Stenson (T27), K.J. Choi (T61), Adam Scott (T27), Martin Kaymer (T27) and Tiger Woods (T61).

Of four rookies in the field, only Nick Taylor (T38) and Justin Thomas (T46) made the cut. Best finishes by a PGA TOUR rookie at THE PLAYERS: David Lingmerth (T2 in 2013), Fulton Allem (T3 in 1988), Camilo Villegas (T3 in 2006) and Jeff Quinney (T6 in 2007).

Since moving to THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass in 1982, 19 of the 33 winners played the week before with the other 14 (most recently Tiger Woods in 2013, Matt Kuchar in 2012, K.J. Choi in 2011 and Tim Clark in 2010) taking the week off prior to the event. So far this season, 10 winners did not play the week prior to their win.

Playing on an exemption earned for winning the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, Bernhard Langer carded rounds of 73-73 to miss the cut in his 24<sup>th</sup> PLAYERS start. Mark O'Meara holds the best finish by a player who earned a spot via the Champions Tour victory, finishing 74<sup>th</sup> in 2011.

**Second-round withdrawals**

- Paul Casey withdrew due to illness. This was Casey's ninth appearance at THE PLAYERS Championship. He withdrew in his last start at TPC Sawgrass in 2012 (first round due to a shoulder injury).
- Angel Cabrera withdrew due to a back injury. This was his 13<sup>th</sup> PLAYERS start.
- Carl Pettersson withdrew during the second round due to a right knee injury. This was his 11<sup>th</sup> PLAYERS start.

**Bogey-free rounds**

**R1** – Brendon Todd (68) and Charles Howell III (68) posted the only bogey-free rounds of the day.

**R2** – Bill Haas (67), Brian Harman (69), Zach Johnson (68) Chris Kirk (68), George McNeill (70) and Ian Poulter (69).

There were 16 balls in the water at the par-3 17<sup>th</sup> hole Friday. Here's a list of balls in the water on the famed hole since 2003:

Year	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Cumulative
2015	21	16			
2014	12	12	1	3	28
2013	15	9	7	13	44
2012	18	11	4	6	39
2011	12	14	8	6 (in regulation)	40
2010	7	8	5	9	29
2009	16	6	4	6	32
2008	20	18	10	16 (in regulation)	64
2007	50	21	10	12	93
2006	19	17	12	9	57
2005	7	8	25	28	68
2004	9	10	4	7	30
2003	6	10	3	10	29

Scoring Averages at the par-72 TPC Sawgrass:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
Thursday	36.070	36.315	72.385	---
Friday	36.26	35.592	71.217	71.54

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