



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 Third-Round Notes – Saturday, November 7, 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.

Weather: The start of the third round was delayed 30 minutes with tee times pushed back to 9:15 AM local time. Play was again suspended at 9:57 AM due to the threat of lightning in the area. Play resumed at 10:40 AM and was called for the day due to darkness with the final group given the option to complete their final hole. Only Russell Knox elected not to tee off the 18th hole and will come back to finish his third round at 7:45 AM on Sunday morning. Knox returned Sunday morning to birdie the final hole.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Place	Player	Score	Country
1	Kevin Kisner	64-66-70—200 (-16)	USA
1	Russell Knox	67-65-68—200 (-16)	Scotland
T3	Hao Tong Li	66-69-66—201 (-15)	China
T3	Dustin Johnson	65-71-65—201 (-15)	USA
T5	Jordan Spieth	68-72-63—203 (-13)	USA
T5	Ross Fisher	69-69-65—203 (-13)	Eng
T5	Patrick Reed	65-70-68—203 (-13)	USA

Kevin Kisner

After not seeing the course before his opening round, Kevin Kisner is tied for the lead with Russell Knox, one shot ahead of Dustin Johnson and China's Hao Tong Li heading with all players except for Knox having completed the third round at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions. This is the 31-year-old's second start in a World Golf Championships event and his first career start at the HSBC Champions.

It marks the first time in Kisner's PGA TOUR career that shares the lead heading into the final round. 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 matches 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).

Hao Tong Li

China's Hao Tong Li shot a third-round 66 and is currently tied for third with Dustin Johnson, one shot off the lead. 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.

If he were to win, the 20-year-old Li would be the youngest player to win a World Golf Championships event passing Patrick Reed who won the 2014 Cadillac Championship at 23 years, 7 months, 4 days.

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.

Player	Finish	Tournament
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

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 6th 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)

Hao Tong Li, who is not a member of the PGA TOUR, can earn Special Temporary Membership for the remainder of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR season. To do so, Li would need to earn more than the player that finished No. 150 on the 2014-15 FedExCup points list (361/Cameron Percy). Once they pass that number they will be eligible for unlimited sponsor exemptions for the remainder of the 2015-16 season in their attempt to earn their 2016-17 TOUR card.

If Li earns an amount of points or official money that equals or exceeds the amount of points or official money earned by the player finishing in the 125th position on the 2015-2016 season's FedExCup Points List or Official PGA TOUR Money List, then he will earn membership for the 2016-17 season.

As a point of reference, Jeff Overton finished 125 in FedExCup points in 2014-15 and David Toms finished 125th on the official money list with \$742,470/David Toms. But it won't be determined how much Li would need to earn until the full 2015-16 season has been completed to know the amount that No. 125 has earned.

If Li, as a nonmember of the PGA TOUR, was to win the HSBC Champions, he would have 60 days to accept full PGA TOUR membership. FedExCup Points won by Non-Members and Special Temporary Members who subsequently become Regular PGA TOUR Members during the season will be counted on the FedExCup Points List, along with any FedExCup Points earned as a Non-Member (excluding those won at World Golf Championship events as a Non-Member).

Russell Knox

Playing in the final group on Saturday, Scotland's Russell Knox, along with his playing partners Kevin Kisner and Branden Grace, were given the option of finishing the 18th hole due to darkness. Knox deciding not to play the hole while Kisner and Grace continued on. Knox, returned on Sunday morning to birdie the 18th hole and finish the third

round with a share of the lead. It marks the first time in his career that he has led or shared a lead heading into the final round on the PGA TOUR.

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 would be the first player from Scotland to win a World Golf Championships event.

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

Last week's CIMB Classic was the first time Knox has been to any country in Asia.

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.

Dustin Johnson

In search of his third World Golf Championship trophy, Dustin Johnson shot a 7-under-par 65 and is tied with Haotong Li in third, one shot behind the lead heading into the final round. 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 entering the day.

Johnson, a nine-time winner on the PGA TOUR, has at least one PGA TOUR victory in eight consecutive seasons (2008-current), the current longest streak on TOUR. Johnson has won at least one event for every year he has been a member of the PGA TOUR.

Johnson is one of nine players with multiple World Golf Championships titles: Tiger Woods (18), Geoff Ogilvy (3), Darren Clarke (2), Ernie Els (2), Hunter Mahan (2), Rory McIlroy, Phil Mickelson (2) and Ian Poulter (2). With a victory this week he would join Ogilvy and Woods as the only players with three or more World Golf Championships victories.

Johnson scored 67 or better in 7 of his 11 career rounds at Sheshan International Golf Club.

Johnson finished the 2014-15 season ranked No. 5 in the FedExCup standings behind 11 top-10 finishes including two runner-up finishes to go along with his victory.

Jordan Spieth

Jordan Spieth, T27 and 9 strokes off the third-round lead, climbed into contention with a third-round 63 and now trails Kevin Kisner by three strokes. In search of his first World Golf Championship trophy, the two-time major champion's 9-under-par score is his lowest round on TOUR since a 10-under 61 in the third round of the 2015 John Deere Classic, an event he won last season. The 63 is his lowest career round in a World Golf Championships event in his ninth time playing a WGC.

In 297 rounds on TOUR, Spieth has carded a 63 or better five times.

Spieth has come from behind twice in his brief career on TOUR when trailing after 54 holes. The 22-year-old from Dallas, Texas, entered the final round of the 2013 John Deere Classic six shots off the lead, holed a 45-foot bunker shot on the 72nd hole for birdie to force a playoff, and earned his first TOUR victory with a par on the fifth extra hole.

Spieth's round-by-round stats

Rd 1: 7 of 14 fairways, 12 of 18 greens, 25 putts

Rd 2: 4 of 14 fairways, 9 of 18 greens, 25 putts

Rd 3: 9 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens, 24 putts

Miscellaneous stats

Showing the true global reach of the World Golf Championships, there are nine countries represented in the top 11 on the leaderboard after the first round.

Six players representing China are in the field:

Player	Score	Place
Yi Cao	3-over	T69
Zecheng Dou	2-under	T54

Hao Tong Li	15-under	T2
Wenchong Liang	1-over	T66
Ashun Wu	1-under	T58
Xinjun Zhang	4-under	T43

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
R3:	35.207	34.728	69.935
Total:	35.284	35.209	70.493

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