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2016 Sony Open in Hawaii Media Notes

Dates: January 11-17, 2016
Where: Waialae Country Club; Honolulu, Hawaii
Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,044
Field: 144; **Format:** 72-hole stroke play
Defending Champion: Jimmy Walker
Purse: \$5,800,000; **Winner's Share:** \$1,044,000

Jimmy Walker seeking third consecutive Sony Open in Hawaii title

- Jimmy Walker is seeking to become the first player to win three consecutive Sony Open in Hawaii titles. He is one of four players with back-to-back wins at the event – Hubert Green (1978-79), Corey Pavin (1986-87), Ernie Els (2003-04), Walker (2014-15).
- This season will mark Walker's 10th start at the Sony Open in Hawaii. In addition to his two wins, his other top-10 finish was a fourth place finish in 2011.
- Walker's final-round 7-under 63 a year ago was good for a tournament-record nine-stroke win. The previous record for largest margin of victory, seven strokes, belonged to Paul Azinger (2000) and John Huston (1998).
- Walker's 23-under 257 winning total in 2015 was one stroke shy of the tournament record of 256, belonging to 2013 champion Russell Henley.
- Walker's closing 36-hole score of 15-under 125 last season supplanted the previous-best of 126 at the Sony Open in Hawaii, posted by David Toms en route to his 2006 victory.
- Walker became the first player to lose a playoff one week (Hyundai Tournament of Champions) and win the next since Kyle Stanley at the 2012 Farmers Insurance Open (P2) and Waste Management Phoenix Open (1st).
- With his final-round 63, Walker extended his streak of rounds in the 60s at Waialae Country Club to 13.
- Since 2014, Walker is 83-under par in Hawaii's two PGA TOUR events (-43/Hyundai Tournament of Champions, -40/Sony Open in Hawaii).
- Walker extended the stretch of American-born players to win the Sony Open in Hawaii to seven. The last international winner of the event was K.J. Choi in 2008. Here's a look at his record at the Sony Open:

2015	1	66	66	62	63	257	-23
2014	1	66	67	67	63	263	-17
2013	T26	69	69	68	64	270	-10
2012	CUT	72	68			140	
2011	4	68	65	66	68	267	-13
2010	CUT	75	67			142	
2009	T32	73	66	68	68	275	-5
2008	T61	65	68	73	77	283	+3
2006	CUT	80	70			150	
Average		70.44	67.33	67.33	67.17	68.23	-10.8

2016 marks 51st playing of Sony Open in Hawaii

Dating to 1965 (there was no event in 1970), Waialae Country Club has the fourth-longest tenure (51 years) as a host PGA TOUR venue, behind Augusta National, Pebble Beach GL and Trump National Doral's Blue Monster Course.

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The Sony Open in Hawaii and the FedExCup

The Sony Open in Hawaii is the eighth event in the PGA TOUR's wraparound schedule that bridges two years with 47 official events. Over the span of 43 weeks, players vie to become the FedExCup Champion, which distinguishes the one player who not only performs well during the PGA TOUR Season, but also excels through the four-event FedExCup Playoffs, culminating with the 2016 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola.

The 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season kicked off with the Frys.com Open and included seven events during the fall of 2015, all of which awarded FedExCup points. After a break (which saw Kevin Kisner leading the FedExCup standings), the season resumed last week with the traditional swing through Hawaii, with World No. 1 Jordan Spieth running away to an eight-stroke victory over defending champion Patrick Reed at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

Every week is significant in the race for the FedExCup – four of the seven winners from the fall calendar of 2014 (Sangmoon Bae, Robert Streb, Bubba Watson and Charley Hoffman) qualified for the 2015 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola and two others (Ryan Moore and Ben Martin) finished inside the top 40.

A closer look at the field

- 2015-16 tournament winners: Emiliano Grillo (Frys.com Open), Justin Thomas (CIMB Classic), Russell Knox (WGC-HSBC Champions), Peter Malnati (Sanderson Farms Championship), Graeme McDowell (OHL Classic at Mayakoba), Kevin Kisner (The RSM Classic).
- 22 of the 32 (69 percent) players in the Hyundai Tournament of Champions field are scheduled to play both events, including seven players who finished T10 or better: Brandt Snedeker (T3), Padraig Harrington (T6), Peter Malnati (T6), Fabian Gomez (T6), Kevin Kisner (9), Steven Bowditch (T10) and Jimmy Walker (T10).
- Seven of the top 10 in the current FedExCup standings, including Kevin Kisner (1), Russell Knox (2), Justin Thomas (3), Graeme McDowell (4), Kevin Na (6), Emiliano Grillo (8) and Peter Malnati (10).
- Four players in the top 20 in the Official World Golf Rankings: Adam Scott (11), Zach Johnson (13), Kevin Kisner (17), Matt Kuchar (20).
- Players in the field with eight or more PGA TOUR wins: Vijay Singh (34 wins), Davis Love III (21), Zach Johnson (12), Steve Stricker (12), Adam Scott (11), Stuart Appleby (9), K.J. Choi (8), Fred Funk (8).
- Past champions: Jimmy Walker (2014-15), Russell Henley (2013), Johnson Wagner (2012), Mark Wilson (2011), Ryan Palmer (2010), Zach Johnson (2009), K.J. Choi (2008), Vijay Singh (2005), Jerry Kelly (2002).
- Eleven major championship winners are in the field, led by three-time winners Padraig Harrington and Vijay Singh and two-time winner Zach Johnson.

Additional Player notes

- Matt Kuchar has fared well in the Aloha State. Since 2011, he is 100-under-par collectively between the Hyundai Tournament of Champions and Sony Open in Hawaii.
- Vijay Singh will be making his 19th start at the Sony Open, with a win in 2005 among his four top 10s.
- Charles Howell III owns eight top-10 finishes in 14 starts at the Sony Open in Hawaii (T8-2014, T3-2013, T2-2012, T5-2010, 4-2009, T2-2007, T3-2005, T4-2002).
- Web.com Tour member Haotong Li, who finished T7 at the 2015 HSBC Champions, will play this week on a sponsor's invitation. It will mark his fourth PGA TOUR start, with the other two starts leading to a T35 and T39 at the 2014 and 2013 HSBC Champions, respectively.
- Steve Stricker, who is making his first start of the 2015-16 Season, owns four top-4 or better finishes in 13 starts at the Sony Open in Hawaii (3rd-2010, T4-2008, T4-2007, 3-1996).

Tournament notes

- Ernie Els (2003) is the only player to win the Sony Open in Hawaii and Hyundai Tournament of Champions back-to-back in the same season.
- Ten of last 17 Sony Open winners have played the week prior at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.
- The last player to record his first PGA TOUR victory at the Sony Open was Russell Henley (2013).
- The last player to win the event in his first try was Russell Henley (2013); prior to that was Bruce Lietzke ('77).

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- Russell Henley (2013) holds the 72-hole record at the Sony Open, with his 256 breaking the tournament scoring mark of 260 set by John Huston in 1998 and matched by Brad Faxon in 2001.
- Henley also holds the 36-hole record at the Sony Open in Hawaii (14-under-par 126). It broke the record of 12-under-par 128 set in 1994 by Davis Love III and matched by John Huston (1998), Paul Azinger (2000), Brad Faxon (2001) and John Cook (2002).
- Nine players have made the Sony Open their first PGA TOUR win: Ted Makalena (1966), Grier Jones (1972), John Schlee (1973), Gary Groh (1975), Isao Aoki (1983), David Ishii (1990), John Morse (1995), Jerry Kelly (2002), Russell Henley (2013).
- Nine players have won each of the PGA TOUR's Hawaii events at least once: Jim Furyk (1996 Sony; 2001 Tournament of Champions), Jack Nicklaus (1974 Sony; 1963-64, 1971, 1973, 1977 TOC); Lee Trevino (1968 Sony; 1981 TOC); Lanny Wadkins (1988, 1991 Sony Open, 1982-83 TOC); Paul Azinger (1991 Sony; 1990 TOC); Mark O'Meara (1985 Sony; 1996 TOC); Ernie Els (2003-04 Sony; 2003 TOC); Vijay Singh (2005 Sony; 2007 TOC), Zach Johnson (2009 Sony; 2014 TOC).
- In the last 10 years (since 2006), seven of the 54-hole leaders/co-leaders have gone on to capture the Sony Open in Hawaii. The following details the last nine years at this event:

Year	54-hole leader/Score	Eventual Champion/Score
2015	Jimmy Walker (194/-16)	Walker (257/-23)
2014	Chris Kirk (198/-12)	Jimmy Walker (263/-17)
2013	Russell Henley /Scott Langley (193/-17)	Henley (256/-24)
2012	Jeff Maggert, Matt Every (198/-12)	Johnson Wagner (267/-13)
2011	Mark Wilson (197/-13)	Wilson (264/-16)
2010	Ryan Palmer /Robert Allenby (199/-11)	Palmer (265/-15)
2009	Zach Johnson (200/-10)	Johnson (265/-15)
2008	K.J. Choi (195/-15)	Choi (266/-14)
2007	Charles Howell III (197/-13)	Paul Goydos (266/-14)
2006	David Toms /Chad Campbell (196/-14)	Toms (261/-19)

2015-16 PGA TOUR Notes

The first three winners of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season were under the age of 24, with the streak of seven consecutive winners under the age of 30 being the longest since an identical seven won in 1986. Russell Knox, 30, broke the streak with his win at the WGC-HSBC Champions. Here's a look at the winners to the start of 2015-16:

Tournament	Winner	Age won
Frys.com Open	Emiliano Grillo	23 years, 1 month, 4 days
Shriners Hospitals for Children Open	Smylie Kaufman	23 years, 10 months, 25 days
CIMB Classic	Justin Thomas	22 years, 6 months, 3 days
WGC-HSBC Champions	Russell Knox	30 years, 4 months, 18 days
Sanderson Farms Championship	Peter Malnati	28 years 4 months, 27 days
OHL Classic at Mayakoba	Graeme McDowell	36 years, 3 months, 17 days
The RSM Classic	Kevin Kisner	31 years, 9 months, 7 days
Hyundai Tournament of Champions	Jordan Spieth	22 years, 5 months, 14 days

The first five winners to start the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season were first-time PGA TOUR champions, with that streak snapped by Graeme McDowell's win at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

2014-15 PGA TOUR year in review

- Thanks to five wins on the season, including the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola, 22-year-old Jordan Spieth became the youngest winner of the FedExCup (22 years, 2 months). He also became the youngest player to win

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five times in a season since Horton Smith in 1929. Spieth was voted PGA TOUR Player of the Year by his peers, joining on Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy as those who've earned the distinction while in their 20s.

- With five victories in the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, including the PGA Championship, The Barclays and BMW Championship, Australia's Jason Day gave Jordan Spieth serious contention for PGA TOUR Player of the Year honors. Beginning at the U.S. Open, Day played his last 36 competitive rounds of golf with 33 at par-or-better and 28 in the 60s. In that span of time, he combined for a total of 103-under-par.
- Rory McIlroy, winner of the World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play Championship and Wells Fargo Championship this past season, held the world's No. 1 ranking, before ending the season ranked third.
- Daniel Berger, with six top 10s, including a pair of runner-up finishes, was voted PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year.
- 24 players under the age of 30 won PGA TOUR events in 2014-15 (47 events), the most on TOUR since 1970.