



**2015 WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS-BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL**  
(The 40<sup>th</sup> of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

**Akron, OH  
Firestone Country Club  
South Course**

**August 5-9, 2015  
Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,400**

**FedExCup Pts: 550  
Purse: \$9,250,000**

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, August 6, 2015**

*Weather:* Cloudy day with highs in the mid to upper 70s with winds ENE at 7-12 mph.

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Danny Lee	65 (5-under)
Jim Furyk	66 (4-under)
Graeme McDowell	66 (4-under)
Rickie Fowler	67 (3-under)
Justin Rose	67 (3-under)

**Danny Lee, 5-under-par, 65, 1<sup>st</sup>**

New Zealand's Danny Lee recorded six birdies and one bogey on his way to an opening-round 65 for sole possession of the lead through 18 holes. Lee has top-4 finishes in three of his last four starts on the PGA TOUR including his playoff victory at the Greenbrier Classic and missing a chance at a playoff at the John Deere Classic by one stroke.

Lee is making his second start at the Bridgestone Invitational having qualified in 2009 by winning the European Tour's Johnnie Walker Classic as an amateur. He finished T51 in 2009.

This is the third time that Lee has led or shared the lead through 18 holes. In 2012, he shared the lead at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, finishing T25. In 2014, he shared the lead at the Valspar Championship, but missed the cut after a second-round 79.

Lee, who was born in South Korea but is officially listed as being from New Zealand, is 13<sup>th</sup> in the standings for the Presidents Cup International Team. The top 10 international players (excluding those eligible for the European Ryder Cup team) from the Official World Golf Ranking will qualify as the conclusion of the 2015 Deutsche Bank Championship and then two Captain's selections will be made on September 8, 2015.

The Bridgestone Invitational is the 31<sup>st</sup> event that Lee has played in the 2014-15 season, more than any other player on the PGA TOUR.

**Jim Furyk, 4-under-par, 66, T2**

Jim Furyk's opening-round 66 comes at a familiar place where he has nine top-10 finishes in 15 prior appearances at the Bridgestone Invitational. Furyk's nine top-10s are second only to Tiger Woods, who leads with 12 top-10 finishes.

Furyk has twice finished runner-up at the Bridgestone Invitational. Once in 2001 in a memorable playoff against Tiger Woods and later in 2012 when he led the entire final round before a bogey on the final hole resulted in a second-place finish.

As a lifelong Steelers fan, Furyk will be attending the Pro Football Hall of Fame induction ceremony as a guest of Jerome Bettis in Canton, Ohio, on Saturday evening.

Furyk won for the 17<sup>th</sup> time in his PGA TOUR career earlier this year at the RBC Heritage.

#### **Graeme McDowell, 4-under-par, 66, T2**

Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell shot an opening-round 66 and is one off the lead. It's his first round in the 60s on the PGA TOUR since the second round of the RBC Heritage in April. McDowell has only one top-10 finish this season, a T3 at his first event at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions. McDowell hasn't had less than two top-10 finishes since he regained full-time membership in 2009.

McDowell has never finished inside the top 20 at the Bridgestone Invitational in seven previous attempts.

Players from Northern Ireland have won four World Golf Championships events. Other than the 34 World Golf Championships won by players from the United States, Australia leads the way with six World Golf Championships victories.

Country	World Golf Championships titles
USA	34
AUS	6 (Geoff Ogilvy-3, Adam Scott, Craig Parry, Jason Day)
ENG	4 (Ian Poulter-2, Justin Rose, Luke Donald)
NIR	4 (Rory McIlroy-2, Darren Clarke-2)

#### **Rickie Fowler, 3-under-par, 67, T4**

Making his sixth consecutive appearance at the Bridgestone Invitational, Rickie Fowler shot a 3-under-par, 67. In his five previous starts at the Bridgestone Invitational, Fowler's best finish (T2) came in 2011.

Rickie Fowler finished in second place in his fourth start at Quicken Loans National last week. Fowler earned his second PGA TOUR title earlier this season at THE PLAYERS Championship (2012 Wells Fargo Championship) and is just three weeks removed from winning the Scottish Open on the European Tour. He is now No. 16 in the FedExCup standings.

#### **Miscellaneous notes**

The top 10 on the leaderboard includes players from seven different countries. The 25 countries represented in this year's World Golf Championship-Bridgestone Invitational are the most in tournament history. The previous best – 22 countries – occurred last year.

With current world No. 1 and defending champion Rory McIlroy still sidelined with an ankle injury, Jordan Spieth will move to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking if he wins the Bridgestone Invitational. Spieth, who has a record-lead in the FedExCup standings thanks to four wins this season, including two major championships, shot an opening round 70 and is T22.

England's Lee Westwood is making his 52<sup>nd</sup> start in a World Golf Championships event, the most of any player since the series began in 1999. Westwood shot a first-round 68 and is three shots off the lead.

#### **Bogey-free rounds: None**

There were no eagles during the first round, making it the first round on the PGA TOUR without an eagle since round 2 of the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial.

#### **Scoring average:**

	Front nine	Back nine	Cumulative
R1	35.519	35.844	71.364

The first-round scoring average of 71.364 is the highest since 2007.

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