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**2017 RBC Canadian Open Tournament Notes**

**Dates:** July 24-30, 2017

**Where:** Glen Abbey Golf Club, Oakville, Ontario

**Par/Yards:** 35-37--72/7,253 yards

**Field:** 156

**2015 champion:** Jhonattan Vegas

**Purse/Winner:** \$6,000,000/\$1,080,000

**FedExCup:** 500 points to the winner

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

**Website:** rbccanadianopen.com

**Facebook:** rbccanadianopen

**Twitter:** @RBCCanadianOpen

**Hashtags:** #RBCGolf4Kids, #RBCCO, #OUOPEN, #THERINK

**A look at how Jhonattan Vegas won the 2016 RBC Canadian Open**

A week removed from his second-round, 11-under 60 at the 2016 Barbasol Championship where he tied for fourth, Jhonattan Vegas reeled off five straight birdies on Nos. 2-6 in the final round of the RBC Canadian Open en route to an 8-under 64 and one-stroke win, his second on the PGA TOUR in his 128<sup>th</sup> start at the age of 31 years, 11 months and 5 days. Vegas also birdied his last three holes for the 12-under 276 total. He began the day five strokes back at 4-under 212. In all, Vegas made nine birdies in the final round, against just one bogey (par-4 eighth).

**2016 Final-Round Leaderboard**

Jhonattan Vegas	73-69-70-64—276 (-12)
Jon Rahm	67-71-72-67—277 (-11)
Martin Laird	73-69-68-67—277 (-11)
Dustin Johnson	66-71-71-69—277 (-11)

**More on Jhonattan Vegas**

- Last year's RBC Canadian Open victory was his second PGA TOUR win following 2011 CareerBuilder Classic title
- Since winning the RBC Canadian Open, represented Venezuela in the Olympic Golf Competition in Brazil (T50) and the World Cup of Golf in Australia (T27)
- Last season, advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs for the third time in his career, making it to the TOUR Championship for the first time, finishing No. 29 position in the FedExCup
- In 27 PGA TOUR starts since winning the RBC Canadian Open, he's posted two top-10 results (T10/2016 OHL Classic at Mayakoba, T4/2017 The Honda Classic)
- Final-round 64 at Glen Abbey last year included nine birdies. Also posted a final-round 64, which included a hole-in-one, to finish T4 at The Honda Classic this season
- Owns 14 top-10s in 155 career PGA TOUR starts
- Makes his fifth appearance at RBC Canadian Open (1/2016, T48/2015, MC/2014, T28/2012)

**RBC Canadian Open and the FedExCup**

- Seven of the top 30 in current FedExCup standings, including No. 2 Dustin Johnson, are in the field. Johnson seeks to reclaim his lead which he relinquished to Jordan Spieth at The Open last week. He now trails Spieth by 303 points.
- Since 2007, when the FedExCup was established, every winner of the RBC Canadian Open has advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs, with five of the ten winners making it to the season-ending TOUR Championship the year they won, including four of the last five (Jhonattan Vegas/2016/No.29, Jason Day/2015/No.3, Brandt Snedeker/2013/No.12, Scott Piercy/2012/No.27)

- With just five events remaining before the FedExCup Playoffs begin, here's a look at the players currently around close to No. 125 in this week's field;

Player	FEC standing	Season Highlights
Cameron Tringale	120	T6 last week at Barbasol. Last 9 rounds are all under par
Trey Mullinax	121	T9 at U.S. Open is lone top-10 this season
Aaron Baddeley	122	Not entered
J.J. Henry	123	T10 in most recent start, the John Deere Classic
Blayne Barber	124	Lost to M. Hughes in 5-man playoff at 2016 The RSM Classic
J.T. Poston	125	Lone top 10 was T10 at Puerto Rico Open
Daniel Summerhays	126	Fast starter – six opening rounds of 66 this season
Tyrone Van Aswegen	127	Four sub-par rounds for T7 at CIMB Classic
Chad Collins	128	Shot 60 (-11) in R2 at Barbasol last week (finished 2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Brandon Hagy	129	Four top-25 finishes as first-year member
Ryan Palmer	130	Teamed with Jordan Spieth to finish 4 <sup>th</sup> at Zurich Classic

#### A look at the field

- Seven RBC Canadian Open champions in the field: Jhonattan Vegas (2016), Scott Piercy (2012), Sean O'Hair (2011), Carl Pettersson (2010), Chez Reavie (2008), Jim Furyk (2006, 2007) and Vijay Singh (2004).
- Seven of the top 30 in current FedExCup standings, including No. 2 Dustin Johnson, are in the field. Johnson seeks to reclaim his lead which he relinquished to Jordan Spieth at The Open last week. He now trails Spieth by 303 points.
- 11 major championship winners, accounting for 18 major championship victories, representing all four majors: Ernie Els (4), Vijay Singh (3), Retief Goosen (2), Bubba Watson (2), Keegan Bradley, Stewart Cink, Jim Furyk, Dustin Johnson, Graeme McDowell, Geoff Ogilvy and Mike Weir.
- 17 Canadians in the field: Hugo Bernard, Graham DeLaet, Jared du Toit, Brad Fritsch, Adam Hadwin, David Hearn, Matt Hill, Mackenzie Hughes, Austin James, Daniel Kim, Drew Nesbitt, Bryn Parry, Garrett Rank, Nick Taylor, Mike Weir, Riley Wheeldon and Ryan Williams.
- Seven of top 50 in Official World Golf Ranking, including No. 1 Dustin Johnson.
- As the top three players on the Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada Order of Merit, Robby Shelton (\$55,473), Johnny Ruiz (\$54,413) and Kramer Hickock (\$47,719) earned exemptions into the RBC Canadian Open.

#### Dustin Johnson

- Owns 15 PGA TOUR victories, including three titles in consecutive starts this season (Genesis Open, WGC-Mexico Championship, WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play)
- Has won at least once in each of the 10 seasons he has been on TOUR, the best current streak on TOUR.
- No. 2 in the FedExCup standings, trailing Jordan Spieth by 303 points.
- Was tied for the 18- and 36-hole leads with Luke List at last year's RBC Canadian Open, eventually finishing T2.
- Making his fifth appearance at the RBC Canadian Open (WD/2008, T2/2013, MC/2014, T2/2016). At the 2013 RBC Canadian Open, Johnson played 38 consecutive bogey-free holes before making a triple-bogey 7 at the 71<sup>st</sup> hole to fall out of contention. A final-hole birdie earned him a T2 finish that year.
- Won two World Golf Championship titles this season and now owns five WGC titles. Only Tiger Woods has more WGC titles (18).
- Johnson will make his 215<sup>th</sup> PGA TOUR start this week. He has finished in the top-25 in half of the previous 214 starts (107).

#### Jim Furyk

- Includes two wins, in 2006 and 2007, among five top-10 finishes at the RBC Canadian Open in 14 starts (4<sup>th</sup>/2015, 2<sup>nd</sup>/2014, T9/2013).
- Owns a 69.82 scoring average over 14 starts at RBC Canadian Open.
- 31 of his last 34 rounds in this event are par or better, including his last 19 consecutive rounds.
- Leads money earned at the RBC Canadian Open with \$3,129,703 in 14 appearances. Sixteen players have won more than \$1 million at the RBC Canadian Open. Mike Weir is 17<sup>th</sup> on that list with \$933,597.

#### Matt Kuchar

- In 10 appearances at the RBC Canadian Open, owns five top-10 finishes, including the last four years (T4/2010, T2/2013, T4/2014, T7/2015, T9/2016).

- The RBC Canadian Open is Kuchar's 396<sup>th</sup> start on the PGA TOUR where he owns seven victories and 90 top-10 finishes.
- Kuchar was T4 at the Masters, T16 at the U.S. Open and runner-up at The Open Championship this year.
- At No. 12 in Official World Golf Ranking, he is second highest-ranked player in the field behind Dustin Johnson (No. 1).

#### **Adam Hadwin**

- Playing La Quinta Country Club in round three of the 2017 CareerBuilder Challenge, reeled off 13 birdies and no bogeys for a 13-under 59, becoming the first Canadian to achieve the feat. Eventually finished second in the tournament.
- Won the Valspar Championship in March for his first career PGA TOUR victory, becoming the 15th different Canadian to win on the PGA TOUR and only the second player in TOUR history to win on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR, joining Mackenzie Hughes.
- At No.13, is the second highest player in the FedExCup standings, behind No. 2 Dustin Johnson.
- Seeking to make the Presidents Cup International Team to played at Liberty National in New Jersey later this year. He sits No. 11 in the standings. The top-10 on the standings following the Dell Technologies Championship will be on the team with two captains picks to be announced Sept 6. Hadwin would become the third Canadian, behind Mike Weir and Graham DeLaet, to play on the International Team at the Presidents Cup. Weir played five times with a 13-9-2 record, while in 2013 DeLaet went 3-1-1 at Muirfield Village Golf Club.
- Owns two top-10s in seven appearances at the RBC Canadian Open (T7/2015, T4/2011).
- Round two of the RBC Canadian Open is a favorite for Hadwin. In seven starts, his second-round scoring average is 69, with six of the seven rounds under-par.
- At No. 55, he's the only Canadian in the top-100 of the Official World Golf Ranking.

#### **Bubba Watson**

- Finished runner-up in 2015 in his most recent appearance at the RBC Canadian Open, marking his lone top-10 result in six starts in the event.
- In 20 rounds at the RBC Canadian Open, owns a 69.95 scoring average.
- Two-time Masters winner is seeking his 10<sup>th</sup> PGA TOUR victory. Last win came at the 2016 Genesis Open.
- Three top-10 results this season include T5 at a two-man team event (Zurich Classic of New Orleans), T9 in a match play event (WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play) and T6 in an individual stroke play event (the Memorial Tournament).

#### **Mackenzie Hughes**

- Won first PGA TOUR title at The RSM Classic late last year at the third extra hole of a five-man playoff which ended on Monday. With the victory, became the first player to win on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada (PGA TOUR-era), Web.com Tour and the PGA TOUR.
- Will make his third appearance at the RBC Canadian Open after a pair of missed cuts in 2012 and 2013.
- Currently No. 26 in the FedExCup standings.

#### **Graham DeLaet**

- Owns one top-10 in eight starts at the RBC Canadian Open. He was two strokes off the 36-hole lead in 2014 and eventually finished T7.
- DeLaet is playing his 169<sup>th</sup> TOUR event and still seeks his first victory.
- This week marks DeLaet's 121<sup>st</sup> start on TOUR this season where he has posted five top-10 results (T8/Sanderson Farms Championship, T9/Waste management Phoenix Open, 10/The Honda Classic, T6/RBC Heritage, T10/the Memorial Tournament).

#### **David Hearn**

- David Hearn recorded his best finish – third, – and his only top-10, in his 13<sup>th</sup> start in the RBC Canadian Open in 2015 (2002/MC, 2003/MC, 2004/MC, 2005/MC, 2006/T20, 2007/T58, 2008/T58, 2010/MC, 2011/T34, 2012/T71, 2013/T44, 2014/T53, 2015/3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016/MC).
- Hearn held the first (an only) 54-hole lead of his PGA TOUR career at the 2015 RBC Canadian Open. Prior to Hearn's lead, the last Canadian to take a 54-hole lead into Sunday at the RBC Canadian Open was Mike Weir in 2004.

- Hearn's lone victory on the Web.com Tour came at the 2004 Alberta Classic held at Redwood Meadows Golf and Country Club in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. That victory came the same year that he won the Times Colonist Open on the Mackenzie Tour - PGA TOUR Canada.
- Hearn posted back-to-back top-10 finishes at the FedEx St. Jude Classic (T10) and Travelers Championship (T8) this season.

#### **Additional Player Notes**

- Eight-time PGA TOUR winner and 2003 Masters Tournament winner **Mike Weir** will be making his 26<sup>th</sup> appearance at the RBC Canadian Open. Weir owns three top-10s at this event (T5/2008, 2<sup>nd</sup>/2004, 10<sup>th</sup>/2003) including a playoff loss to Vijay Singh at Glen Abbey in 2004. Weir will be an International Team assistant captain at the Presidents Cup in September.
- World Golf Hall of Fame member **Ernie Els** is seeking his 20<sup>th</sup> PGA TOUR win. His last TOUR win was at The Open Championship in 2012. His last top-10 finish on TOUR (5<sup>th</sup>) came at the 2016 Quicken Loans National. Els has made seven cuts in 17 starts this season but three of those cuts have come in major championships.
- **William McGirt** has two runner-up finishes in six appearances at the RBC Canadian Open and has never missed the cut (T59/2016, T34/2015, T25/2014, T2/2013, T2/2012, T59/2011). McGirt won his first PGA TOUR event with a playoff victory over Jon Curran at the 2016 Memorial Tournament.
- **Andres Romero**, 36, from Argentina, was at one time ranked in the top 30 of the Official World Golf Ranking. In 2007, he made 10 birdies in the final-round of The Open but finished double bogey, bogey to miss the playoff by a single stroke. The next week he won his first European Tour event. The next year, in 2008, Romero won the Zurich Classic of New Orleans and was voted as the PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year by his peers. Romero broke his hand after punching a sign at the 2015 Barracuda Championship. He failed to meet the terms of his medical exemption and spent two years scratching for starts with only past champion status. In June this year, he regained his European Tour membership when he won the BMW International Open while playing on a sponsor's invitation. Romero fired a bogey free final round of 65, to come from three strokes behind and win by one stroke from three other players, ending a ten-year drought on the European Tour. Competing this week on a sponsor's exemption, this will mark his fifth appearance in the RBC Canadian Open. He finished third in 2011 in his first start and has made the cut each time.
- In last year's final round, Florida resident **Steve Wheatcroft** bogeyed No. 17 and needed a birdie at the last to catch Jhonattan Vegas in the clubhouse at 12-under 276. Instead, Wheatcroft found the water hazard and ended up taking a second-consecutive bogey to end his week T5 at 10-under 278. It marked Wheatcroft's fifth start in the RBC Canadian Open where a T13 in 2010 marked his previous-best result. Wheatcroft, who will compete on a sponsor's exemption, still seeks his first PGA TOUR win but owns two wins in 136 career starts on the Web.com Tour.
- PGA TOUR rookie **Grayson Murray** claimed his first PGA TOUR victory at last week's Barbasol Championship in just his 24<sup>th</sup> start on Tour with a one-stroke over Chad Collins, posting a 72-hole total of 21-under-par 263, a tournament record after rounds of 67-64-64-68. The 23-year-old Raleigh, NC resident, is fully exempt through 2018-19 with his victory. His lone top-10 finish of the season prior to last week's win was last October at the Sanderson Farms Championship (T8). He was the 2016 Web.com Tour Finals leading money winner. On that Tour last year, he won the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship in Columbus, OH.

#### **Team RBC**

- Team RBC Ambassadors Graham DeLaet, Ernie Els, Jim Furyk, Matt Kuchar, Adam Hadwin, David Hearn, Graeme McDowell, Ryan Palmer, and Nick Taylor are all in the field this week. Brandt Snedeker, also an RBC Ambassador, withdrew from the event with the same rib injury that forced him to withdraw from last week's Open Championship.
- Six players who finished in the top-10 at the 2017 RBC Heritage at Hilton Head are in the field at this week's RBC Canadian Open (T3/Patrick Cantlay, T3/William McGirt, T3/Ollie Schniederjans, T6/Graham DeLaet, T6/Brian Gay, T6/J.J. Spaun).

#### **Team Canada National Squad Members**

- **Jared Du Toit** is in his second year as a member of the Team Canada National Squad. The 22-year-old, from Kimberley, B.C., graduated from Arizona State University in April where he had a career stroke average of 71.01, winning the Prestige at PGA West in his senior season. Du Toit turned pro in June and earned conditional status on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada thanks to sitting inside the top-60 in the Order of Merit through four events. His best finish of 2017 was a T9 at the GolfBC Championship. In 2016, he played in the final group of the RBC Canadian Open as an amateur, finishing T9, three strokes back of winner Jhonattan Vegas.

- **Garrett Rank**, from Elmira, Ont., was a member of the Team Canada National Squad from 2012-2014 before deciding to focus on his career as an NHL official. He is now a full-time NHL referee. Rank is the top-ranked Canadian amateur at 90th in the World Amateur Golf Rankings. He reached the semi-finals of the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball in May. Rank is the three-time defending Canadian Men's Mid-Amateur Champion. In 2016 Rank reached the round-of-32 at the U.S. Amateur Championship – his third time advancing to the match-play portion of the tournament.
- **Hugo Bernard**, 22, Mont-St-Hilaire, Que., is in his second year on the Team Canada National Squad. He has three top-10 finishes at major international amateur events in 2017. He was T3 at the Murat Cup International Men's Championship of France, T9 at the Terra Cotta Invitational, and T7 at the South American Amateur. Bernard recently transferred from the University of Saint Leo (NCAA Division II) to the Université de Montréal. In his freshman year with Saint Leo Bernard recorded six top-five finishes in eight events, including medalist honors at the NCAA Division II Championship and was named the NCAA Division II Freshman of the Year.
- Bath, Ont., native **Austin James** is a senior at Charleston Southern where he was the 2015-2016 Big South Player of the Year. In 2015, he reached the quarter-finals of the U.S. Amateur. In 2016, he was the Big South Champion/Medalist, capturing the title with an 11-under total at The Patriot (68-68-69, 205), just one stroke shy of Dustin Johnson's conference record. James won the 2014 Canadian Junior Boys championship and is a Team Canada National Squad member. His sister, Augusta James is a member of the LPGA and Symetra Tour.

#### RBC Canadian Open notes

- For the eighth time since 2000, the RBC Canadian Open makes a return to Glen Abbey Golf Club. This will mark the Golf Club's 29<sup>th</sup> time to host Canada's national championship. Glen Abbey first hosted the RBC Canadian Open in 1977 (Lee Trevino). It was the Open's regular host each year from 1981-2000, with the exception of 1997 (Royal Montreal GC). Past champions at Glen Abbey include Greg Norman (1984, 1992), Curtis Strange (1985, 1987), Nick Price (1991, 1994), Tiger Woods (2000), Brandt Snedeker (2013), Jason Day (2015) and Jhonattan Vegas (2016).
- Glen Abbey was Jack Nicklaus' first golf course design in Canada. 2017 marks the 40th anniversary of the first Canadian Open hosted at Glen Abbey (1977 was the first one).
- Since 2000, three of the 16 different winners have made the RBC Canadian Open their first on the PGA TOUR – John Rollins (2002), Chez Reavie (2008) and Nathan Green (2009).
- Since 1990, only two players have won the RBC Canadian Open twice: Nick Price (1991, 1994) and Jim Furyk (2006, 2007). Since the event's 1904 inception, only six players have successfully defended their RBC Canadian Open title. The only player to achieve the feat in the last 50 years has been Jim Furyk (2006-07).
- In the post-World War II era, only 15 players have won the RBC Canadian Open more than once.
- Since 1983 when records have been kept, 32 aces have been recorded at the RBC Canadian Open, with all but seven coming at Glen Abbey Golf Club.
- There have been 14 playoffs in tournament history, the most recent in 2011 when Sean O'Hair defeated Kris Blanks.
- In the 28 times Glen Abbey has hosted the RBC Canadian Open, the tournament has been won by a player from outside the United States 10 times. Southern Africa's Nick Price (1991, 1994) and Greg Norman (1984, 1992), from Australia, have claimed the title twice. Peter Oosterhuis (ENG), David Frost (SAF), Vijay Singh (FIJI), Nathan Green (AUST), Jason Day (AUST) and Jhonattan Vegas (VEN) have also won the trophy at Glen Abbey.
- The last Canadian to win the RBC Canadian Open is Pat Fletcher in 1954 at Point Gray Golf and Country Club. In 2004, Mike Weir lost in a playoff to Vijay Singh in the 50-year anniversary of Fletcher's win. After his playing days, Fletcher was the Head Professional at Royal Montreal Golf Club. Fletcher passed away on July 21, 1985.

#### Canadian winners of the RBC Canadian Open:

1954	Pat Fletcher (not an official PGA TOUR win as it was an opposite field event)
1914	Karl Keffer
1913	Albert H. Murray
1911	Charles R. Murray
1909	Karl Keffer
1908	Charles R. Murray
1907	Percy Barrett (born in England moved to Canada)
1906	Charles R. Murray
1905	George Cumming (born in Scotland moved to Canada)

(Note: Wins from 1904-1914 are not considered official PGA TOUR wins)

Canadian players to win on TOUR include: Ken Black (1 win as amateur and first Canadian to win on the PGA TOUR), Jules Huot (1 win), Al Balding (4), Stan Leonard (3), George Knudson (8), Wilf Homenuik (1), Dan Halldorson (2), Dave Barr (1), Richard Zokol (2), Mike Weir (8), Ian Leggatt (1), Stephen Ames (4, Trinidad-born), Nick Taylor (1), Mackenzie Hughes (1) and Adam Hadwin (1). Note: Pat Fletcher's 1954 Canadian Open win is not considered an official PGA TOUR victory.

### **The Rink**

To help celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, Golf Canada and RBC have launched The Rink – a fan experience taking place during the 2017 RBC Canadian Open that will combine Canada's most popular pastimes, golf and hockey. During championship week, the par-3 7th hole at Glen Abbey Golf Club will transform into a rink-styled fan experience, complete with hockey boards, an ice resurfacing machine, goalie-mask tee markers, as well as the addition of new rink-side bleachers and viewing decks. To add to The Rink experience, volunteer marshals on the hole will be outfitted in referee uniforms, while rink boards will outline the hole from tee to green, replacing traditional roping. A \$1,000 donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada will be made for every birdie made on the hole during championship play, Thursday to Sunday. Global TV will also have their broadcast booth behind the green looking back at the tee, enabling television viewers the opportunity to witness The Rink from the comfort of their own homes.

### **Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada**

Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada is the official charity of the RBC Canadian Open. The 14 Ronald McDonald Houses across Canada provide a place for out-of-town families to stay while their sick child is being treated at a nearby hospital. The hashtag #RBCGolf4Kids is used on social media platforms to support charitable initiatives during tournament week.

### **Additional RBC Canadian Open Information**

The main theme of the RBC Canadian Open is celebrating Canada 150. Friday is Red & White Day at the RBC Canadian Open, encouraging everyone to wear red and white to show pride and support for the Canadian players competing in the National Open.

Located just off the 10th fairway in the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame, the Golf Canada Golf Zone is the place to be for fun activities for the whole family. Fans can get photos taken with RBC Canadian Open trophy or the Seagram Gold Cup, the same trophy Arnold Palmer hoisted when he won the 1955 Canadian Open. To honor Palmer, the temporary Arnold Palmer exhibit features artifacts from The King. On Sunday, as a tribute to Palmer, fans will receive a complimentary AP55 button and the Seagram Gold Cup will be on display at the first tee.

The RBC Canadian Open recycles! The tournament encourages fans to use the recycle containers, which are positioned throughout the golf course. Blue bags should be used for plastic bottles, glass and cans. Green carts are used for organics and brown boxes are for all other waste. In a new initiative, two sorting stations are on site and fans can deliver items to volunteers to dispose of them.

For \$2 fans can purchase a mini ball from any WestJet volunteer around the course or at an RBC Water Station and have a chance to win a flight for four people on WestJet. Throw the ball closest to the pin at the 18<sup>th</sup> green after play finishes each day and have a chance to win the prize and support Ronald McDonald Houses across Canada.

The Golf Canada Foundation will be selling 50/50 tickets on-site at the RBC Canadian Open. The draw will take place Sunday evening, with the winning number announced online on the tournament website and across social media channels. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit junior golf initiatives and help to grow the game in Ontario and across the nation.

Tuesday's Opening Ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. at the 19<sup>th</sup> hole Coors Light Beer Garden with legends Bob Vokey and Julie Darling Evans being welcomed into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame, as well as the singing of the national anthem.