



On-site Web.com Tour media contact:
Royce Thompson, Manager, Communications
(321) 246-7687 | roycethompson@pgatourhq.com

2017 Web.com Tour Championship pre-tournament notes

Dates: September 25 – October 1, 2017

Where: Atlantic Beach, Florida

Course: Atlantic Beach Country Club (35-36—par 71/6,849 yards)

Field size: 129

2015 champion: Emiliano Grillo

Purse: \$1,000,000 (\$180,000/winner)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Twitter: @webtourtchamp

Instagram: @webtourtchamp

Hashtag: #webtourtchamp

A glance at the 2016 Web.com Tour Championship

The Web.com Tour Championship was cancelled due to the pending threat of Hurricane Matthew. An evacuation of Atlantic Beach was issued late Wednesday morning, of tournament week, by the city of Jacksonville.

A recap of the 2015 Web.com Tour Championship

Emiliano Grillo claimed the Web.com Tour Championship by one shot when he drained a 25-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole moments before Chez Reavie missed on a similar line from 10 feet closer. The 23-year-old Argentine carded a final-round 69 for a 14-under-par total 266. The first-place check for \$180,000 propelled him into the fourth spot on the final PGA TOUR priority ranking as he headed off to the PGA TOUR.

What's at stake this week

This is the fourth tournament in the Web.com Tour Finals, a series of four events that will conclude at the Web.com Tour Championship. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards were awarded on Sunday afternoon of the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz. An additional 25 cards are up for grabs during the four Finals events, as well as positioning for all 50 cards.

This is the fifth year of the Finals format and it's difficult to gauge exactly how much money it will take to finish in the top-25 on the Finals money list and collect one of the remaining 25 PGA TOUR cards that will be handed out this week. Here's how much money the No. 25 man on the Finals money list earned in each of the past four years:

2013	No. 25	Bobby Gates	\$33,650.00
2014	No. 25	Eric Axley	\$36,311.66
2015	No. 25	Rob Oppenheim	\$32,206.00

2016 No. 24 Tim Wilkinson* \$27,425.00

*denotes three events played (Web.com Tour Championship was cancelled)

Players to watch in Atlantic Beach

Chesson Hadley – At \$559,350, Hadley has already overtaken Patton Kizzire for No. 2 on the list for most money earned in a season. To dethrone Michael Sim (\$644,142) at the top, the former Web.com Tour champion must earn \$84,192 this week.

Chris Baker – Baker is making his second straight appearance in the Finals and first in the Web.com Tour Championship. Originally from Indiana, Baker, who attended Iowa State University, resides in Jacksonville, Fla. and is a member at Atlantic Beach Country Club. He's earned \$8,500 in the first three events and will need a top 5 to secure the first PGA TOUR of his career.

Keith Mitchell – Mitchell finished the Regular Season No. 26 and was the last man out when PGA TOUR cards were awarded in Portland earlier this year. He quickly overcame the heartbreak and recorded two T6's in the first three events of the Finals to secure his TOUR card. While Mitchell can't pass Hadley for the No. 1 on the money list, every dollar counts as players try and improve their priority ranking for the upcoming FedExCup season.

A look at the impact the 2016 graduating Web.com Tour class is making on the PGA TOUR – With the Web.com Tour becoming The Path to the PGA TOUR, every year 25 TOUR cards are awarded through the Web.com Tour at the end of the Regular Season and an additional 25 TOUR cards are handed out at the conclusion of the Web.com Tour Finals. Here are some highlights from the 2016-17 TOUR season:

- Cody Gribble was the first of the new crop to win on the PGA TOUR during the fall portion of the 2016-17 season. After entering the final round of the Sanderson Farms Championship trailing Luke List and Chris Kirk by one stroke, Gribble carded a bogey-free 7-under 65 Sunday for a four-stroke victory over List, Kirk and Greg Owen.
- The very next week, Rod Pamplung drained a 32-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open by two shots over Brooks Koepka (67).
- Mackenzie Hughes, who led outright each of the first three rounds of the RSM Classic, posted a 1-under 69 in the final round Sunday to get to 17-under 265 and joined a playoff between Camilo Villegas, Blayne Barber, Billy Horschel and Henrik Norlander. On the third extra hole Monday morning, the par-3 17th, Hughes rolled in a 15-foot putt to save par from off the green to claim his first career TOUR victory in his ninth start, two days before his 26th birthday.
- Web.com Tour Player of the Year, Wesley Bryan began the final round, of the RBC Heritage, three shots back of the lead, and edged out Luke Donald by one shot to become the first South Carolina native in the 49-year history of the RBC Heritage to win with a 13-under 271 total. Bryan was the third rookie to win on TOUR this season, joining Cody Gribble and Mackenzie Hughes.
- Grayson Murray won his first TOUR trophy in just his 24th start with a one-stroke over Chad Collins at the Barbasol Championship. Murray finished with a 72-hole total of 21-under-par 263, a tournament record after rounds of 67-64-64-68.
- Xander Schauffele posted four consecutive rounds in the 60s for a 72-hole total of 14-under-par total of 266 at the Greenbrier Classic to take home his first TOUR title in his 24th career start. Just a few weeks prior, Schauffele was in contention at the U.S. Open contested at Erin Hills, where he placed T5. During the FedExCup Playoffs, Schauffele was one of two rookies to make it to the TOUR.

Championship and locked up Rookie of the Year honors with a one-stroke victory over FedExCup champion Justin Thomas.

Field notes

- Eight of the top 10 on the Tour money list are in the field this week: Chesson Hadley (1), Andrew Landry (2), Brice Garnett (3), Abraham Ancer (4), Sam Ryder (5), Ted Potter Jr. (6), Stephan Jaeger (7), and Rob Oppenheim (10).
- One past champion is in Atlantic Beach for the Web.com Tour Championship this week (Chesson Hadley – 2013).
- The highest ranked player in the field according to the Official World Golf Rankings is Daniel Summerhays (112). There are a total of eight players inside the top 200 on the OWGR.
- Seventeen winners of PGA TOUR events are in this week's Web.com Tour Championship field; (Stuart Appleby - 9, Hunter Mahan - 6, Jonathan Byrd - 5, Ben Crane - 5, Ángel Cabrera - 3, Johnson Wagner - 3, Will MacKenzie - 2, Eric Axley - 1, Charlie Beljan - 1, Alex Cejka - 1, Ken Duke - 1, Derek Ernst - 1, Chesson Hadley - 1, Matt Jones - 1, Bill Lunde - 1, Troy Merritt - 1, Ted Potter, Jr. - 1, Dicky Pride - 1, Andres Romero - 1)
- There are 59 former Web.com Tour winners in this week's field, including Martin Piller (6), Kyle Thompson (5), Steven Alker (4), Chesson Hadley (4), Stephan Jaeger (3), Carlos Ortiz (3), Casey Wittenberg (3), Stewart Appleby (2) and Ben Crane (2).

Atlantic Beach Country Club – Atlantic Beach Country Club was once known as Selva Marina Country Club, which was founded in 1958. The club hosted the PGA TOUR's Greater Jacksonville Open in 1965 and 1966, with the likes of Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Sam Snead onsite to compete. Nicklaus recorded the first double-eagle of his TOUR career on the par-5 18th in 1966. Erik Larsen was selected to head up the renovation process. Larsen knew the history of the property and had a vision to design a championship golf course and wanted a coastal feel that was reminiscent of old Florida.

2017 Web.com Tour Story Ideas

Travel Adventures – Some of our Web.com Tour pros are traveling fulltime for the first time in their lives. What is the best tip they have for others who travel? What are their dining preferences on the road?

My Funniest Pro-Am Moment – Professional golfers have played in so many pro-ams they have seen so many different things. Web.com Tour players can share some of the lighter moments they've experienced in their experience playing with amateur golfers.

New Kid on the Block – Every year there are plenty of new faces on the Web.com Tour, some directly from college and others from the mini-tour ranks. Success for many is mixed. What problems do these new players face in their initial season on Tour? What has been the biggest adjustment they've had to make? Did they seek out other players for advice prior to joining the Tour and if so, what is the best piece of advice they received?

Caddie Preparation – The caddie/player relationship is a unique one. In some instances, the player's caddy is also his wife. What kind of time and effort goes into preparing for a tournament? Caddy a few holes for a player to learn more about the strategy behind tournament golf.