



2017 DEAN & DELUCA Invitational
(The 28th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Fort Worth, Texas
Colonial Country Club

May 25-28, 2017
Par/Yardage: 35-35—70/7,209

FedExCup Points: 500
Purse: \$6,900,000 (\$1,242,000)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, May 25, 2017

Weather: Sunny, warm and windy. Wind S 20-25 mph, gusting to 30 mph. High of 93.

First-Round Leaderboard

Derek Fathauer	65 (-5)
J.T. Poston	65 (-5)
Kelly Kraft	65 (-5)
Scott Brown	66 (-4)
Graeme McDowell	66 (-4)
Jon Rahm	66 (-4)

Three players tied for the lead through the first round equals the second most on TOUR this season, trailing only the six-way tie for the lead at the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship.

Derek Fathauer

Derek Fathauer posted six birdies and one bogey (No. 15) en route to a 5-under 65, his third opening-round in the 60s in as many attempts at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational (69-2016, 68-2009). He shares the first-round lead with J.T. Poston and Kelly Kraft.

In his two prior starts at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational, Fathauer finished T68 in 2009 and T62 in 2016.

Fathauer is making his 18th start of the season, with his lone top-10 finish coming at the CIMB Classic (T3). He enters the week having missed three consecutive cuts. Fathauer is currently No. 101 in the FedExCup, one year after finishing No. 100 in the final standings.

This week represents Fathauer's 103rd PGA TOUR start. His career-best, third-place finish at the 2016 CIMB Classic marked his third career top 10 on TOUR.

R1 at a glance: 5 of 14 fairways, 15 of 18 greens, 1 of 2 sand saves, 2 of 3 scrambling, 28 putts.

This week marks the fourth time Fathauer has held the first-round lead/co-lead, but the first time in outright fashion: 2015 Genesis Open (T61), 2015 OHL Classic at Mayakoba (4), 2016 CIMB Classic (T3).

Kelly Kraft

Kelly Kraft, a 27-year-old native of Denton, Texas, opened with a 5-under 65 in his second start at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational. In 2012, he turned in rounds of 71-71-64-80 to finish T57. Kraft is tied for the lead after day one with Derek Fathauer and J.T. Poston.

Five Texas natives have won the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational: Ben Hogan (1946, 1947, 1952, 1953, 1959), Homero Blancas (1970), Lee Trevino (1976, 1978), Ben Crenshaw (1977, 1990) and Jordan Spieth (2016).

Kraft, a resident of Dallas, Texas, is making his 51st PGA TOUR start this week, with a runner-up finish at this year's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am his best outing. Most recently he missed the cut at the AT&T Byron Nelson, his first start since a solo-third place finish at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

One year after finishing No. 165 in the FedExCup standings during the 2015-16 Season (his first full season on TOUR), Kraft is currently No. 50 in the standings.

R1 at a glance: 8 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens, 5 of 5 scrambling, 26 putts.

Kraft defeated Patrick Cantlay to win the 2011 U.S. Amateur Championship at Erin Hills.

This week marks Kraft's first lead/co-lead after any round on the PGA TOUR.

J.T. Poston

J.T. Poston recorded a 5-under 65 in his first-ever start at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational. He is hoping to become the sixth player to win the Colonial in his first start: Sergio Garcia (2001), Keith Clearwater (1987), Dave Stockton (1967), Clayton Heafner (1948) and Ben Hogan (1946).

Poston is making his 19th start during his rookie season on the PGA TOUR. Among 14 made cuts in 18 starts is a career-best T10 at the Puerto Rico Open. He is currently No. 97 in the FedExCup standings.

Poston earned his card this season with a 26th place finish on the 2016 Web.com Tour final priority list.

Poston is a two-time winner of the Southern Conference Men's Golf Tournament (2014, 2015), becoming the 11th player to win the title multiple times. He is one of seven players to win the event in back-to-back seasons, a list that includes Arnold Palmer.

R1 at a glance: 9 of 14 fairways, 15 of 18 greens, 2 of 3 scrambling, 28 putts.

This week marks Poston's first lead/co-lead after any round on the PGA TOUR.

First-Round Leader Stats

The lowest opening-round score at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational is 8-under 62 (Ryan Palmer/2013, David Toms/2011, Chez Reavie/2011 and Patrick Sheehan/2005).

Last year, Bryce Molder carded a 6-under 64 for a one-stroke lead over Anirban Lahiri, Patrick Reed and Webb Simpson. Eventual champion Jordan Spieth was T9 after a 3-under 67.

In the previous 69 playings of the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational, the first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win 17 times. Dating to 1989, just four first-round leaders have gone on to win the event (Ian Baker-Finch in 1989, Steve Stricker in 2009, David Toms in 2011, Zach Johnson in 2012).

The first-round leader/co-leader has won just four of 27 stroke-play events this season, most recently Justin Thomas at the Sony Open in Hawaii.

Jordan Spieth

Dallas native and defending DEAN & DELUCA Invitational champion Jordan Spieth (currently No. 7 in the FedExCup standings) opened with an even-par 70 in his bid to join Ben Hogan as the only players to win back-to-back DEAN & DELUCA Invitationals, with Hogan performing the feat twice (1946-47 and 1952-53). Spieth's card included six birdies, seven pars, four bogeys and a double bogey (No. 15).

Spieth is making his fifth start at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational. This week marked his first time he has failed to open this event with a round in the 60s: (65-2013, 67-2014, 64-2015, 67-2016, 70-2017).

Spieth's 70 snaps a streak of six consecutive rounds in the 60s at the par-70 Colonial Country Club (2015: 64-73-67-65, 2016: 67-66-65-66).

Spieth's record at Colonial includes four top-15 finishes in as many starts (Won-2016, T2-2015, T14-2014, T7-2013).

In 2015, Spieth became the youngest winner of the FedExCup and of the TOUR Championship (22 years, 2 months).

Phil Mickelson

Two-time DEAN & DELUCA Invitational champion Phil Mickelson (2000, 2008) returned to Colonial Country Club this week for the first time since missing the cut in 2010. He opened Thursday with a 3-under 67.

In all, Mickelson owns eight top-25 finishes in 14 prior starts at the event. In addition to his two wins, he owns additional top-10 finishes in 2001 (T2) and 1994 (8th).

Mickelson is one of 12 multiple winners of the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational. Ben Hogan leads with five wins, with two-time winners Billy Casper, Julius Boros, Al Geiberger, Ben Crenshaw, Bruce Lietzke, Lee Trevino, Corey Pavin, Nick Price, Kenny Perry, Zach Johnson and Mickelson.

Mickelson is currently No. 43 in the FedExCup standings. A year ago, he finished No. 16 in the standings, marking the eighth time in 10 years he has advanced to the TOUR Championship. His highest finish was second in 2009.

Sergio Garcia

2017 Masters Tournament champion Sergio Garcia posted a 1-under 69 Thursday as he made his eighth career start at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational, but first since finishing T13 in 2012. The Spaniard won the first of his 10 PGA TOUR titles at the 2001 DEAN & DELUCA Invitational.

Garcia (2001) is the last player to win the Colonial in his first start. The others: Keith Clearwater (1987), Dave Stockton (1967), Clayton Heafner (1948) and Ben Hogan (1946).

Garcia is one of seven players who recorded their first TOUR victory at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational: Roberto De Vincenzo (1957), Dave Stockton (1967), Rod Curl (1974), Dan Pohl (1986), Keith Clearwater (1987), Ian Baker-Finch (1989), Garcia (2001).

Jon Rahm

Two-time Hogan Award winner (given annually onsite Monday of tournament week at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational) Jon Rahm posted a 4-under 66 Thursday, with five birdies and just one bogey (No. 5).

Rahm currently sits No. 4 in the FedExCup standings, with six top-10 finishes in 13 prior starts this season. In addition to his win at the Farmers Insurance Open, he collected a runner-up finish at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play Championship and T3 at the WGC-Mexico Championship.

Si Woo Kim

One week removed from his resounding win at THE PLAYERS Championship, 21-year-old Si Woo Kim, who resides in Carrollton, returned to action at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational. He carded an opening-round 2-over 72.

With the win at THE PLAYERS, Kim became the fourth-youngest player to win twice on TOUR in the last 25 years:

Additional Player Notes

12-time PGA TOUR winner Zach Johnson has finished outside the top 30 just once in 11 prior starts at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational, including five top-10 finishes: T17-2016, T19-2015, T73-2014, 3-2013, 1-2012, 4-2011, 1-2010, T9-2009, T30-2006, T26-2005, T14-2004. He opened Thursday with a 3-under 67, his first opening round in the 60s at Colonial since a 69 in 2013 (finished third).

With the win in 2015, Chris Kirk became the first player to win the Ben Hogan Award (2007) and DEAN & DELUCA Invitational. The Ben Hogan Award annually recognizes an amateur player who combines academic excellence with an equally respectable amateur golf pedigree and is awarded each year at Colonial Country Club. Kirk made his eighth start at the Colonial Thursday, posting a 1-under 69. He owns top-15 finishes in four of his last five starts at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational.

Ryan Palmer, who plays out of Colonial Country Club, has finished inside the top 15 four out of his last five starts at the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational (T3-2016, MC-2015, T5-2014, T14-2013, T5-2012). He opened with a 2-over 72 Thursday in his 14th start at the event, snapping a streak of six consecutive opening rounds in the 60s at Colonial.

2009 DEAN & DELUCA Invitational champion Steve Stricker, who will serve as the Captain of the U.S. Presidents Cup team later this season, recorded a 2-over 72 Thursday in his 11th start at Colonial.

Every year, past champions of the DEAN & DELUCA Invitational select two deserving young players to compete in the event, who otherwise would not have been eligible. Here's a look at how this year's recipients fared in round one: Beau Hossler (2-over 72) and Jamie Sadlowski (3-over 73).

Miscellaneous Notes

Past DEAN & DELUCA Invitational champions in the field: Phil Mickelson (67), Zach Johnson (67), Sergio Garcia (69), Chris Kirk (69), Jordan Spieth (70), Steve Stricker (72), Keith Clearwater (75), Boo Weekley (76), Rory Sabbatini (76), Tim Herron (77).

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Kelly Kraft (65), Graeme McDowell (66)

Colonial CC shows its teeth over the stretch of holes from Nos. 3-5, known as the "Horrible Horseshoe." During the first round, the holes played as the T8 toughest (4.157), the seventh most difficult (3.174) and the second toughest (4.314), respectively.

Round One: Morning Scoring Average (70.49) vs. Afternoon Scoring Average (72.67).

The par-4 14th hole played the toughest on day one with a 4.331 average. The par-5 first hole played the easiest at 4.579.

Scoring Averages at the par-70 Colonial Country Club:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
Thursday	35.661	35.909	71.570	---

Seung-Yul Noh withdrew following an opening-round 7-over 76.