



**2015 Travelers Championship** (*The 33<sup>rd</sup> 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)

# Second-Round Notes – Friday, June 26, 2015

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

Cut: 71 professionals and 1 amateur made the cut at 2-under 138 from a field of 154 professionals and two amateurs.

#### Second-Round Leaderboard

| Bubba Watson    | 62-67—129 (-11) |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Brian Harman    | 66-65—131 (-9)  |
| Brian Stuard    | 64-67—131 (-9)  |
| Carl Pettersson | 65-66—131 (-9)  |

The final pairing on Saturday will feature a pair of former Georgia Bulldogs and lefthanders in Bubba Watson and Brian Harman. The last Bulldog to win on TOUR was Chris Kirk at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial.

#### **Bubba Watson**

Bubba Watson followed a first-round 62 with a bogey-free, 3-under 67 on Friday to lead by two heading into the weekend.

Watson collected his first career PGA TOUR victory at the 2010 Travelers Championship, where he was seven shots off the lead after 36-holes. He previously held the 36-hole lead here in 2013 after rounds of 63-67, but went on to finish fourth.

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 10 in 2008 (T6), 2012 (T2) and 2013 (T4). His only missed cut came in his first start of 2006.

Watson now has 149 total birdies at TPC River Highlands, which is just shy of his record for most total birdies in an event – 154 in nine starts at the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Watson looks to become the seventh multiple winner of the Travelers Championship: Stewart Cink (2008, 1997), Peter Jacobsen (2003, 1984), Phil Mickelson (2001-02), Paul Azinger (1989, 1987), Billy Casper (1973, 1968, 1965, 1963), Arnold Palmer (1960, 1956).

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

In seven victories, the only time Watson has ever led or shared the lead each day en route to a win was at the 2011 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

In addition to his win at the WGC-HSBC Champions earlier in the season, additional top-five finishes have come at the Waste Management Phoenix Open (T2) and WGC-Cadillac Championship (3<sup>rd</sup>).

Watson has previously held a 36-hole lead/co-lead nine times, with two resulting in victory: 2011 Zurich Classic of New Orleans and 2014 Masters Tournament. The last time Watson led after two rounds was at last year's Masters.

Watson, who won earlier this year at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, looks to become the fourth multiple winner this season: Jordan Spieth (Valspar Championship, Masters Tournament, U.S. Open), Rory McIlroy (World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play, Wells Fargo Championship) and Jimmy Walker (Sony Open in Hawaii, Valero Texas Open).

## Second-Round Leader Stats

Dating to 2000, the second-round leader/co-leader at the Travelers Championship has gone on to win five times: Freddie Jacobson (2011), Kenny Perry (2009), Stewart Cink (2008), Peter Jacobsen (2003) and Notah Begay III (2000).

The best opening 36-hole score at the Travelers Championship is 14-under 126, set by Justin Rose in 2010 (finished T9).

The largest 36-hole lead is five shots by Tommy Bolt (1954) and Gene Littler (1959). Since 2000, on two occasions a leader has held a four-shot lead heading into the third round, both times by Justin Rose (2010 and 2005).

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, eight second-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win. Most recently, Jordan Spieth achieved this feat at the U.S. Open.

## Brian Harman (T2)

Brian Harman followed an opening 66 with a 65 to get to 9-under. Through 36 holes, Harman has hit 25 of 28 fairways and hit 30 of 36 greens in regulation.

Harman is making his 21<sup>st</sup> start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season where he has five top-25 showings, including a T8 finish at THE PLAYERS Championship and a T10 at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial.

Harman has made the cut in all four previous starts at the Travelers Championship (2004, 2012-2014), with a T24 finish in 2012 his best showing at TPC River Highlands.

Playing in his 116<sup>th</sup> career PGA TOUR event, Harman is in search of his second victory. His first win came at the 2014 John Deere Classic.

#### Brian Stuard (T2)

Making his fourth start in the Travelers Championship, Brian Stuard missed the cut in 2013 and 2014, and finished T47 in 2010. In today's second round, he played holes 10-16 in 5-under par.

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

Stuard looks to become the 18<sup>th</sup> player to make the Travelers Championship his first TOUR title. 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).

Stuard's 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.

Stuard improved his driving accuracy in round two, hitting 11 of 14 fairways on Friday, compared with just seven of 14 on Thursday.

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

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

## Carl Pettersson (T2)

Carl Pettersson birdied four of his last six holes to post a 4-under 66, following an opening 5-under 65.

Pettersson is making his ninth start at the Travelers Championship where he owns three top 25s highlighted by a T7 finish in 2014.

A five-time PGA TOUR winner, Pettersson last won in 2012 at the RBC Heritage. His closest brush with victory since then was in 2014 when he finished T3 at the FedEx St. Jude Classic. In 23 starts this season, Pettersson has yet to finish in the top 10 and has just one top 25 at The McGladrey Classic (T17).

## **Open Qualifying Series**

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.

There are 23 players in the Travelers Championship field who are already exempt for the 144<sup>th</sup> Open at St Andrews:

Jonas Blixt Keegan Bradley Paul Casey Greg Chalmers Stewart Cink Ben Curtis Ernie Els Matt Every Sergio Garcia Branden Grace Padraig Harrington Morgan Hoffmann Billy Horschel Zach Johnson Marc Leishman Hunter Mahan Kevin Na Louis Oosthuizen Patrick Reed Brandt Snedeker Brendon Todd Bubba Watson Gary Woodland

## Miscellaneous Stats

Defending champion Kevin Streelman (69-70-139) failed to make the cut, marking the first time since Stewart Cink in 2009 the defending champion missed the cut in the year following his win. This marks the sixth time this season a defending champion has missed the cut and second consecutive week, following Martin Kaymer's missed cut at the U.S. Open. Only three players have successfully defended their titles in the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season: Ryan Moore (CIMB Classic), Jimmy Walker (Sony Open in Hawaii), and Matt Every (Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard).

New England's Keegan Bradley followed an opening 6-under 64 with a 1-under 69 to finish the second round in T8. In his fifth appearance, Bradley continued his streak of making all cuts. He will head into the weekend only four shots off the lead.

Chris Stroud is making his ninth-consecutive start at the Travelers Championship where he has three top 25s, including a runner-up finish in 2013. In 31 total rounds at TPC River Highlands (he withdrew after the first round in 2007), he has 25 rounds in the 60s.

Nick Watney recorded the low round of the day (6-under 64) to move into a tie for eighth after opening with a 1-under 69. The five-time PGA TOUR winner posted a season-best runner-up finish at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. In six appearances at the Travelers Championship, he has two top 10s in addition to two top 15s and two missed cuts. His 64 bested his previous low score at TPC River Highlands, 65 (2014/R3, 2011/R1/R2).

After going out in 38, which included a double bogey on the first hole and bogeys on Nos. 8 and 9, Scott Brown (T5) fired six consecutive birdies on holes 11-16 to turn in a 29 on the back nine. Just three weeks ago, Brown was in contention at the FedEx St. Jude Classic, only one shot off the lead in a tie for third heading into the final round. He went on to finish T12, his fifth top 25 of the season.

Patrick Rodgers, who made his professional debut at the 2014 Travelers Championship (T59), posted an even-par 70 in the second round to just make the cut in his third start at 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. 9 on the current Web.com Tour money list after a win earlier this season at the Colombia Championship Presented by Claro.

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. Jon Rahm, one of two amateurs given a sponsor exemption this year, posted rounds of 68-69 (T48) to make the cut. Rahm, a junior at ASU, made his first 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.

Despite a bogey-free 4-under 66 in the second round, University of Georgia's Lee McCoy missed the cut, following a missed cut at the U.S. Open, his first PGA TOUR start.

Providence native Brad Adamonis failed to make the cut after rounds of 72-74—146 (+6). 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.

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 (MC), Branden Grace, T4 (MC), Cameron Smith, T4 (T59), Brandt Snedeker, 8<sup>th</sup> (T34), Tony Finau, T14 (T48), Patrick Reed, T14 (MC) and Andres Romero, T14 (MC).

Seven past champions of the Travelers Championship are in the field: Kevin Streelman, 2014 (MC), Ken Duke, 2013 (T48), Marc Leishman, 2012 (T48), Bubba Watson, 2010 (1<sup>st</sup>), Stewart Cink, 1997, 2008 (MC), Hunter Mahan, 2007 (MC) and J.J. Henry, 2006 (T20).

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).

R2: Steven Bowditch (68), Graham DeLaet (66), Spencer Levin (68), Lee McCoy (66), Chez Reavie (65), Jim Renner (68), Nick Watney (64) and Bubba Watson (67).

Scoring Averages at the par-70 TPC River Highlands:

|     | Front 9 | Back 9 | Total  | Cumulative |
|-----|---------|--------|--------|------------|
| R1: | 34.782  | 34.301 | 69.083 |            |
| R2: | 35.122  | 34.929 | 70.051 | 69.565     |

The par-4 fourth hole has played the toughest through two rounds, yielding a 4.215 average. The par-5 13<sup>th</sup> hole is playing the easiest with a 4.701 average.

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