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E-NOTES – February 16, 2016**PGA TOUR**

Northern Trust Open on Twitter: @NTrustOpen

Featured Groupings – Northern Trust Open (all times local)**Thursday, February 18**

12:02 p.m., No. 1 tee (Friday – 7:22 a.m., No. 10 tee) – Dustin Johnson – Adam Scott – Sergio Garcia

12:12 p.m., No. 1 tee (Friday – 7:32 a.m., No. 10 tee) – Jordan Spieth – Justin Thomas – Fred Couples*

Friday, February 19

12:02 p.m., No. 1 tee (Thursday – 7:22 a.m., No. 10 tee) – Bubba Watson – Justin Rose – James Hahn

12:12 p.m., No. 1 tee (Thursday – 7:32 a.m., No. 10 tee) – Hideki Matsuyama – Rory McIlroy – Matt Kuchar

**Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas will be grouped together for the first two rounds of the Northern Trust Open at the site of their NCAA Championship showdown in 2012. As a freshman at the University of Texas, Spieth holed out for eagle with a 4-iron on the par-4 15th during the final round of the NCAA Men's Golf Championship to defeat Thomas of the Crimson Tide. Texas went on to win the title over Alabama, 3-2.*

This week in FedExCup history – In 2008, **Phil Mickelson** claimed the first of what would become back-to-back titles at the Northern Trust Open and moved to No. 1 in the FedExCup standings. Mickelson spent a total of three weeks atop the FedExCup standings during his career -- one week each in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Conversely, Mickelson has spent 48 weeks at No. 2 in the FedExCup standings over his career. He has qualified for the season-ending TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola seven of the last nine years since the inception of the FedExCup in 2007.

Last week, **Brandt Snedeker** overtook the No. 1 spot in the FedExCup standings from six-week leader **Kevin Kisner**. The 2012 FedExCup champion now holds a 10-point advantage over Kisner, who did not compete in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and missed the cut at the Waste Management Phoenix Open. This is the first time Snedeker has led the FedExCup since 2013, when he led for seven weeks from the 2013 Waste Management Phoenix Open through the Valspar Championship.

AT&T National Pro-Am runner-up **Phil Mickelson** had 100 putts for the week, becoming the first player of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season to have 100 or fewer putts in a tournament.

AT&T National Pro-Am winner **Vaughn Taylor**'s last win on TOUR was the 2005 Barracuda Championship, totaling 10 years, 5 months and 24 days, and 235 starts between victories. Here's a look at the record for most years between PGA TOUR victories:

Time between wins	Starts between wins	Player	Dates
15 years, 6 months	396	Robert Gamez	March 25, 1990-Sept. 25, 2005
15 years, 5 months, 10 days	240	Butch Baird	May 7, 1961-Oct. 17, 1976
14 years, 8 months, 2 days	409	Ed Fiori	Jan. 17, 1982-Sept. 15, 1996
13 years, 8 months	366	Tommy Armour III	Jan. 28, 1990-Sept. 28, 2003
13 years, 8 months	370	Joey Sindelar	Sept. 9, 1990-May 9, 2004

Sergio Garcia will make his first PGA TOUR start of 2016 following two starts in the fall: CIMB Classic (T24) and

World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions (T11). Garcia currently ranks second for most consecutive cuts made on the PGA TOUR with 26, behind **Henrik Stenson** (30). The next best streak belongs to **Charles Howell III** (16).

Freddie Jacobson recorded his third top-five finish of the season last week at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, the most he has had in any of his 14 seasons on the PGA TOUR. Jacobson started the season on a Major Medical Extension (Family Crisis clause) as his 2014-15 season was limited to 14 starts due to the diagnosis and subsequent open-heart surgery for his 7-year-old son Max last August. With three top-five finishes in eight starts, the 2011 Travelers Championship winner sits No. 21 in the FedExCup standings and has successfully regained his top-125 status with \$961,686 and 443 FedExCup points to date.

A week after shooting an 11-under 60 in the second round of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am at Monterey Peninsula, **Sung Kang** was one of four Monday Qualifiers at the Northern Trust Open. His round of 60 was the lowest round on the PGA TOUR since **J.J. Henry's** 11-under 60 in the first round of the 2013 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, and the 30th round of 60 in TOUR history.

Dustin Johnson, Northern Trust Open runner-up in 2014 and 2015, has five top-10 finishes from eight starts at Riviera. Five players in the history of the Northern Trust Open have recorded runner-up finishes in back-to-back years but none finished better than T18 the next year. Johnson is joined by Tiger Woods and Fred Couples as the only players in the last 60 years to post consecutive runner-up finishes at the Northern Trust Open.

Player	Back-to-back years as runner-up	Result the next year
Dustin Johnson	2014 & 2015	TBD
Tiger Woods	1998 & 1999	T18 in 2000
Fred Couples	1993 & 1994	T19 in 1995
Jack Burke, Jr.	1952 & 1953	T18 in 1954
Willie Hunter	1933 & 1934	T20 in 1935
Leo Diegel	1932 & 1933	DNP

Additionally, five players have won the year after finishing second or T2, with only **Phil Mickelson** and **Steve Stricker** accomplishing this feat in the last 70 years.

Player	Year runner-up	Year won
Byron Nelson	1945	1946
Ben Hogan	1946	1947
Lloyd Mangrum	1948	1949
Phil Mickelson	2007	2008
Steve Stricker	2009	2010

Rookie update: Through 13 events in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, PGA TOUR rookies have accounted for nine top-10s, including two wins. **Hiroshi Iwata** earned his first top-10 of the season at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (T4), joining **Brett Stegmaier**, **Harold Varner III**, and **Emiliano Grillo** who each have one top-10. **Smylie Kaufman** has two top-10s, while **Patton Kizzire** has three. Grillo and Kaufman both have wins.

PGA TOUR Champions

With his win at the Chubb Classic, three-time Charles Schwab Cup winner **Bernhard Langer** surged to the top of the 2016 standing with \$333,850 in earnings. **Duffy Waldorf** slid to second place with \$313,110 in earnings, while Allianz Championship winner **Esteban Toledo** moved from No. 2 to No. 3 with \$290,864. Langer led the Charles Schwab Cup standings through the third event of the year, the Chubb Classic, in 2009, 2013 and 2014. The only year of the three in which he went on to win the title was 2014.

Rounds of 62-66-73--201 (15-under) gave Langer a wire-to-wire victory at the Chubb Classic - the fourth in the tournament's 29-year history. Langer also achieved the feat in 2013, while **Lee Trevino** and **Allen Doyle** did so in 1990 and 1999, respectively.

Fred Couples finished runner-up to Langer at the Chubb Classic, marking his best PGA TOUR Champions result since winning the 2014 Shaw Charity Classic in a playoff - a span of 14 tournaments. The 1992 Masters champion owns 11 runner-up finishes on Tour, a number which matches his 11 victories since making his debut in 2010. Couples earned his first Tour title at the Chubb Classic in 2010, posting a 17-under 199 total for a one-shot victory over **Tommy Armour III**. Last week marked his first start in the event since.

Bernhard Langer moved to third on the all-time PGA TOUR Champions victory list with 26 total. **Hale Irwin's** dominant 45-win career continues to stand as No. 1 on the list, while **Lee Trevino** is in second place with 29 victories. The Chubb Classic win gave Langer a victory in each of the last 10 years on Tour, one shy of Irwin's all-time mark of 11 straight years with a title. The list of all-time PGA TOUR Champions victories is below:

All-time PGA TOUR Champions victories	
45	Hale Irwin
29	Lee Trevino
26	Bernhard Langer
25	Gil Morgan
24	Miller Barber
23	Bob Charles
22	Don January Chi Chi Rodriguez

Web.com Tour

AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am winner **Vaughn Taylor** split time between the PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour since his last PGA TOUR win in 2005. During that stretch, the former Augusta State standout made 37 starts on the Web.com Tour, posting five top-10 finishes along the way. This season, Taylor missed the cut at the season-opening Panama Claro Championship, then was forced to withdraw from the Club Colombia Championship presented by Claro the following week after suffering from a stomach virus.

James Hahn, who played full-time on the Web.com Tour from 2010 through 2012, is set to defend his title this week at the Northern Trust Open. He notched 11 top-10 finishes in 77 starts on the Web.com Tour, including a playoff win at the 2012 Rex Hospital Open. A pair of runner-up finishes that year – including one at the season-ending Web.com Tour Championship – pushed Hahn to No. 5 on the Tour's money list with \$337,530 in earnings, which enabled him to secure his PGA TOUR card for the following season.

Web.com Tour graduates sit atop the 2015-16 FedExCup rankings, with **Brandt Snedeker** (1,083 points), **Kevin Kisner** (1,073) and **Russell Knox** (920) occupying the top three spots. Ten of the 13 events in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR season have been won by former Web.com Tour players.

After a brief hiatus from tournament play, the Web.com Tour will return to action the week of March 14-20 for the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by NACHER, which will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The tournament, which has been contested at Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club each year since 1992, will kick off a stretch of three events in four weeks for the Tour, with the Servientrega Championship presented by Efecty and the El Bosque Mexico Championship falling in the weeks thereafter.

Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada

J.J. Spaun, who won the Mackenzie Tour Order of Merit in 2015, will make his second PGA TOUR start this week after earning the Northern Trust Open Exemption. Spaun captured his first Mackenzie Tour title at the Staal Foundation Open presented by Tbaytel and added six more top-10 finishes to lead the Order of Merit and earn fully exempt status on the Web.com Tour for 2016. In two starts this year on the Web.com Tour, Spaun finished T47 at the Panama Claro Championship and missed the cut at the Club Colombia Championship presented by Claro.

The 2016 Mackenzie Tour schedule was announced last week, with 12 events from May to September, including two new events with the Oil Country Championship and the GolfBC Championship.

James Hahn, the defending champion of this week's Northern Trust Open, played two seasons on the Mackenzie Tour (2008-09) with two victories during the 2009 season.

PGA TOUR Latinoamérica

The PGA TOUR Latinoamérica fifth season is set to start next week with the 69th playing of the Avianca Colombia Open presented by BBVA in Medellin, Colombia. Featuring a field of 144 players, the first tournament of the season will be played at Club Campestre de Medellin in Llanogrande starting on Thursday, Feb. 25. The first half of the schedule, which

runs from February to May, will include eight official events in seven countries. The remaining events will be played between late August and early December.

PGA TOUR China

South Korea's **Yi Keun Chang**, a member of both PGA TOUR China Series and the Asian Tour, earned his first top-15 finish on the Asian Tour when he parlayed a 69-66 weekend at the Bashhunhara Bangladesh Open into a tie for 14th last week. Chang, who played collegiate golf at USC and competed for the Trojans in both 2013 and 2014, finished ninth on the 2015 PGA TOUR China Order of Merit and had five consecutive top-10s to finish his season.

PGA TOUR China Series veteran **David McKenzie** lost in a playoff to former Web.com Tour player **Ash Hall** last week at the PGA Tour of Australasia's Victoria PGA Championship. McKenzie took a five-shot lead into the final round of the tournament and held a three-shot lead with two holes to play before a double bogey-bogey finish left him tied with Hall at the conclusion of regulation. Hall chipped in to win on the first extra hole for the title.

Anthony Houston tied for third at the Victoria PGA Championship, finishing a stroke out of the Ash Hall-David McKenzie playoff. Houston played in seven 2015 China tournaments, with a tie for 20th at the Yulongwan Yunnan Open his best finish.