



## 2015 WGC-HSBC Champions

(The 4th of 43 events in the 2015-2016 PGA TOUR Season)

Shanghai, China      November 5-8, 2015      FedExCup points: 550 (winner)  
Sheshan International Golf Club

Purse: \$8,500,000  
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,199

### Final-Round Notes – Sunday, November 8, 2015

*The World Golf Championship-HSBC Champions is the fourth event in the PGA TOUR's wraparound schedule that bridges two years with 43 official regular season 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 Regular Season, but also excels through the four-event FedExCup Playoffs, culminating with the 2016 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola.*

#### Final-Round Leaderboard

Place	Player	Score	Country
1	Russell Knox	67-65-68—200 (-16)	Scotland
2	Kevin Kisner	64-66-70-70—270 (-18)	USA
T3	Danny Willett	65-74-70-62—271 (-17)	England
T3	Ross Fisher	69-69-65-68—271 (-17)	England
T5	Branden Grace	63-71-70-68—272 (-16)	South Africa
T5	Dustin Johnson	65-71-65-71—272 (-16)	USA
T7	Matthew Fitzpatrick	68-69-69-67—273 (-15)	England
T7	Patrick Reed	65-70-68-70—273 (-15)	USA
T7	Jordan Spieth	68-72-63-70—273 (-15)	USA
T7	Hao Tong Li	66-69-66-72—201 (-15)	China

#### Russell Knox

Entering the final round of the World Golf Championships HSBC Champions, Russell Knox held a share of the lead with Kevin Kisner at 16-under-par. The 30-year-old Scotsman carded a 4-under 68 on Sunday and posted 20-under 268, good for a two-stroke win over Kisner.

Knox captures his first-career PGA TOUR victory in his 93rd start at the age of 30 years, 4 months and 18 days, and earns a three-year exemption on TOUR through the 2018-2019 season.

Knox's maiden victory on the PGA TOUR is worth 550 FedExCup points. The Jacksonville Beach, Florida, resident will move from No. 38 into the top 10 standings with his position dependent on the conclusion of the Sanderson Farms Championship.

Aside from Jeff Maggert, who won the very first World Golf Championships at the 1999 Accenture Match Play Championship, Russell Knox is the only player in World Golf Championships history to win his first World Golf Championships title while playing for the first time in the four-tournament series.

Knox is the seventh player to make a World Golf Championships event their first PGA TOUR win:

Darren Clarke – 2000 Dell Match Play  
Craig Parry – 2002 Bridgestone Invitational  
Kevin Sutherland – 2002 Dell Match Play  
Henrik Stenson – 2007 Dell Match Play  
Ian Poulter – 2010 Dell Match Play  
Shane Lowry – 2015 Bridgestone Invitational  
Russell Knox – 2015 HSBC Champions

Knox is playing in his fourth full season on TOUR and finished 34<sup>th</sup> in the 2014-15 FedExCup standings. His season included two 3<sup>rd</sup>-place finishes (Shriners Hospital Open for Children, The Honda Classic). His best finish on TOUR coming into this week was a runner-up showing at the 2013 Honda Classic in which the former All-American was in a four-way playoff with Ryan Palmer, Rory McIlroy and Russell Henley, the eventual champion.

Knox is the first player from Scotland to win a World Golf Championships event.

Knox becomes the fourth European to win the World Golf Championships–HSBC Champions since the event became part of the WGC series in November 2009. He follows: Francesco Molinari (2010), Martin Kaymer (2011) and Ian Poulter (2012).

Knox is the second consecutive World Golf Championships first-time winner, following Shane Lowry at the 2015 World Golf Championships–Bridgestone Invitational.

With his victory at the HSBC Champions, the Jacksonville University Dolphin is now exempt on TOUR through the 2017-18 season.

Last week's CIMB Classic was the first time Knox has been to any country in Asia. While in Malaysia, Knox was informed that he was in the field for the HSBC Champions. Knox's wife, Andrea, scrambled to get their Visas from the Chinese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and arrived in Shanghai Monday afternoon. Knox's caddy didn't arrive until Wednesday so Andrea was forced to caddy for Knox in his Tuesday practice round at Sheshan International.

Knox's previous best performance this season was a T21 at last week's CIMB Classic in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Knox's round-by-round stats:

R1: 10 of 14 fairways, 17 of 18 greens, 30 putts

R2: 8 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens, 25 putts

R3: 11 of 14 fairways, 17 of 18 greens, 31 putts

R4: 12 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens, 27 putts

### **About Russell Knox**

HEIGHT: 5-10

WEIGHT: 155

BIRTHDATE: June 21, 1985

BIRTHPLACE: Inverness, Scotland

RESIDENCE: Jacksonville Beach, Florida

FAMILY: Wife; Andrea

EDUCATION: Jacksonville University (2007, Business Management)

TURNED PROFESSIONAL: 2007 JOINED TOUR: 2012

Web.com Tour Graduate (2011, 2013)

Knox's career PGA TOUR starts-made cuts-top-10s-wins: 93-63-9-1

### **Kevin Kisner**

After not seeing the course before his opening round, Kevin Kisner was tied for the lead with Russell Knox, one shot ahead of Dustin Johnson and China's Hao Tong Li heading into the final round of the HSBC Champions. Kisner birdied the 72<sup>nd</sup> hole, carded a 2-under 70 and posted 18-under-par for a solo runner-up showing in Shanghai. This was the 31-year-old's second start in a World Golf Championships event and his first career start at the HSBC Champions.

Sunday marked the first time in Kisner's PGA TOUR career that he shared the 54-hole lead. His best previous standing through 54 holes was T3 at the 2011 Viking Classic where he shot a final-round 73 to finish T27. Since then, Kisner has had several close calls in getting his first PGA TOUR win. Last season, the former University of Georgia standout posted three runner-up performances on TOUR (2 – RBC Heritage, T2 – THE PLAYERS Championship, T2 – The Greenbrier Classic) and finished No. 21 in the final FedExCup standings.

Kisner's 200 total matched his lowest 54-hole score in a PGA TOUR event with the 2014 Wyndham Championship where he finished T8.

Kisner teed it up in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last week at the CIMB Classic and tweaked his back during his final round. Kisner's injury prevented him from playing a practice round this week in Shanghai and Thursday was his first trip around Sheshan International Golf Club.

Kisner's opening-round 8-under-par score on Thursday tied his career-low on TOUR (second round – 2011 Viking Classic).

### **Danny Willett**

England's Danny Willett recorded the low round of the day with his 10-under-par 62 in the final round of the HSBC Champions. Martin Kaymer holds the tournament record (62 – 2014 WGC-HSBC Champions). Because they were playing ball in hand on Sunday, Willett's 10-under score will not be recognized as a tournament record.

Willett's T3 matched his best performance on TOUR (3 – 2015 WGC-Dell Match Play).

### **Hao Tong Li**

China's Hao Tong Li got up and down for par from the front of the 72<sup>nd</sup> green to card a final-round even-par 72, posted 15-under-par 273 and finished in a tie for seventh with World No. 1 Jordan Spieth, Patrick Reed and Matthew Fitzpatrick. Li played this past season on the Web.com Tour after finishing No. 1 on Ping An Bank China Tour – PGA TOUR China Series' Order of Merit. This is the third time that Li has played in the HSBC Champions, the only tournament he has played on the PGA TOUR.

His T7 performance in front of his home fans is the best showing in a PGA TOUR event by a Chinese player. This is the third time that Li has played in the HSBC Champions, the only tournament he has played on the PGA TOUR.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Tournament</b>
<b><i>Li Haotong</i></b>	<b><i>T7</i></b>	<b><i>2015 WGC-HSBC Champions</i></b>
Liang Wenchong	T8	2010 PGA Championship
Liang Wenchong	T12	2008 Zurich Classic of New Orleans
Zhang Xinjun	T13	2011 WGC-HSBC Champions
Liang Wenchong	T15	2013 WGC-HSBC Champions
Liang Wenchong	T24	2012 WGC-HSBC Champions
Liang Wenchong	T25	2010 Sony Open in Hawaii
Liang Wenchong	T30	2010 WGC-CA Championship
Li Haotong	T35	2014 WGC HSBC Champions
Liang Wenchong	T37	2006 International

With his father serving as his caddie, Li is the first Chinese player to finish in the top 10 at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions since the tournament became an official World Golf Championships event in 2009. Xin-Jun Zhang previously recorded the best finish by a player from China in any World Golf Championships event with his T13 at the HSBC Champions in 2011.

Li finished No. 1 on Ping An Bank China Tour – PGA TOUR China Series' Order of Merit in 2014.

This past season, Li retained his Web.Com Tour card after advancing to the Web.com Tour Finals. In 23 starts Li recorded seven top 25s, made \$101, 952 and ended the year No. 49 on the money list. Li's best performance came at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr. Pepper (T6).

Li finished second at the European Tour's Shenzhen International in April and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Volvo China Open in Shanghai the following week.

Career-High OWGR Ranking for players from China:

Wen Chong Liang	57 (September 2010)
Hao Tong Li	111 (April 2015)
Xin-jun Zhang	367 (August 2015)
Ashun Wu	133 (December 2013)

### **Miscellaneous stats**

**Six players representing China are in the field:**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Place</b>
Yi Cao	9-over	74
Zecheng Dou	3-under	T51
Hao Tong Li	15-under	T7
Wenchong Liang	even-par	T58
Ashun Wu	even-par	T58
Xinjun Zhang	4-under	T46

Jordan Spieth regained the No. 1 spot on the Official World Golf Rankings thanks his T7 performance in Shanghai.

**Quick review of tournament history:**

- The HSBC Champions was created in November 2005 and became an official European Tour and Asian Tour event beginning in 2006. Event champions during that timeframe: 2005 – David Howell; 2006 – Y.E. Yang; 2007 – Phil Mickelson; 2008 – Sergio Garcia.
- In 2009, the HSBC Champions was granted World Golf Championships status but was an unofficial event on the PGA TOUR. Phil Mickelson’s win in 2009 is not considered an official PGA TOUR victory.
- Beginning in 2010, the HSBC Champions counted as an official PGA TOUR victory and offered a three-year exemption on the PGA TOUR—provided the tournament was won by a PGA TOUR member. Prize money, however, did not count toward the official PGA TOUR money list, even in a PGA TOUR member won the tournament. Tournament winners during this timeframe include: 2010 Francesco Molinari (unofficial PGA TOUR win); 2011 – Martin Kaymer (unofficial PGA TOUR win); 2012 – Ian Poulter (official PGA TOUR win).
- On the final day of the 2012 event, HSBC announced renewal of its title sponsorship through 2015, along with the announcement that the event would become a part of the PGA TOUR’s FedExCup. Dustin Johnson became the first champion to be awarded official money, FedExCup points (550), and a three-year exemption for his victory in 2013 and Bubba Watson winning last year.

Scoring averages at the par-72 Sheshan International Golf Club

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>
R1:	34.963	34.614	69.577
R2:	35.679	36.283	71.962
R3:	35.207	34.728	69.935
R4:	35.272	35.597	70.869
Total:	35.282	35.304	70.586

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