



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

Second-Round Notes – Friday, November 6, 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.

Second-Round Leaderboard

Place	Player	Score	Country	OWGR
1	Kevin Kisner	64-66—130 (-14)	USA	34
2	Russell Knox	67-65—132 (-12)	Scotland	85
3	Branden Grace	63-71—134 (-10)	S. Africa	22
T4	Hao-Tong Li	66-69—135 (-9)	China	212
T4	Patrick Reed	65-70—135 (-9)	USA	18
T6	Three others at 8-under-par			

Kevin Kisner

After not seeing the course before his opening round, Kevin Kisner has played 36 holes without a bogey and holds a two-stroke lead over Russell Knox at the half-way point of his first career start at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, Kisner's opening-round 8-under-par score on Thursday tied his career-low on TOUR (second round – 2011 Viking Classic).

Kisner's 130 total is his lowest 36-hole start to a tournament of his PGA TOUR career. This is Kisner's first time leading or sharing the lead through 36 holes of a PGA TOUR event in his 108th career start. Since the HSBC became an official World Golf Championships event in 2009, Kisner's 130-total score is the lowest 36-hole total at Sheshan International Golf Club (Louis Oosthuizen finished two rounds with a 128 total in 2012, but the event was held at Mission Hills Golf Club).

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 is playing in just his second World Golf Championships event. Earlier this year, the 31-year-old from Aiken, South Carolina, finished T37 at the Bridgestone invitational.

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 rounds in detail:

Rd 1: 9 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens, 24 putts.

Rd 2: 9 of 14 fairways, 11 of 18 greens, 24 putts.

Total: 18 of 28 fairways (64.3%), 25 of 36 greens (69.4%), 48 putts

Russell Knox

With the low round of the day (7-under, 65) Scotland's Russell Knox is two strokes off the lead with one bogey and 13 birdies through 36 holes. Knox, playing in his fourth full season on the PGA TOUR, finished 34th in the 2014-15 FedExCup standings. His season included two 3rd-place finishes (Shriners Hospital Open for Children, The Honda Classic).

Knox is one of 15 players making their World Golf Championships debut this week. Aside from Jeff Maggert, who won the very first World Golf Championships at the 1999 Accenture Match Play Championship, no player has won a World Golf Championships in his first start in the series.

Knox is no stranger to low scores having shot 59 on the Web.Com Tour's Boise Open in 2013.

This is his fourth start of the 2014-15 season. His best finish thus far is a T21 at last week's CIMB Classic in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Knox lives in Jacksonville, Florida, after playing collegiately at Jacksonville University.

Hao Tong Li

China's Hao Tong followed an opening-round 66 with a second-round 69 and is 9-under-par through 36 holes, leading the Chinese contingent in the field. 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.

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).

With his father serving as his caddie, Li is looking to be 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 has recorded the best finish by a player from China in any World Golf Championships event with his T13 at the HSBC Champions in 2011.

Branden Grace

First-round leader Branden Grace shot a 1-under-par 71 a day after lighting up the course with a PGA TOUR personal best 9-under 63. The South African is four strokes back after the second round.

This is Grace's 14th appearance in a World Golf Championships; his best showing came in the 2015 Dell Match Play (T9). His best performance at the HSBC Champions (T39) came in 2013.

Grace earned PGA TOUR membership for the 2015-16 season by finishing top 125 on the FedExCup non-member points list. He made 11 of 13 cuts, with four top-10s, including two of the four major championships (T4 – U.S. Open, 3 – PGA Championship). Grace capped off his year with an impressive 5-0-0 record in five Presidents Cup matches in the American team's 15½-14½ victory in South Korea.

Grace has won twice on the European Tour this season (Alfred Dunhill Championship, Commercial Bank Qatar Masters) and is currently No. 6 in the Race to Dubai.

Dustin Johnson

In search of his third World Golf Championship trophy, Dustin Johnson opened the HSBC Champions with a 7-under 65 but struggled through the first 15 holes of his second round. Three consecutive birdies, however, on holes 16, 17 and 18 moved the 2013 HSBC Champions winner to 8-under-par, six strokes off the lead.

Patrick Reed

At 9-under-par, American Patrick Reed is looking to add another World Golf Championships title to his 2014 Cadillac Championship win.

This is Reeds 18th time playing in a major championship, PLAYERS Championship or World Golf Championships event. Other than his victory at the Cadillac Championship, Reed has one other top-10 finish (T4-2014 Bridgestone Invitational). He did finish in the top 25, however, of three of the four majors, THE PLAYERS and all four World Golf Championships in the 2014-15 season.

Having accepted full-time membership on the European Tour for the 2015 season, Reed ranks No. 40 in the Race to Dubai standings. Reed is playing in next week's BMW Masters, the third of four Final Series tournaments, also in Shanghai.

Miscellaneous stats

Showing the true global reach of the World Golf Championships, there are eight countries represented in the top 10 on the leaderboard after the first round.

Past HSBC Champions are in the field:

Player	Year	Score	Place
David Howell	2005	3-under	T37
Sergio Garcia	2008	6-under	T13
Martin Kaymer	2011	4-under	T27
Ian Poulter	2012	1-under	T50
Dustin Johnson	2013	8-under	T6
Bubba Watson	2014	4-under	T27

Six players representing China are in the field:

Player	Score	Place
Yi Cao	4-over	70
Zecheng Dou	3-under	T37
Hao Tong Li	9-under	T4
Wenchong Liang	E	T53
Ashun Wu	1-under	T50
Xinjun Zhang	5-under	T19

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

	Front 9	Back 9	Total
R1:	34.963	34.614	69.577
R2:	35.679	36.283	71.962
Total:	35.322	35.448	70.770

Please visit pgatourmedia.com for further information.