



2015 Travelers Championship
(The 33rd of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Cromwell, Conn.
TPC River Highlands

June 22-28, 2015
Par/Yardage: 35-35—70/6,841

FedExCup Points: 500 to the winner
Purse: \$6,400,000 (\$1,152,000)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, June 25, 2015

Weather: Sunny, with an afternoon high of 83 degrees. Winds SW 6-12 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Bubba Watson	62 (-8)
Seung-Yul Noh	64 (-6)
Keegan Bradley	64 (-6)
Brian Stuard	64 (-6)
Harris English	64 (-6)
Jason Gore	64 (-6)

Bubba Watson

In search of his second Travelers Championship title (2010) and second win of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season (World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions), Bubba Watson made birdies on four of his last five holes, good for a career-low-tying 62. At 8-under, he takes a two-stroke lead into Friday's second round.

Watson's 62 today supplants his previous-low score of 63 in the event (R1/2013). The 62 is two strokes shy of the event's lowest 18-hole score at TPC River Highlands, posted by Patrick Cantlay in round two of 2011.

After the first round in 2010, Watson was one stroke off the lead at 5-under-par (65).

Watson is making his ninth start in the Travelers Championship, and eighth consecutive. In addition to his 2010 win at TPC River Highlands, Watson has finished inside the top ten in 2008 (T6), 2012 (T2) and 2013 (T4). His only missed cut came in his first start of 2006.

Watson is seeking his eighth career win on the PGA TOUR in his 223rd start on TOUR.

In addition to his win in Shanghai early in the season, additional top-five finishes have come at the Waste Management Phoenix Open (T2) and WGC-Cadillac Championship (3rd).

Watson has previously held an 18-hole lead/co-lead four times, with the only one resulting in victory being the 2011 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. The last time he was at the top of the leaderboard after 18 holes was at last year's Waste Management Phoenix Open (finished T2).

First-Round Leader Stats

Dating to 2000, the first-round leader/co-leader at the Travelers Championship has gone on to win four times (Kenny Perry – 2009, Hunter Mahan – 2007, Peter Jacobsen – 2003 and Notah Begay III – 2000).

Only two players have won the tournament in wire-to-wire fashion – Gene Littler in 1959 and Tim Morris in 1982. A total of 10 players have won the tournament after holding at least a share of the lead after each round.

Through 31 stroke-play events on the PGA TOUR this season, only four first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win. Most recently, Steven Bowditch achieved the feat at the AT&T Byron Nelson.

Harris English

Georgia native Harris English birdied five of his last seven holes, easily off-setting early bogeys at Nos. 2 and 5.

English hit eight of 14 fairways in regulation and 11 of 18 greens. He needed just 22 putts to complete his round.

English is making his fourth consecutive start in the Travelers Championship, with last year's T7 being his lone top-10 finish.

English is in search of his third career PGA TOUR win, having previously won the 2013 FedEx St. Jude Classic and 2014 OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

English is making his 20th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, with a playoff loss at the Farmers Insurance Open being his closest brush with victory.

Keegan Bradley

New England's Keegan Bradley made seven birdies and one bogey en route to a 6-under 64 in Thursday's first round. In four previous starts in the event (2011-2014), today's 64 is his lowest score by a stroke (R2/2011, 2013).

Having never missed a cut in the event, his best finish is T18 in 2013.

Bradley, a three-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is in search of his first TOUR win since the 2012 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational.

Having missed just two cuts in 16 starts this season, Bradley is angling for his fourth top-10 finish of the season (T4/Northern Trust Open, T5/Shell Houston Open, T8/the Memorial).

Bradley is coming off a T27 finish at last week's U.S. Open.

Seung-Yul Noh

Seung-Yul Noh birdied his first four holes in round one en route to a 6-under 64, his lowest score since posting a 9-under 62 in round one of the 2012 Deutsche Bank Championship.

Noh's game has been a bit of a rollercoaster of late. In his last start before this week, the South Korean finished T3 at the FedEx St. Jude Classic. In his four starts before Memphis, he endured three missed cuts and a withdrawal from the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, where he was in defense of his title.

Noh has made the cut in exactly half of his 16 starts on the PGA TOUR this season, with his Memphis finish being his only top 10 of the season.

Brian Stuard

Making his fourth start in the Travelers Championship, Brian Stuard hasn't experienced a lot of success at TPC River Highlands. He missed the cut in 2013 and 2014, after a T47 finish in 2010.

His 64 in round one is his lowest in event history (nine rounds) by three strokes. It's his lowest score on the PGA TOUR since posting a 62 in the third round of the 2013 CareerBuilder Challenge in pare.

Stuard is making his 24th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season. His lone top 10 came at the Waste Management Phoenix Open where he finished T10.

Stuard, who joined the PGA TOUR in 2010, remains in search of his first career TOUR win in his 106th start. His closest call came in the form of solo-second at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba during the 2013-14 season.

Stuard made a return to the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of his 51st-place finish on the 2013-14 FedExCup points list.

Jason Gore

Jason Gore is making his 17th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season. His best finish is T12 at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

This is Gore's eighth start at the Travelers Championship where he is yet to post a top-25 finish. His previous low round at TPC River Highlands was a 65 in the second round of the 2005 event.

In 238 career starts on the PGA TOUR, Gore has one victory at the 2005 84 Lumber Classic.

Patrick Rodgers

Patrick Rodgers, who made his professional debut at the 2014 Travelers Championship (T45), opened with a 2-under 68 in his third start in the event.

Rodgers is playing on Special Temporary Membership, allowing him to accept unlimited sponsor exemptions for the remainder of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season in his attempt to earn his 2015-16 TOUR card. Rodgers also sits at No. nine on the current Web.com Tour money list after a win earlier this season at the Colombia Championship Presented by Claro.

Miscellaneous Stats

Now in its second year, The Open Qualifying Series (OQS) is an international qualifying series involving events on the world's leading golf tours for The Open Championship, which takes place at St. Andrews in July. The OQS offers players the opportunity to qualify for golf's oldest major championship at events on the PGA TOUR, the European Tour, the PGA Tour of Australasia and the Japan Golf Tour. Players on the PGA TOUR have the chance to qualify at three events: Travelers Championship, The Greenbrier Classic and John Deere Classic. The top four players, not previously eligible, that finish among the top 12 (and ties) at the Travelers Championship and The Greenbrier Classic will earn entry into The Open Championship. The top player among the top five (and ties) at the John Deere Classic will also qualify. If there are ties for the final spot(s), qualifiers are determined by Official World Golf Ranking.

Apart from the OQS, the first five PGA TOUR members and any PGA TOUR members tying for fifth place, not exempt in the top 20 of the PGA TOUR FedExCup Points List for 2015 upon completion of the Travelers Championship earn a berth into The Open Championship.

During today's first round of the Travelers Championship, Andres Romero aced the 16th hole with a 7-iron from 174 yards. As the Official Mortgage Sponsor of the PGA TOUR, Quicken Loans will award one year's worth of mortgage payments to Carey F. from Boiling Springs, Penn. to commemorate the ace. The Quicken Loans' Hole-In-One Sweepstakes awards one year's worth of mortgage payments to a randomly selected entrant for every ace during official PGA TOUR events from the Waste Management Phoenix Open through the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola. Fans can enter the sweepstakes by visiting www.pgatour.com/quickenloans. Participants in the 2014 Sweepstakes must re-register to be eligible in 2015.

Romero's hole-in-one on No. 16 was the 26th ace in the history of the event since the tournament moved to TPC River Highlands in 1991. It marked the seventh ace on No. 16 and first since Rory Sabbatini during the final round in 2012.

With its commitment to bring top young players to Connecticut each year, top players like Webb Simpson, Rickie Fowler, Ryo Ishikawa, Kyle Stanley, Morgan Hoffmann, Patrick Cantlay, Patrick Rodgers and more have been granted exemptions by the tournament and made their professional debut in Hartford. This year, University of Georgia's Lee McCoy (74) and Arizona State University's Jon Rahm (68) are playing as sponsor exemptions.

Lee McCoy (74) made his U.S. Open debut last week. The UGA junior won four events this season, and helped lead the Bulldogs to the semifinals of the NCAA Championship.

Jon Rahm (68), a junior at ASU, made his PGA TOUR start earlier this season at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, where he became the first amateur to finish in the top five of a PGA TOUR event since Chris Wood finished fifth at the 2008 Open Championship.

Providence native Brad Adamonis opened with a 2-over 72. Adamonis, who was a member of the PGA TOUR in 2008 and 2009, earned a spot into this week's field via the Monday qualifying tournament.

Two-time Travelers Championship winner Stewart Cink (1997, 2008) had his 16-year-old son Reagan caddying today. The younger Cink previously carried his dad's bag at last year's RBC Canadian Open. Cink opened with a 1-under 69.

Six of the last nine winners of the Travelers Championship have been first-time TOUR champions: J.J. Henry (2006), Hunter Mahan (2007), Bubba Watson (2010), Fredrik Jacobson (2011), Marc Leishman (2012) and Ken Duke (2013).

A total of 17 players have picked up their first TOUR win at the Travelers Championship: Ken Duke (2013), Marc Leishman (2012), Freddie Jacobson (2011), Bubba Watson (2010), Hunter Mahan (2007), J.J. Henry (2006), Brent Geiberger (1999), Olin Browne (1998), Stewart Cink (1997), Billy Ray Brown (1991), Mark Brooks (1988), Mac O'Grady (1986), Phil Blackmar (1985), Tim Norris (1982), Don Bies (1975), Charles Sifford (1967) and Bob Toski (1953).

Five of the past 11 outcomes at TPC River Highlands have been decided through a playoff (2013/Ken Duke, 2010/Bubba Watson, 2007/Hunter Mahan, 2005/Brad Faxon and 2004/Woody Austin).

Patrick Cantlay's 60 in the second round in 2011 as an amateur set the TPC River Highlands course record and equaled the Travelers Championship low 18-hole score (Tommy Bolt, 1954, Wethersfield CC). Prior to Cantlay's 60 in

2011, the course record at TPC River Highlands was 61, shared by Kirk Triplett (R3, 2000), Phil Mickelson (R3, 2001), Scott Verplank (R4, 2001), Brad Faxon (R4, 2005) and Kenny Perry (R1, 2009).

Seven players who finished inside the top 15 at the U.S. Open are competing in this week's Travelers Championship: Louis Oosthuizen, T2 (71), Branden Grace, T4 (67), Cameron Smith, T4 (69), Brandt Snedeker, 8th (68), Tiny Finau, T14 (68), Patrick Reed, T14 (67) and Andres Romero, T14 (69).

Seven past champions of the Travelers Championship are in the field: Kevin Streelman, 2014 (69), Ken Duke, 2013 (69), Marc Leishman, 2012 (70), Bubba Watson, 2010 (62), Stewart Cink, 1997, 2008 (69), Hunter Mahan, 2007 (72) and J.J. Henry, 2006 (68).

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Brian Stuard (64), Tom Gillis (65), Jason Gore (65), Jhonattan Vegas (66), Jim Herman (67), David Lingmerth (68), Mark Hubbard (68), Gonzalo Fdez-Castano (68), Chad Campbell (68) and J.J. Henry (68).

Scoring Averages at the par-70 TPC River Highlands:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	34.782	34.301	69.083	---

The par-3 fifth hole played the toughest during the first round, yielding a 3.179 average. The par-4 fifteenth was the easiest with a 3.692 average.

Morning scoring average: 68.60

Afternoon scoring average: 69.56

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