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The RSM Classic pre-tournament media notes

Dates: November 16-22, 2015

Where: St. Simons Island, Georgia

Courses: Sea Island GC (Seaside Course/Host; Plantation Course)

Par/Yards: Seaside (35-35—70/7,005), Plantation (36-36—72/7,058)

Field: 156 (expanded this season from 132 players)

Defending champion: Robert Streb

Purse: \$5,700,000 (\$1,026,000 to winner)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

The McGladrey Classic is now The RSM Classic

The change from the McGladrey Classic to The RSM Classic reflects the title sponsor's recent name change from McGladrey LLP to RSM US LLP. The Chicago-based firm announced in June that the change would be occurring on October 26 to unite its international network under one brand and better showcase its global capabilities.

A look back at The RSM Classic in 2014

Robert Streb fired a final round 7-under 63 to jump from T12 entering the final round to win a playoff in his first start at The RSM Classic. Streb came from five shots back entering the final round to claim his first victory on TOUR, eventually defeating Brendon de Jonge with a birdie-2 on the second extra hole (No. 17) to win a three-man playoff. Will Mackenzie dropped out of the playoff on the first extra hole with a bogey-5 on No. 18.

Robert Streb set to defend

- Streb recorded his first PGA TOUR victory in his 49th start. This week will mark his 80th TOUR start.
- Streb won at the age of 27 years, 6 months and 19 days.
- Joined Tommy Gainey as the only players to record their first TOUR win at The RSM Classic.
- Prior to winning, Streb's previous best finish on TOUR was T2 at the 2014 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- Streb has shown steady improvement in the FedExCup during his first three full seasons on the PGA TOUR, finishing No. 126 in 2013, No. 71 in 2014 and No. 18 in 2015. He is currently No. 110.
- So far during the 2015-16 Season, Streb has made the cut in two of three starts, with a T35 at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions his best outing.

The RSM Classic and the FedExCup

The RSM Classic is the seventh 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 includes seven events during the fall of 2015, all of which will award FedExCup points. After a break, the season will resume in January with the traditional swing through Hawaii before moving to the West Coast.

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 look at the field

- Tournament host Davis Love III will be making his 720th start on the PGA TOUR. Here's a look at Love's finishes at The RSM Classic (T33/2010, MC/2011, T4/2012, MC/2013, T41/2014).
- Love will be joined in the field by his son, Davis Love IV (currently a member of the University of Alabama men's golf team and playing this week via a sponsor exemption). It will be the first PGA TOUR start for "Dru".
- The season started with five consecutive first-time winners, with four of those – Smylie Kaufman (Shriners Hospitals for Children Open), Justin Thomas (CIMB Classic), Peter Malnati (Sanderson Farms Championship) and Graeme McDowell (OHL Classic at Mayakoba) – in The RSM Classic field. That streak was snapped this past week with Graeme McDowell (who is also playing at Sea Island) winning the OHL Classic at Mayakoba.
- Continuing a trend from 2014-15 that saw a TOUR-record 24 victories by players under the age of 30, four of the six winners in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season have been under the age of 30.

- Eleven players inside the top 20 in the FedExCup standings including five in the top 10 – Justin Thomas (No. 2), Smylie Kaufman (No. 4), Graeme McDowell (No. 7), Kevin Kisner (No. 8) and Peter Malnati (No. 9).
- The highest ranked-player in the field in the Official World Golf Rankings is Zach Johnson at No. 10. Matt Kuchar (No. 16), Kevin Kisner (No. 24) and Justin Thomas (No. 30) round out the players in the top 30.
- Brendon de Jonge has finished inside the top 16 in four of his five starts at The RSM Classic 2010 (T15), 2011 (T60), 2012 (T4), 2013 (T16), 2014 (P2).
- Patton Kizzire, 2015 Web.com Tour Regular Season and Finals combined money leader, finished T2 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in his debut as a PGA TOUR member and is one of two rookies with multiple top-10 finishes in 2015-16 along with Smylie Kaufman. Kizzire delayed the start of his season for his St. Simons, Ga. wedding on Saturday, October 17.
- Trey Mullinax and Bobby Wyatt have received sponsor exemptions this week. Those two helped the University of Alabama win back-to-back National Championships in 2013 and 2014. Another team member (in 2013) in the field is CIMB Classic champion Justin Thomas.
- Sponsor Exemptions: Austin Connelly, Chris DiMarco, Robert Karlsson, Dru Love, Scott Wolfes, Mullinax, Wyatt.

Past Champions in the field

All five of the past champions of The RSM Classic are in the field this week.

Champion	Year(s) won
Robert Streb	2014
Chris Kirk	2013
Tommy Gainey	2012
Ben Crane	2011
Heath Slocum	2010

Major Champions in the field

There are seven former major champions in the field this week.

Player	# Majors won
Vijay Singh	3
Zach Johnson	2
Stewart Cink	1
Jason Dufner	1
Lucas Glover	1
Davis Love III	1
Graeme McDowell	1

Sea Island Connections in the field

Tournament host, Sea Island resident and “Team RSM” member Davis Love III headlines a growing list of players with Sea Island connections, with the majority training out of the new and improved Sea Island Golf Performance Center. Here’s a current look at PGA TOUR players in the field with Sea Island connections:

- Blayne Barber – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Jonas Blixt – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Scott Brown – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Jonathan Byrd – Sea Island resident, trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Stewart Cink – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Brendon de Jonge – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Harris English – Sea Island resident, trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Lucas Glover – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Luke Guthrie – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Brain Harman – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Charles Howell III – owns Sea Island property, trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Zach Johnson – “Team RSM”, Sea Island resident, trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Chris Kirk – 2013 champion, owns Sea Island property, trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Patton Kizzire – Sea Island resident
- Matt Kuchar – Sea Island resident, trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Scott Langley – Sea Island resident
- Davis Love III – “Team RSM”, Sea Island resident, trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Dru Love – Sea Island resident, member of University of Alabama golf team
- Henrik Norlander – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Kyle Reifers – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Wes Roach – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- John Rollins – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Brandt Snedeker – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Hudson Swafford – Sea Island resident

- Michael Thompson – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Johnson Wagner – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Bobby Wyatt – Sea Island resident

Miscellaneous RSM Classic Notes

- There have been two playoffs at The RSM Classic: Ben Crane defeated Webb Simpson in 2011, while Robert Streb outlasted Brendon de Jonge and Will Mackenzie in 2014.
- Chris Kirk (2013) and Ben Crane (2010) are the only players to carry the 54-hole lead on to victory at the event.
- Caddie connection: PGA TOUR caddies Jim “Bones” Mackay and John “Woody” Wood, will serve as on-course reporters for Golf Channel during this year’s RSM Classic. Mackay, who is Phil Mickelson’s full-time caddie, and Wood, longtime caddie for Hunter Mahan who will loop for Matt Kuchar this season, will serve as course reporters for second- and third-round coverage on Golf Channel. The duo also will appear on **Morning Drive** Friday and Saturday live from Sea Island Golf Club.

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 World Golf Championships-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 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 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.

About RSM

- RSM US LLP is the leading provider of audit, tax and consulting services focused on the middle market.
- “Team RSM” features PGA TOUR players Davis Love III, Zach Johnson and Chris DiMarco.

About the Seaside Course

- The Seaside Course, which has made its way in the past on Golf Digest’s “Top 100 Courses in the United States”, is situated on the southern tip of Saint Simons Island and is a true oceanside course. The storied Seaside Course has been the site of many prestigious golf events and has challenged some of the game’s finest golfers, including Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus and Sam Snead. Originally designed in 1929
- Seaside was originally built as a 9-hole course by legendary English architects Harry S. Colt and Charles Alison in 1929. In 1973, Joe Lee designed Marshside Nine. These two distinct nines were transformed into the current world-class Seaside course in 1999 by Tom Fazio.

About the Plantation Course

- With Rees Jones’ renovation, the Plantation Course unfolds among a forest of ancient live oak and cedar, with a hint of danger lurking in its tidal creeks and lakes. Plantation boasts expansive fairways that give definition to the course, showcasing beautiful views of the ocean, oaks, and blooming flowers.

- Jones calls the new Plantation “parkland by the sea” for its magnificent vistas of the Atlantic Ocean and its lush natural scenery. Rees added, “I took the work of Walter Travis (who designed Plantation in 1926) and Dick Wilson (who fashioned Retreat in 1960) and produced a classic style course with a similar flavor.”

Tournament Spotlight – Special Olympics, Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Georgia, Birdies Fore Love

With the Davis Love Foundation serving as the host organization, The RSM Classic has a \$10.6 million economic impact on Georgia’s entire Golden Isles community. However, the real winners are the individuals served by the Special Olympics, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Georgia and Birdies Fore Love charities. In five years, The RSM Classic has raised more than \$2.7 million for charity.

Annual Wiffle Ball Classic

The Annual Wiffle Ball Classic presented by Krispy Kreme between PGA TOUR players, their wives and youth will be held Tuesday, November 17 at 5 p.m. The game, which is free to the public, will be held at the Frederica Academy Baseball Field. Festivities will begin that day at 3:00 p.m., with carnival activities (face painting, photo booth and games) and a food truck. In its first four years, in conjunction with Blessings in a Backpack, the Wiffle Ball Classic has raised \$75,000 to help feed children on weekends. Here’s a list of expected participants (with more to be added):

Matt & Sybi Kuchar (*St Simons Resident*)
 Hudson & Katherine Swafford (*St Simons Resident*)
 Harris English & Helen Marie Bowers (*St Simons Resident*)
 Scott & Kristy Langley (*St Simons Resident*)
 Josh & Ashley Teater (*St Simons Resident*)
 Jonathan & Amanda Byrd (*St Simons Resident*)
 Vaughn & Leot Taylor
 Brittany & Kevin Kisner
 Chesson & Amanda Hadley
 Mark & Amy Wilson
 Tommy & Erin Gainey (*Past Champion of Event*)
 Robert & Maggie Streb (*Past Champion of Event*)
 Brendon & Rachel Todd

Martina McBride to perform at “Live Under the Oaks”

Country music superstar Martina McBride will perform in the Golden Isles with a concert Saturday evening, November 21 in the annual “Live Under the Oaks” at McKinnon St. Simons Island Airport. The Country Music Association has named McBride its Female Vocalist of the Year four times, while the Academy of Country Music has presented her with its Top Female honor three times. To date, she has had 20 top-10 hits, six No. 1 songs and has sold 18 million albums.