



MEDIA CONTACTS:

Joel Schuchmann	PGA TOUR & Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada	904-280-4707	joelschuchmann@pgatourhq.com
Stewart Moore	PGA TOUR Champions & Web.com Tour	904-543-5227	stewartmoore@pgatourhq.com
Nelson Silverio	PGA TOUR Latinoamérica	904-273-3528	nelsonsilverio@pgatourhq.com
Laury Livsey	Ping An Bank China Tour - PGA TOUR China Series	904-273-3418	laurylivsey@pgatourhq.com

E-NOTES – February 23, 2016

PGA TOUR

The Honda Classic on Twitter: [@TheHondaClassic](https://twitter.com/TheHondaClassic)

Featured Groupings – The Honda Classic (all times local)

Thursday, February 25

12:35 p.m., No. 1 tee (Friday – 7:35 a.m., No. 10 tee) – Rickie Fowler – Davis Love III – Sergio Garcia

12:45 p.m., No. 1 tee (Friday – 7:45 a.m., No. 10 tee) – Zach Johnson – Rory McIlroy – Pdraig Harrington

Friday, February 26

12:35 p.m., No. 1 tee (Thursday – 7:35 a.m., No. 10 tee) – Justin Thomas – Smylie Kaufman – Patrick Reed

12:45 p.m., No. 1 tee (Thursday – 7:45 a.m., No. 10 tee) – Kevin Kisner – Adam Scott – Phil Mickelson

This week in FedExCup history -- at the 2012 Honda Classic, **Rory McIlroy** carded a final-round 1-under 69 to finish at 12-under-par, holding off **Tiger Woods** and **Tom Gillis** by two strokes. With the victory, he became the youngest player to win The Honda Classic and in the process moved to No. 4 in the FedExCup standings, 120 points behind leader **Kyle Stanley**. McIlroy also moved to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time.

Bubba Watson recorded his ninth career PGA TOUR victory at the Northern Trust Open, moving him to second-most wins on TOUR since 2010, behind **Rory McIlroy** who has 11 in that timeframe. Since 2010, Watson has recorded at least one win per year, except for 2013.

Last year, The Honda Classic winner **Pdraig Harrington** had two double bogeys (Nos. 6, 17) in the final round, becoming the first champion to do so since **Vaughn Taylor** won the 2004 Barracuda Championship.

At the 2015 Honda Classic, **Pdraig Harrington** became the first sponsor exemption to win on the PGA TOUR since Lee Westwood won the 2010 FedEx St. Jude Classic. Here's a look at sponsor exemptions who have won on TOUR since 1991:

Professional:

- Vijay Singh 1993 Buick Classic
- Tiger Woods 1996 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
- David Gossett 2001 John Deere Classic
- Adam Scott 2003 Deutsche Bank Championship
- Jason Gore 2005 84 LUMBER Classic
- Lee Westwood 2010 FedEx St. Jude Classic
- Pdraig Harrington 2015 The Honda Classic

Amateur:

- Phil Mickelson 1991 Northern Telecom Open

Russell Knox is the only player with top-five finishes in his last two starts at The Honda Classic. He finished T3 and T2 in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Chris Baker, who Monday qualified for The Honda Classic for his first PGA TOUR start, competed in Web.com Tour Q-School at PGA National in December 2016. He finished T51, one shot shy of a guaranteed spot in the first nine events of the 2016 Web.com Tour season. Had he not qualified for The Honda Classic, Baker was planning to fly to Colombia for the PGA TOUR Lationoamérica event.

From 2007-2015, the “Bear Trap” (Nos. 15-17) ranked as the fifth-toughest, three-hole stretch on the PGA TOUR of courses that have been played in each of the last nine years. The field has played that stretch of holes in a combined +2.571 over par since 2007. They played the remaining 15 holes in +3.535. Since 2007, 325 of 430 players have hit at least one ball in the water on the “Bear Trap,” for a grand total of 974 balls in the water.

Sponsor exemption Ollie **Ollie Schniederjans** will compete at The Honda Classic for the first time as he attempts to earn his PGA TOUR card via Special Temporary Membership. Schniederjans won the AJGA Polo Golf Junior Classic at PGA National in 2009. He defeated **Cory Whitsett**, who competes on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, in the final match, after Whitsett knocked out **Jordan Spieth** in the semifinals. Fellow Class of 2011 members **Patrick Rodgers** and **Emiliano Grillo** also made it to the match play portion of the junior event that year, with Grillo defeating Rodgers in the first round, 1 up.

The week of The Honda Classic offers the final opportunity to qualify for next week’s World Golf Championships event, the Cadillac Championship down the road at Trump National Doral. Players not previously eligible can qualify by being inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking or the top 10 of the FedExCup standings following The Honda Classic.

PGA TOUR Champions

PGA TOUR Champions member **Colin Montgomerie** is lending his support to Kitchen Table Day in his native Scotland, which aims to provide support for Maggie’s Centers across the country. Organizers have asked participants to gather friends and co-workers around their tables to help raise funds, suggesting all events from dinner parties to morning coffee to jigsaw puzzles as a means of organizing large groups. The charity opened a center at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in 2013, in conjunction with support from the Press and Journal, as well as the Elizabeth Montgomerie Foundation, which Montgomerie established in memory of his mother.

PGA TOUR Champions members **Davis Love III** and **Vijay Singh** are in the field at The Honda Classic this week on the PGA TOUR. Love will be making his 20th career start at The Honda Classic, where he has recorded five top-10 finishes – including a pair of back-to-back runner-up efforts in 2003 and 2004. In 19 career starts in the event, he has missed the cut just one time (2010). Singh, who won The Honda Classic in 1999, returns to South Florida this week for his 13th career start in the event. The three-time major champion has four career top-five finishes at the event, but has missed the cut in two of his last three appearances – the only two missed cuts in 12 career starts.

Four-time PGA TOUR Champions winner **Nick Price** is competing in the Wednesday pro-am at The Honda Classic. The three-time major championship winner and nearby Hobe Sound, Florida resident is competing to support Caddy For A Cure, a charitable organization that offers the public an inside-the-ropes opportunity to caddy for a PGA TOUR player, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to charity. Wounded service members will caddy for and escort Price through his round. He tees off No. 1 at 11:55 a.m. on Wednesday, February 24.

Web.com Tour

Chez Reavie, who earned his ticket back to exempt status on the PGA TOUR this year through stellar play in the 2015 Web.com Tour Finals, finished T7 at the Northern Trust Open. Reavie was in solo-second place through 36 holes, and tied for second through 54 holes, earning a spot in Sunday’s final threesome alongside Bubba Watson and Jason Kokrak. The former Arizona State star closed with an even-par 71, but still managed to record his first top-10 since a solo-eighth-place effort at the 2011 BMW Championship – a span of 80 tournaments. Reavie finished the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season at No. 166 in the FedExCup standings, which put him in the Web.com Tour Finals as an avenue to earn status for the 2015-16 campaign. The 34-year-old won the Small Business Connection Championship at River Run, lost in a playoff at the Web.com Tour Championship, and notched a pair of top-20 finishes at the Hotel Fitness Championship and the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship on his way to accruing \$323,066 in earnings to win the Finals money title.

Bubba Watson’s win on Sunday at the Northern Trust Open was the 11th of the year for Web.com Tour graduates, good for a 79 percent average, which in turn means approximately four of every five PGA TOUR events this year have been won by former Web.com Tour players. In addition, the top three spots in the FedExCup standings remain occupied by Web.com Tour alums, with **Brandt Snedeker** (1,083 points), **Kevin Kisner** (1,073) and **Russell Knox** (920) leading the way.

Ollie Schniederjans will be making his sixth start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR season at The Honda Classic this week. The current Web.com Tour member and former Georgia Tech star has made four of five cuts, with a T38 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open serving as his best finish. He has one more exemption through which to compete as a non-member this year before defaulting to Monday qualifiers in an attempt to secure Special Temporary Member status for the

season. Non-members are limited to 12 total events, so if Schniederjans qualifies for the U.S. Open or Open Championship, that would count towards his 12. To reach Special Temporary Membership, a non-member needs to have Non-Member FedExCup points greater than or equal to the 150th position from the prior season, which was 361 points in 2015. Schniederjans currently has 82.

Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada

Seventeen total Mackenzie Tour alumni, including two who played since 2013 – **Mark Hubbard** and **Tony Finau** – are in the field at The Honda Classic.

PGA TOUR Latinoamérica

Opening week has arrived for PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, which is set to start its 2016 season with the 69th playing of the Avianca Colombia Open presented by BBVA in Llano Grande, Colombia. Featuring a field of 144 players from 25 countries, including 27 Colombians, the first tournament of the season will be played at Club Campestre de Medellin in Llano Grande starting on Thursday.

This week's field is highlighted by the presence of 21 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica past champions, including the 2015 Player of the Year **Rodolfo Cazaubón** of Mexico. Another player strengthening this week's field is **Sebastián Muñoz** of Colombia, who leads the Web.com Tour's money list after an impressive victory at the Club Colombia Championship a couple of weeks ago.

The venue welcoming the season opening event is **Camilo Villegas**' home club in Colombia. "I'll be checking it closely," said Villegas, who will be playing at The Honda Classic this week. His younger brother, Manny, will be playing on a sponsor exemption, while his father is very much involved with the golf course that welcomes the Tour for the first time.