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2015 Wells Fargo Championship pre-tournament notes

Dates: May 11-17, 2015
Where: Quail Hollow Club, Charlotte, NC
Par/Yards: 72/7,562 yards
2014 champion: J.B. Holmes
Purse: \$7,100,000/\$1,278,000
FedExCup: 500 points to the winner
Format: 72-hole stroke play
Field: 156
Twitter: @WellsFargoGolf

A look back at the 2014 Wells Fargo Championship

J.B. Holmes entered the final round of the Wells Fargo Championship with a one-stroke lead over Martin Flores. Despite an early bogey on the par-3 second hole and late bogeys on Nos. 16 and 18, Holmes' 1-under 71 was just enough to hold off a final-round charge by Jim Furyk, who closed with the round of the day (7-under 65) to finish one stroke back.

More on J.B. Holmes

- Holmes' four PGA TOUR career wins: 2006 and 2008 Waste Management Phoenix Open, 2014 Wells Fargo Championship, 2015 Shell Houston Open
- Won in his eighth start at the Wells Fargo Championship (WD-2006, T34-2007, T17-2008, MC-2009, MC-2010, T9-2011, T57-2012, 1-2014).
- Holmes' final round at Quail Hollow Club: 7 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens, 30 putts.
- Holmes' 2014 week at a glance: 26/56 fairways (T53), 45/72 greens in regulation (T29), 103 putts (T4), Strokes Gained-Putting (+1.463/round; 5th), 6 of 8 sand saves (T11).

A look at the field

- 17 of the top 30 in the current FedExCup standings, including No. 3 J.B. Holmes and No. 4 Patrick Reed.
- 11 of the top 30 in the Official World Golf Ranking, including No. 1 Rory McIlroy, No. 3 Henrik Stenson and No. 5 Jim Furyk.
- Eight former Wells Fargo Championship winners: David Toms (2003), Vijay Singh (2005), Jim Furyk (2006), Sean O'Hair (2009), Rory McIlroy (2010), Lucas Glover (2011), Derek Ernst (2013) and J.B. Holmes (2014).
- The Wells Fargo Championship has a history of young winners. Below are the youngest winners in tournament history:

2010	Rory McIlroy	20 years, 11 months, 28 days
2008	Anthony Kim	22 years, 10 months, 15 days
2013	Derek Ernst	22 years, 11 months, 19 days
2012	Rickie Fowler	23 years, 4 months and 23 days
- Among those in the field with Charlotte connections: Webb Simpson, Brendon de Jonge, Robert Karlsson, Johnson Wagner, Bill Haas and Jason Kokrak.

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Select player notes

Rory McIlroy

- McIlroy returns to the site of his maiden PGA TOUR victory, the 2010 Wells Fargo Championship where he posted a final-round 62 to overcome the four-stroke lead of 54-hole leader Billy Mayfair.
- McIlroy has made five starts at Quail Hollow Club: 1-2010, MC-2011, T2-2012, T10-2013, T8-2014
- The World No. 1 won two weeks ago at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Match Play to earn his 10th career PGA TOUR event one day prior to his 26th birthday. Only Tiger Woods (29) and Jack Nicklaus (17) have won more prior to turning 26.

Phil Mickelson

- Mickelson has played 33 of 44 competitive rounds at Quail Hollow at par or better.
- Mickelson holds the Wells Fargo Championship record for the most top-10 finishes with seven in 11 appearances. Along with his solo second in 2010, he finished T5 in 2004, T7 in 2005, T3 in 2007, T5 in 2009, T9 in 2011, 3rd in 2013.
- Mickelson has played No. 17 at Quail Hollow Club 44 times and is 16-over-par on the hole. He has only birdied the hole three times (R4/2007, R2/2010 and R4/2012).
- Of the events on TOUR in which Mickelson has competed more than 10 times, the U.S. Open (24), the BMW Championship (17 starts), WGC-Bridgestone Invitational (16 starts), the Memorial (14 starts), The Barclays (13 starts), Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (12), WGC-Cadillac Match Play (11) and the Wells Fargo Championship (11) are the only ones to have never surrendered him victory.
- Mickelson made his 17th start on the PGA TOUR in the state of North Carolina in 2014, where he remains in search of his first win. In addition to 11 starts at Quail Hollow, he played the Wyndham Championship at Forest Oaks CC in Greensboro in 1993 (T50), 1997 (T9) and 1998 (T6). In the U.S. Open at Pinehurst, he finished runner-up in 1999, T33 in 2005 and T28 in 2014.

Wells Fargo Championship notes

- The 54-hole leader has won just four of 12 Wells Fargo Championships (David Toms-2003, Jim Furyk-2006, Anthony Kim-2008 and J.B.Holmes-2014).
- Lucas Glover (2011) is the only player in the history of the Wells Fargo Championship to post all four rounds in the 60s.
- Four players have competed in all 12 tournaments at Quail Hollow Club since the tournament's inception in 2003: J.J. Henry, Stuart Appleby, Charles Howell III and Rory Sabbatini.
- Derek Ernst's winning 72-hole score of 8-under is the highest in tournament history. The previous high 72-hole winning score was 10-under by David Toms in 2003.
- Four of the last five winners of the Wells Fargo Championship have missed the cut (36-hole or 54-hole) the following year (Sean O'Hair, Rory McIlroy, Lucas Glover, Rickie Fowler-MDF). Derek Ernst finished T30 in 2014 in his title defense.
- Only three players have ever recorded an eagle on the "Green Mile" during the Wells Fargo Championship:

Paul Goydos	2003	R1	No. 18
Rory Sabbatini	2011	R3	No. 16
Gary Woodland	2013	R3	No. 18

Charity

The PGA TOUR and its tournaments continue a commitment to charity through the "Together, anything's possible" initiative. In January 2014, the TOUR and its tournaments announced it had collectively surpassed \$2 billion in all-time

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charitable giving, including \$1 billion over the last eight years. Since its beginning in 2003, the Wells Fargo Championship has donated more than \$17 million to local and regional charities.

Wells Fargo Championship futures dates/locations

In March 2014, Wells Fargo, the PGA TOUR and tournament host organization Champions for Education announced that Wells Fargo will continue its sponsorship of the Wells Fargo Championship through 2019 after signing a five-year extension. In addition to the extension, officials also announced the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship will be held at Eagle Point Golf Club in Wilmington, North Carolina, when its regular host site, Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, hosts that year's PGA Championship. In 2016, the tournament will return to its normal date on the calendar, May 2-8 at Quail Hollow Club. It was also recently announced that Quail Hollow Club will be the host site for The Presidents Cup 2021. The event will take place September 30th to October 3rd.

Wells Fargo and Succeeding Together program

Wells Fargo announced the winners of Succeeding TogetherSM, an essay contest that celebrates impact The First Tee[®] has on students across the country and allows participants to express how The First Tee has had a positive effect on their lives.

A panel of judges from Wells Fargo, The First Tee, and the Wells Fargo Championship tournament office chose four winners from the written submissions. Grace Vaughan, 17, from The First Tee of Spartanburg & Cherokee Counties, was named the grand prize winner. Christian David, 18, from The First Tee of Phoenix; Sophia Qiu, 16, from The First Tee of Connecticut; and Madison Harwell, 14, from The First Tee of Augusta, were named the first prize winners.

Wells Fargo created the contest specifically for the 30,000+ teenage participants of The First Tee[®], a youth development organization that introduces young people to the game of golf and its inherent values at 175 chapters across the U.S. The contest asked participants to write about the importance of having and being a part of a "Go-To Team," a Core Life Lesson of The First Tee that fosters partnership and teamwork in all areas of life.

Wells Fargo and The First Tee

On April 27, Wells Fargo announced a \$1 million donation over the next five years to The First Tee, becoming a Trustee of the youth development organization that builds character through the game of golf for children at 175 local chapters across the U.S. As a Trustee, Wells Fargo's gift of \$1 million will allow The First Tee home office to support its growing network by providing strategic direction and continued education, enhanced curriculum and training, operational standards and national participant opportunities.

2014-15 PGA TOUR Season Highlights

It took 20 events for the first multiple winner to emerge on the PGA TOUR this season (Jimmy Walker/Sony Open in Hawaii, Valero Texas Open). The last, longer stretch came in 1994 when Nick Price won his second event (Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial) in the 21st event of the campaign. Jordan Spieth (Valspar Championship, Masters Tournament) is the only other repeat winner so far this season.

So far in the 2015 calendar year, 14 of the 24 winners (through the PLAYERS) 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) and Jim Furyk (10), Justin Rose (8), Rory McIlroy (1) and Rickie Fowler (13).

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So far this season, 11 of the 26 events have been determined by a playoff. Most recently, Rickie Fowler at the PLAYERS Championship.

The trend of young winners on TOUR has continued early into the 2014-15 season as 11 of the 25 winners have been under the age of 30, including:

- 24-year-old Patrick Reed, who became just the fifth player since 1991 to win four times before the age of 25, joining Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Rory McIlroy and Sergio Garcia with his victory at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.
- 21-year-old Jordan Spieth, with his victories at the Valspar Championship and Masters Tournament, became the third different player since 1940 to win three times on the PGA TOUR before reaching their 22nd birthday. The others were Tiger Woods and Sergio Garcia. Spieth first won the 2013 John Deere Classic less than two weeks before his 20th birthday.
- 25-year-old Rory McIlroy, with his win at the WGC-Cadillac Match Play joined Tiger Woods (29) and Jack Nicklaus (17) as the only players to win 10 events prior to their 26th birthday on the PGA TOUR in the last 75 years.
- 26-year-old Rickie Fowler won the PLAYERS Championship by finishing birdie, eagle, birdie, birdie to shoot a final-round 66 and finish at 12-under-par. He went on to win a three-hole aggregate playoff with Kevin Kisner and Sergio Garcia. Fowler finished the three-hole playoff tied with Kisner at 1-under through those three holes with scores of par, birdie, par. With Garcia eliminated (par-par-par), Fowler and Kisner advanced to sudden-death at the 17th hole where Fowler's tee shot landed 4' 8" and he made birdie.

The rookie class of 24 players includes 21 players who began the season under the age of 30. Canadian Nick Taylor, a 2013 graduate of the PGA TOUR Canada and a 2014 graduate of the Web.com Tour, got off to a hot start by winning the Sanderson Farms Championship in October. Rookie members in the top 50 in the FedExCup standings include Daniel Berger and Justin Thomas.

Notable changes for the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season

- Starting in January 2015, winners of the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard and the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide will receive a three-year PGA TOUR exemption and a three-year exemption into THE PLAYERS Championship.
- The 2015 Presidents Cup team eligibility for the U.S. Team will be based on FedExCup points instead of money. Presidents Cup points for the FedExCup Playoffs will be weighted the same as World Golf Championships (550 for first place, 315 for second, etc.).
- The Top 125 Money List from the previous season, established following the conclusion of the 2014 Wyndham Championship, will remain as an exempt category in 2014-15 for standard, open events only.

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