



2016 Waste Management Phoenix Open (The 12th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Scottsdale, Ariz. Feb. 4-7, 2016 TPC Scottsdale Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,266 yards Purse: \$6,500,000 (\$1,170,000 winner) 500 FedExCup points to winner

# Third-Round Notes – February 6, 2016

Weather: Sunny, with a high of 72 degrees. Winds variable, 4-8 mph.

## Third-Round Leaderboard

Position	Name	Score
1	Danny Lee	67-65-67—200 (-13)
T2	Hideki Matsuyama	65-70-68—203 (-10)
T2	Rickie Fowler	65-68-70-203 (-10)

## Danny Lee

Rotorua, New Zealand's Danny Lee carded a 4-under 67 on Saturday to take the 54-hole lead at the Waste Management Phoenix Open by three strokes over Rickie Fowler and Hideki Matsuyama.

Lee has never held the 54-hole lead on the PGA TOUR. His previous-best position through 54 holes is solo second at the 2014 Puerto Rico Open and the 2015 John Deere Classic.

In Lee's lone PGA TOUR victory at The Greenbrier Classic in 2015, he began the final round one stroke off the lead before shooting a 3-under 67 and defeating David Hearn, Robert Streb and Kevin Kisner in a playoff.

Lee is making his fourth start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open, where he has broken a streak of three missed cuts. Lee's 67-66-67 start this week marks just his second, third and fourth sub-par scores in nine rounds at TPC Scottsdale.

With a win, Lee can move as high as 11<sup>th</sup> in the FedExCup Standings.

Lee is making his sixth start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season this week, with only one top-25 finish and no top-10s to show for yet this year. Lee's last top-10 came at the 2015 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola (T2).

In addition to his win in West Virginia, Lee collected an additional seven top-10 finishes last season and ended the season ranked ninth in the FedExCup standings.

In September of last year, Lee earned a spot on the Presidents Cup International squad, where he went 1-2-0 in his native South Korea.

Through three rounds, Lee leads the field in Strokes Gained: Putting at +5.707

Lee is looking to become the fifth international winner of the Waste Management Phoenix Open, joining Aaron Baddeley (2007), Jesper Parnevik (1998), Vijay Singh (1995) and Sandy Lyle (1988) since the tournament re-located to TPC Scottsdale in 1987. With a win, Lee would become the first player from New Zealand to win the event.

Lee owns one Web.com Tour win at the 2011 WNB Golf Classic.

#### Third-Round Lead Notes

The 54-hole leader or co-leader has gone on to win the Waste Management Phoenix Open just once in the past six years (Phil Mickelson, 2013).

Last year, Martin Laird held a three-stroke lead after 36 holes at 13-under-par. Eventual champion Brooks Koepka was three strokes back.

Since 2000, third-round leaders/co-leaders of the event have held on for the win eight times: Phil Mickelson (2013), Kenny Perry (2009), J.B. Holmes (2008), J.B. Holmes (2006), Phil Mickelson (2005), Jonathan Kaye (2004) and Mark Calcavecchia (2001).

Through 11 events in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, five players have managed to convert a 54-hole lead/co-lead into victory, most recently being Jason Dufner two weeks ago at the CareerBuilder Challenge.

Since moving to TPC Scottsdale in 1987, the record for largest 54-hole lead is six strokes, held by Rocco Mediate in 1999, Mark Calcavecchia in 2001, Spencer Levin in 2012 and Phil Mickelson in 2013.

#### Hideki Matsuyama

Hideki Matsuyama continued his strong play at TPC Scottsdale, carding a 3-under 68 on Saturday to sit tied for second through 54 holes.

Matsuyama has finished inside the top five in each of his two starts at TPC Scottsdale (T4/2014, T2/2015) and has yet to shoot over par in 11 rounds there.

Last year at TPC Scottsdale, Matsuyama shot an 8-under 63 on Saturday to reach a tie for second, then shot a 4-under 67 on Sunday, narrowly missing a birdie putt on the 72<sup>nd</sup> hole that would have forced a playoff with Brooks Koepka.

Through three rounds, Matsuyama leads the field in Strokes Gained: Tee-to-Green at 9.092. Matsuyama gained +4.905 on the field in round three alone, leading all players.

In Matsuyama's lone PGA TOUR victory at the Memorial Tournament in 2014, he entered the final round two strokes off the lead and shot a 3-under 69 before defeating Kevin Na in a playoff.

#### **Rickie Fowler**

Two weeks after his win at the Abu Dhabi Championship, Rickie Fowler rallied from last week's missed cut at the Farmers Insurance Open and finds himself in solid position heading into Sunday in Scottsdale.

Tournament	54-hole position	Final round
		score
2012 Wells Fargo Championship*	Т6	69 (-3)
2015 THE PLAYERS*	T11	67 (-5)
2015 Deutsche Bank Championship	2nd	68 (-3)

Below is Fowler's 54-hole position in each of his three PGA TOUR victories:

\* denotes won in playoff

Fowler is making his eighth start in this week's Waste Management Phoenix Open, with a solo-second in 2010 his lone top-10 finish. Fowler finished T43 at TPC Scottsdale last year, following missed cuts in 2013 and 2014.

Fowler remains in search of his fourth career PGA TOUR title this week to go along with his 2012 Wells Fargo Championship, 2015 PLAYERS Championship and 2015 Deutsche Bank Championship crowns.

Fowler is making his fifth start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, with a fifth-place showing at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions his one top-10 finish.

Fowler has been consistent throughout his bag this week, ranking fifth in Strokes Gained: Tee-to-Green (+6.668) and T12 in Strokes Gained: Putting (+3.660).

#### **Phil Mickelson**

In his 27<sup>th</sup> start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open, 1996, 2005 and 2013 winner Phil Mickelson will head into the final round five shots back at 8-under after shooting a 6-under 65 in round three.

Mickelson's 65 was his lowest round at TPC Scottsdale since a 7-under 64 in round three in 2013, and matches his lowest score of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR season (Round 2, CareerBuilder Challenge).

In his three Waste Management Phoenix Open victories, Phil Mickelson has come from behind to win once. In 1996, he was two strokes behind Justin Leonard through 54 holes before shooting a final round 67 and defeating Leonard in a playoff.

Mickelson is looking to become the first four-time winner of this event. Mark Calcavecchia, Gene Littler and Arnold Palmer also captured three tournament titles.

Mickelson's 10 top-10 finishes in the event represents the tournament record by one over Mark Calcavecchia.

### **Additional Player Notes**

Bryce Molder carded the lowest round of the week with a 7-under 64 in round three, moving him up 33 spots from a tie for 37<sup>th</sup> to a tie for fourth. Molder led the field in Strokes Gained: Putting for the day, gaining +3.578 shots on the field

Boo Weekley moved 17 spots up the leaderboard thanks to a 6-under 65 on Saturday. Weekley was second in the field in Strokes Gained: Tee-to-Green on the day at +4.188.

Bubba Watson shot an 2-over par 73 on Saturday, marking the first time he has failed to shoot par or better in 37 career rounds at TPC Scottsdale.

#### Miscellaneous Notes

On Saturday, 201,003 people attended the Waste Management Phoenix Open, breaking the previous Saturday record of 189,722 from 2014 and setting the new record for single day attendance on the PGA TOUR. With one day to go, the tournament is 11,334 away from breaking the all-time attendance record for a single PGA TOUR event, set at the Waste Management Phoenix Open in 2015.

Seven past champions are in the field this week: Brooks Koepka (2015/T53) Phil Mickelson (2005, 2013/6), Kyle Stanley (2012/T23), Mark Wilson (2011/T64), Hunter Mahan (2010/MC), J.B. Holmes (2006, 2008/T17) and Aaron Baddeley (2007/MC)

Alex Cejka withdrew prior to round three with a sore neck.