



**2015 The RSM Classic**

*(7th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)*

**St. Simons Island, GA  
Seaside Course (Host)  
Plantation Course**

**November 16-22, 2015  
Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,005  
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,058**

**Purse: \$5,700,000  
FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)**

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, November 19, 2015**

*Weather. Cloudy, with bands of rain throughout the day. High of 85 degrees. Winds E 10-20 mph.*

*Due to wet conditions, preferred lies were utilized in round one. Sixteen out of the last 17 rounds on the PGA TOUR in four different countries have utilized the lift, clean and place rule.*

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Kevin Kisner (PL)	65 (-7)
David Hearn (SS)	64 (-6)
Jeff Overton (SS)	64 (-6)
Tom Hoge (SS)	64 (-6)
Jim Herman (PL)	66 (-6)
Kyle Stanley (PL)	66 (-6)
Kevin Chappell (PL)	66 (-6)
Scott Stallings (PL)	66 (-6)
Si Woo Kim (PL)	66 (-6)

**Kevin Kisner**

Kevin Kisner carded five birdies and an eagle on the par-5 eighth hole at the Plantation Course en route to a bogey-free 7-under 64 and one-stroke lead over eight players.

Kisner is making his 109<sup>th</sup> TOUR start, with four runner-up finishes in his last 19 starts (2015 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, 2015 Greenbrier Classic, 2015 PLAYERS Championship, 2015 RBC Heritage).

Kisner has shown steady progress in the FedExCup: 2011 (195), 2012 (153), 2013-14 (104), 2014-15 (21).

Last year, Kisner progressed every round (69-68-66-65) at The RSM Classic en route to T4 honors. Here's a look at his previous four starts at the RSM Classic (T4-2014, T20-2013, MC-2012, T26-2011).

This week marks the first time on the PGA TOUR that Kisner has held the opening-round lead.

Kisner "coached" the PGA TOUR players to a 7-6 victory over their wives Tuesday night in the annual PGA TOUR Wives Association Wiffle Ball Classic.

**First-Round Leader Notes**

Through six events in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, the first-round leader/co-leader has yet to win.

The first-round leader/co-leader has never gone on to win The RSM Classic.

A year ago, Erik Compton, Brian Harman, Michael Thompson and Will MacKenzie shared the opening-round lead at 5-under 65. Eventual champion Robert Streb was T48 after a 1-under 69.

**Jeff Overton**

Seven birdies and just one bogey (No. 8) led to a 6-under 64 at the Seaside Course for Jeff Overton. The 32-year-old native of Evansville, Ind., is still in search of his first PGA TOUR victory, with this week marking his 272<sup>nd</sup> start. He owns four runner-up finishes on TOUR, most recently at The Greenbrier Classic in 2010.

Overton at The RSM Classic (T6-2011, T51-2012, MC-2013, T48-2014).

Overton has never finished outside of the top 125 during the FedExCup era, claiming the last spot during the 2014-15 Season. Here's a look at his year-by-year finishes: 2007/111, 2008/99, 2009/67, 2010/29, 2011/90, 2012/44, 2013/108, 2013-14/92, 2014-15/125. He is currently No. 141 in the standings.

### **Additional Player Notes**

Tournament host Davis Love III opened with an even-par 70 in his 720<sup>th</sup> 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).

Davis Love III's son, Davis IV, also posted an opening-round even-par 70. "Dru" is currently a member of the University of Alabama men's golf team and playing this week via a sponsor exemption. Thursday marked Love's first PGA TOUR start. The Loves were joined in Thursday's featured pairing by Justin Thomas, who opened with a 3-under 67.

Kyle Stanley celebrated his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday Thursday with an first-round 6-under 66 on the Plantation Course.

Playing the Seaside Course, David Hearn birdied four of his first six holes (including a chip-in birdie on the par-3 12<sup>th</sup> hole) en route to a 6-under 64. He is making his fourth RSM Classic start (T44-2011, T51-2012, T40-2013).

After a slow start at the Plantation Course – opening with an even-par 36 on the front nine – Jim Herman added four birdies and an eagle on the closing par-4 18<sup>th</sup> hole for a 6-under 66. The former assistant club pro at Trump National Bedminster in New Jersey from 2006-07 is making his fourth start at The RSM Classic (T60-2011, MC-2013, MC-2014).

Brendon de Jonge opened with a 5-under 67 at the Plantation Course. He 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).

Rob Oppenheim claimed a six-stroke come-from-behind victory at the Web.com Tour's Air Capital Classic in Wichita, closing with a 6-under 64 to win by one stroke. He went on to receive the 50<sup>th</sup> and final spot on the 2015 Web.com Tour priority list, a mere \$101 ahead of Eric Axley (who claimed the final position the previous season). Oppenheim opened Thursday with a 5-under 65.

Making his 499<sup>th</sup> PGA TOUR start, Stewart Cink posted an opening-round 5-under 67 on the Plantation Course. The six-time PGA TOUR winner is in search of his first win since the 2009 Open Championship (147 starts ago).

Patton Kizzire, named 2015 Web.com Tour Player of the Year in a ceremony at Sea Island Golf Club Wednesday, opened Thursday with a 2-under 68.

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

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

Chris Kirk (2013)	68
Robert Streb (2014)	70
Heath Slocum (2010)	70
Ben Crane (2011)	71
Tommy Gainey (2012)	72

Round one scores for "Team RSM" Members:

Davis Love III	70
Zach Johnson	70
Chris DiMarco	76

### **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 look at additional players in the field with Sea Island connections:

- Jonathan Byrd – Sea Island resident, trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Stewart Cink – 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
- 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
- Matt Kuchar – Sea Island resident, trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- Scott Langley – Sea Island resident
- Dru Love – Sea Island resident, member of University of Alabama golf team
- Kyle Reifers – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center
- John Rollins – trains at Sea Island Golf Performance Center

- Hudson Swafford – Sea Island resident
- Patton Kizzire – Sea Island resident
- Bobby Wyatt – Sea Island resident

**Bogey-free rounds:**

R1: Tom Hoge (64), Freddie Jacobson (65), Kevin Kisner (65), Jason Gore (65), Rob Oppenheim (65), Chad Campbell (66), Russell Henley (66), Zac Blair (66), Derek Fathauer (67), Justin Thomas (67), Scott Brown (67), Brendon de Jonge (67), Jason Dufner (67), K.J. Choi (68), Brett Stegmaier (68), Ricky Barnes (68), Brian Stuard (68), Chris Kirk (68), Tim Herron (69), Kelly Kraft (70)

**First-round Scoring Averages**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Seaside	34.208	34.390	68.597	---
Plantation	34.731	35.026	69.756	---

Matt Every withdrew during the first round with an injury.