



2015 THE PLAYERS Championship
(The 26th 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)

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, May 9, 2015

Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 83 degrees. Winds variable 7-14 mph.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Chris Kirk	70-68-68 – 206 (-10)
Kevin Kisner	73-67-67 – 207 (-9)
Ben Martin	68-71-68 – 207 (-9)
Bill Haas	72-67-68 – 207 (-9)

There are 15 players within three shots of Chris Kirk's 206 total, and 29 within five shots. The largest comeback in tournament history after 54 holes was six by Raymond Floyd in 1981 at Sawgrass CC. At TPC Sawgrass, the largest comeback is five shared by Justin Leonard in 1998 and Henrik Stenson (2009).

Chris Kirk (1)

Chris Kirk's 1-stroke lead at THE PLAYERS marks the fourth time in his career he has held at least a share of the 54-hole lead on the PGA TOUR. He has won twice previously in those instances, at the 2011 Sanderson Farms Championship and at the 2014 McGladrey Classic.

18 of 41 winners at THE PLAYERS have held the third-round lead in order to go on to win.

With a victory this week, Kirk is projected to move to eighth in the FedExCup standings. He played in the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola last year for the first time and finished second in the final standings.

Kirk has just four bogeys and has just two bogeys over his last 49 holes.

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:

2011 Sanderson Farms Championship
2014 McGladrey Classic
2014 Deutsche Bank Championship.

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

Kirk celebrated his 30th birthday yesterday by shooting a bogey-free round.

Kevin Kisner (T2)

Kevin Kisner, making his first start in THE PLAYERS, shot a second-straight 5-under-par 67 after opening with a 1-over 73 and is T2 entering the final round. Aside from the inaugural event, only Hal Sutton (1983) and Craig Perks (2002) have won THE PLAYERS in their first start.

Kisner finished T2 at the RBC Heritage losing in a playoff to Jim Furyk. That runner-up finish was the best of Kisner's PGA TOUR career.

Kisner and leader Chris Kirk were teammates on the Georgia golf team and they are good friends off the course.

Ben Martin (T2)

First-timer Ben Martin shot a 68 and is T2 entering the final round.

Martin won his first PGA TOUR event this season at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open last fall, where he held the lead through 54 holes.

In the 2014-15 season, Ben Martin has two top 10s, including the win and a fifth-place finish at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

In 2012, Martin finished third at what is now the Web.com Tour Championship played at Dye's Valley Course at TPC Sawgrass, when it was the penultimate event on the Web.com Tour.

Bill Haas (T2)

Making his ninth career PLAYERS start this week, Bill Haas made just four cuts in his previous eight starts at TPC Sawgrass with a T25 in 2012 being his lone top 25.

Haas' streak of bogey-free holes ended at 31 with his lone bogey of the day on No. 14 on Saturday. He has just four bogeys in 54 holes.

Haas' father Jay made 29 starts at THE PLAYERS between 1977 and 2010 and his best finish was a T2 in 2003.

Haas ranks 11th in the U.S Presidents Cup standings and 18th in the FedExCup standings thanks in large part to his sixth career PGA TOUR win at the Humana Challenge.

Jerry Kelly (T5)

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 20th 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.

Justin Thomas (T5)

PGA TOUR Rookie Justin Thomas, the last player to make the field (when Victor Dubuisson withdrew on Friday before the tournament), posted 10 birdies on Saturday, the most in this history of THE PLAYERS. A total of 19 players have recorded nine birdies in a round previously, including Jhonattan Vegas in the third round (shot 66). The most in the 2014-15 season are from Jason Day and Chris Kirk - both had 11 birdies in the final round at the 2015 Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

In the 2014-15 season, Thomas has posted four top-10s (Sanderson Farms/T4, Sony Open in Hawaii/T6, Humana Challenge/T7, Valspar Championship/T10).

If he were to win THE PLAYERS, Thomas would be the youngest winner in PLAYERS history at only 22 years and 11 days. Adam Scott won the 2004 PLAYERS at 23 years, 8 months, 12 days.

Thomas leads the field with 18 birdies on the week through 54 holes.

Kevin Na (T5)

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 with three top-10 finishes: T9/WGC-Cadillac Championship, T10/Valspar Championship, T6/Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Rory McIlroy (T6)

Rory McIlroy's biggest comeback after 54 holes to date on the PGA TOUR was four at the 2010 Wells Fargo Championship, where he carded a final-round 62 after starting the day T7. McIlroy sits four strokes behind Kirk entering the final round.

Tiger Woods (T68)

Double-bogeys on two par 5s (Nos. 2 and 9) in Saturday's third round marked the first time Tiger Woods had posted two doubles on par-5 holes in a single round in his career.

Tiger Woods has two rounds with two double-bogeys (Rounds 1 and 3) this week, the 31st and 32nd rounds in his career with multiple double-bogeys.

First-Timer Leaderboard and Notes

Ben Martin	T2
Brendon Todd	T55
Robert Streb	T55
Ryo Ishikawa	T11
Andrew Svoboda	MC
Nick Taylor	T46
Danny Lee	MC
Kevin Kisner	T2
Justin Thomas	T5
Shane Lowry	MC
Billy Hurley III	MC
Adam Hadwin	MC
Anirban Lahiri	MC
Brice Garnett	MC
Brooks Koepka	MC
Derek Fathauer	T11
Danny Willett	MC
Daniel Berger	MC
Bernd Wiesberger	MC

Additional Player Notes

After 44 consecutive rounds at TPC Sawgrass without hitting a tee shot in the water hazard on No. 17, Robert Allenby hit two in the water during Saturday's third round, including one from the drop zone. The last time Allenby hit his tee shot in the water on No. 17 was Round 2 in 2001.

Three players in the top 10 through 54 holes are making their first career PLAYERS Championship start this week: Kevin Kisner (T2), Ben Martin (T2) and Justin Thomas (T5). Only three players have won THE PLAYERS in their first attempt: Jack Nicklaus (1974) in the inaugural PLAYERS; Hal Sutton (1983); and Craig Perks (2002).

Chesson Hadley (T11) has a win at TPC Sawgrass on his resume, having won the Web.com Tour Championship in 2012 on Dye's Valley.

Through 54 holes, four players inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking are among the top 10 at THE PLAYERS: Chris Kirk (T1/No. 26); Kevin Na (T1/No. 22); Bill Haas (T3/No. 25); and Sergio Garcia (T6/No. 10). So far in the 2015 calendar year, 13 of the 18 winners were in the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking at the time of their respective victories: Patrick Reed (23), Jimmy Walker (17th at Sony Open in Hawaii, 13th at Valero Texas Open), Bill Haas (41), Brooks Koepka (33), Jason Day (8), Dustin Johnson (16), Jordan Spieth (10th at the Valspar Championship and 4th at the Masters), J.B Holmes (20), Jim Furyk (10), Justin Rose (9) and Rory McIlroy (1).

Derek Fathauer finished his round with scores of 3-3-3 on Nos. 16-18. His eagle putt on No. 16 came from 1 foot, 6 inches while his birdie on the 18th hole came from 12 feet, 5 inches.

Bogey-free rounds

R1 – Brendon Todd (68) and Charles Howell III (68).

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

R3 – None

There were three balls in the water at the par-3 17th 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	3		40
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
Saturday	35.52	35.67	71.467	71.19

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