



JOHN DEERE CLASSIC

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2016 John Deere Classic Pre-Tournament Notes

Dates: August 8-14, 2016

Where: TPC Deere Run, Silvis, Ill.

Par/Yards: 35-36--71/7,268 yards

Field: 156

2015 champion: Jordan Spieth

Purse: \$4,800,000/\$864,000 (winner)

FedExCup: 500 points (winner)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Website: johndeereclassic.com

Facebook: [facebook/johndeereclassic](https://www.facebook.com/johndeereclassic)

Twitter: @JDClassic

John Deere Classic and the FedExCup

With just two weeks remaining, the John Deere Classic will once again prove pivotal in the race for the FedExCup. Only the top-125 after next week's Wyndham Championship advance to The Barclays, the first of four Playoffs events. Every player from No. 120-135 is scheduled to compete in the John Deere Classic, with the exception of Will Wilcox and Padraig Harrington.

Player	FedExCup Rank
Nick Taylor	120
Ben Martin	121
Blayne Barber	122
Chris Stroud	123
Bronson Burgoon	124
Johnson Wagner	125
Matt Jones	126
Chad Collins	127
Will Wilcox	128
Kyle Stanley	129
Sung Kang	130
Padraig Harrington	131
Scott Stallings	132
Tim Wilkinson	133
Tyler Aldridge	134
Retief Goosen	135

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A look at the 2015 John Deere Classic

For the second time in three years, Jordan Spieth won the John Deere Classic and did so via sudden death, this time over Tom Gillis on the second extra hole. Spieth found himself eight strokes off the lead after the first round at even par, but followed a 7-under 64 in round two with a career-low, 10-under 61 in round three (six birdies, two eagles). The win at TPC Deere Run marked his fourth of a spectacular 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season that saw him win the FedExCup title and PGA TOUR Player of the Year honors.

Zach Johnson

Zach Johnson is perhaps the most popular winner in event history (2012), given his ties to the event and the area.

- Johnson is making his 15th consecutive start at the John Deere Classic and will begin the week on the strength of 28 consecutive rounds in the 60s at TPC Deere Run (totaling 124-under-par). Not since the final round of 2008 (even-par 71) has Johnson posted a score in the 70s.
- Since 2011, Johnson has finished no worse than T3 in the event (T3-2011, 1st-2012, T2-2013, 2nd-2014 and T3-2015).
- So far this year, Johnson has collected five top-10 finishes, with his best being solo-fifth at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard.
- Johnson is a native of Cedar Rapids and played collegiately at Drake University in Des Moines.
- Johnson serves on the Board of Directors for the John Deere Classic.
- Johnson is a University of Iowa supporter, who has played in Pro-Am with Hawkeye head football coach Kirk Ferenz in the past.
- When heavy rains caused flooding in the Midwest in the summer of 2008, Johnson served as the spokesman on a public service announcement and held a one-day golf event in Cedar Rapids that raised \$350,000. Along with Jerry Kelly, he was instrumental in starting the PGA TOUR Flood Relief effort, which donated approximately \$125,000 to the cause.
- In July 2010, Johnson announced formation of the Zach Johnson Foundation to benefit children in need in the Greater Cedar Rapids area. The Zach Johnson Foundation Classic and Gala raised \$1 million during its second event in 2012. Those dollars support Kids on Course, a pilot program at Van Buren Elementary and Harrison Elementary Schools.
- In 2014, John Deere announced a multi-year sponsorship of Johnson. Johnson's bag features the John Deere logo, and a portion of the company's sponsorship goes to the Zach Johnson Foundation.

Other notables in the field

- Three-time John Deere Classic champion **Steve Stricker** is poised to make his 15th career start at the John Deere Classic. Stricker, who won the event consecutively from 2009-2011, will attempt to add a fourth John Deere Classic to his resume this week. In addition to his three wins, he claimed top-10 finishes in 2004 (T4), 2012 (T5) and 2013 (T10).
- Playing on a sponsor exemption, the world's former No. 1 amateur **Jon Rahm** will be making his eighth start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season and sixth as a professional. In his first start as a pro, the former Arizona State Sun Devil finished T3 at the Quicken Loans National in June. He claimed another share of third place at last month's RBC Canadian Open. At last week's Travelers Championship, he finished T25. Rahm initially caught the attention of the golfing world with his T5 showing at the 2015 Waste Management Phoenix Open as an amateur. With that finish, he became the first amateur to finish inside the top five of a PGA TOUR event since Chris Wood (5th) at the 2008 Open Championship. As a Special Temporary Member on the PGA TOUR, Rahm has 424 non-member FedExCup points. In order to secure his PGA TOUR card for next season, he needs remain inside the equivalent of No. 125 on the FedExCup points list. Presently, No. 125 is valued at 405 points (Johnson Wagner).

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- **Kevin Na** began the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season with quite a bang, finishing his first three events in successive weeks: 2nd (via a playoff) at the Safeway Open; T2 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open; and T3 at the CIMB Classic. Three starts later, he added a fourth top-five finish at the CareerBuilder Challenge. In April a fifth top-five showing, a T4, resulted at the RBC Heritage. Na also finished T7 at this year's U.S. Open. Na will be making his sixth start in this week's John Deere Classic and first since a T13 in 2014.
- **Jerry Kelly**, who finished alone in second at last week's Travelers Championship, will be making his 11th start in the John Deere Classic. Of three previous top-10 finishes at TPC Deere Run, two have been top-five showings and have come in the past three years (T4/2013, T3/2014). Kelly finished 17th last year in the Quad Cities. Kelly, who will turn 50 on November 23, is in search of his fourth career PGA TOUR win and first since the 2009 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- **Gary Woodland** comes to this week's John Deere Classic with two top-10 finishes this season under his belt. The stronger of those two is a runner-up showing at the Barracuda Championship, site of his 2013 victory. Woodland will be making his fourth start in this week's John Deere Classic (2009/MC, 2010/T21, 2013/T48).
- University of Illinois grad **Scott Langley** is poised to make his fifth start in the John Deere Classic. Following a missed cut in 2011, Langley finished T33 in 2013, T27 in 2014 and T35 last season. A former participant in The First Tee, Langley's career-best finish came at the 2014 Valspar Championship. Still in search of his first top-10 finish this season, he brings with him to TPC Deere Run three top-25 finishes.
- Fellow University of Illinois grad **Luke Guthrie**, a native of Quincy, Ill., has one top-10 finish this season, a T10 from the season's first event, the Safeway Open. Guthrie is poised to make his fifth start in this week's John Deere Classic. His best finish, T5, came in his first start at TPC Deere Run in 2012. In 2013, missed the cut and finished T27 in 2014 with, among others, Scott Langley. Last season, Guthrie improved to a T14.

Tradition of young invitees continues

The John Deere Classic's tradition of offering playing opportunities to deserving up-and-coming young players continues in 2016 with three sponsor invitations;

- Three-time University of Alabama All-American **Robby Shelton** led the Crimson Tide to the 2014 NCAA team national championship. As an amateur, finished T3 at the 2015 Barbasol Championship in the Auburn/Opelika area of Alabama. Shelton will be making his third start of the season on the PGA TOUR at this week's John Deere Classic (FedEx St. Jude Classic/MC, Barbasol Championship/T47).
- Frankfort, Illinois' **Brian Bullington** will be making his first start on the PGA TOUR at this week's John Deere Classic, following a distinguished career at the University of Iowa. Bullington began his path to the PGA TOUR via PGA TOUR Latinoamerica, where he has made five cuts in seven starts so far. Bullington posted top-25 finishes at the Guatemala Open (T18) and Albierto Mexicano de Golf (T24).
- Irving, Texas resident **Austin Connelly** turned pro after high school, at the age of 18. As a professional, Connelly has made three starts on the PGA TOUR this season, the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (T60), RSM Classic (MC) and Valspar Championship (MC).

A broader look at the field

- Three winners of PGA TOUR events in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season are in the field: Billy Hurley III (Quicken Loans National), Peter Malnati (Sanderson Farms Championship) and Vaughn Taylor (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am).
- Five major championship winners will compete in this year's John Deere Classic: Angel Cabrera (2007 U.S. Open, 2009 Masters), Stewart Cink (2009 Open Championship), Retief Goosen (2001, 2004 U.S. Open), Zach Johnson (2007 Masters, 2015 Open Championship) and Geoff Ogilvy (2006 U.S. Open).

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- Five past John Deere Classic champions are in the field: Brian Harman (2014), Zach Johnson (2012), Steve Stricker (2009-2011), John Senden (2006) and Sean O’Hair (2005).

John Deere Classic notes

- From 2000-06, five of the John Deere Classic’s winners made the title their first on the PGA TOUR: John Senden (2006), Sean O’Hair (2005), Mark Hensby (2004), David Gossett (2001) and Michael Clark II (2000). From 2007-12, each champion had already amassed at least one win on the PGA TOUR. Jordan Spieth and Brian Harman joined the former group with their first-ever PGA TOUR wins in 2013 and 2014, respectively.
- Since moving to the TPC Deere Run in 2000, six of the 15 outcomes have been decided through a playoff (2015-Jordan Spieth, 2013-Jordan Spieth, 2012-Zach Johnson, 2008-Kenny Perry, 2007-Mark Hensby and 2000-Michael Clark II).
- Since its 1971 inception, only six players have won the John Deere Classic more than once: Deane Beman (1971-72), D.A. Weibring (1979, 1991, 1995), Scott Hoch (1980, 1984), David Frost (1992-93), three-time champion Steve Stricker (2009-11) and Jordan Spieth (2013, 2015).
- Paul Goydos’ 59 in round one of the 2010 John Deere Classic made him just the fourth player in PGA TOUR history to post the elusive score. The others: Al Geiberger (1977 FedEx St. Jude Classic), Chip Beck (1991 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open) and David Duval (1999 Humana Challenge). Stuart Appleby (2010 The Greenbrier Classic) and Jim Furyk (2013 BMW Championship) have since added their names to that list.
- In 2015, a record \$8.73 million was raised for charity through “Birdies for Charity” at the John Deere Classic. Annually, the John Deere Classic continues to raise more charitable dollars per capita than any other event on TOUR. Dating to 1971, the John Deere Classic has provided nearly \$70 million to regional charities.