

An owns an impressive record at events played in the desert on the European Tour. In eight starts from 2015 to 2017 in Dubai, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, he owns four top-five finishes and has never finished outside the top-15.

On the strength of a runner-up finish in a playoff at the 2016 Zurich Classic of New Orleans, An joined the PGA TOUR as a Special Temporary Member for the 2015-16 season earned enough Non-Member FedExCup points to secure his PGA TOUR card for the 2016-17 PGA TOUR season.

With his win at the 2009 U.S. Amateur, An became the tournament's youngest-ever champion at 17 years, 11 months and 13 days.

An owns three professional victories, coming at the 2015 BMW PGA Championship (European Tour), 2014 Rolex Trophy (Challenge Tour) and 2015 Shinan Donghae Open (Korean Tour).

Martin Laird

Scottsdale resident Martin Laird has improved by a stroke each round this week, posting 67-66-65—198 (-15). The Scotsman will begin the final round one stroke back at 15-under 198.

Laird owns two career top-five finishes at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, including a T3 in 2011 and a T5 in 2015, when he held the 54-hole lead by three strokes but finished bogey-double bogey to miss out on a playoff by three strokes.

Laird has made the cut in all five of his starts this season and ranks 36th in the FedExCup thanks to two top-10 finishes.

Laird is in search of his fourth career PGA TOUR win this week, adding to the 2009 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, 2011 Arnold Palmer Invitational and 2013 Valero Texas Open.

John Peterson

Making his second start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open (T61/2014), John Peterson posted an 8-under 63 in round three, despite a double-bogey six at the sixth hole. He offset that slip with eight birdies and an eagle-three at No. 13. The 63 marks the lowest score in the event since Hideki Matsuyama posted the same score in round three of 2015.

At 12-under 201, he will begin the final round four strokes back.

Through 54 holes, Peterson has hit 29 of 42 fairways in regulation and 46 of 54 greens. Needing 26 putts to complete his round, he made putts from a total distance of 151' 0". He made just 35' 6" in round two.

Peterson began the 2016-17 PGA TOUR Season on a Major Medical Extension, with 23 available events to earn 453 FedExCup points or \$704,870 to remain exempt for the remainder of the season. He comes into this week with 18 events remaining, still in need of \$593,817 or 402 FedExCup points. In order to fulfill the requirements this week, he would need to win or finish alone in second place.

In the five starts Peterson has made this season, he has made two cuts, with a T15 at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba being his best finish.

Peterson, who joined the PGA TOUR in the 2013-14 season, is looking to improve on a career-best finish of T4 from the 2012 U.S. Open.

Peterson won the individual title at the 2011 NCAA Men's Golf Championship while at LSU.

Graham DeLaet

Canada's Graham DeLaet put himself into contention for Sunday's final round with a 6-under 65 in round three to get to 12-under 201. DeLaet made seven birdies and one bogey (par-4 10th).

Needing 25 putts to complete his round, DeLaet improved from a total distance of 88' 9" in round two to 179' 1" in round three.

DeLaet has experienced mixed results in six previous starts at the Waste Management Phoenix Open. He missed the cut in 2010, 2013 and 2016, but finished T2 in 2014 and T7 in 2015.

DeLaet remains in search of his first career PGA TOUR win in his 154th start this week. In addition to the runner-up finish at TPC Scottsdale in 2014, he also collected T2 finishes at the 2013 Barclays and 2014 Farmers Insurance Open.

DeLaet is making his sixth start of the 2016-17 PGA TOUR Season this week, with a T8 at the Sanderson Farms Championship his best showing.

Hideki Matsuyama

Defending Waste Management Phoenix Open champion Hideki Matsuyama posted a 3-under 68 for the second day in a row in round three, moving him to 12-under 201. He was three strokes back last year.

Matsuyama is making his fourth-consecutive start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open, where he has yet to finish outside the top five. He finished T4 in 2014, T2 in 2015 and won in 2016. Interestingly, he has finished at 14-under 270 each year.

With FedExCup points leader Justin Thomas missing the cut, Matsuyama can surpass Thomas for first place in the season-long standings with a victory this week.

Brendan Steele

Brendan Steele, who began the third round tied for the lead with Byeong Hun An at 10-under 132, could manage no better than a 1-under 70, putting him five strokes back at 11-under 202.

Steele, who has just three over-par scores in 27 rounds at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, is now 71-under-par.

Steele owns a strong track record at TPC Scottsdale, having finished T5, T6 and T6 from 2012-14, respectively. The only event on the PGA TOUR in which he has more top-10 finishes is the Barracuda Championship (2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016).

Steele claimed his second career PGA TOUR win in the first event of the 2016-17 season in October at the Safeway Open. In addition to the win in Napa Valley, Steele also posted top-10 finishes this season at the SBS Tournament of Champions (T6) and CareerBuilder Challenge (T6).

Phil Mickelson

Phil Mickelson is making his 28th start at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, one start away from the record for most all-time at the event. Sunday's final round will mark his 100th competitive round in the event. He will head into that round at a collective 180-under-par.

At 10-under 203, he will begin the final round six strokes back.

En route to his three wins at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, Mickelson held a six-stroke lead after 54 holes in 2013 after opening with rounds of 60-65 and led by four strokes in 2005 after opening with rounds of 73-60. He was two strokes behind in 1996 before going on to win in a playoff.

In round three, Mickelson made seven birdies and one bogey (par-4 ninth) to post a 65, the same score he posted in round three last year at TPC Scottsdale. He finished T11 in 2016.

Mickelson's 65 in round three marked his 11th score of 65 or better in the Waste Management Phoenix Open, tying Mark Calcavecchia for the record.

At 69.76, Mickelson's final-round scoring average at the Waste Management Phoenix Open is his highest of the four rounds.

Mickelson is making his fourth start of the season, with a T8 at the Safeway Open his best showing. He is in search of his 43rd career PGA TOUR victory and first since the 2013 Open Championship.

Jon Rahm

Beginning on No. 10 and seven strokes back at 3-under 138, last week's Farmers Insurance Open winner and former Arizona State University standout Jon Rahm birdied six of his first nine holes in round three en route to a 6-under 65. At 9-under 204, he will head into Sunday's final round seven strokes back. Beginning last week's final round at Torrey Pines, Rahm was three strokes back after 54 holes, before winning by three.

Rahm is making his second start at the Waste Management Phoenix Open. After a third-round, 5-under 66 in round three as an amateur in 2015, he was four strokes back beginning the final round. A final-round, 3-under 68 was good for a T5 finish.

Miscellaneous Notes

Past Waste Management Phoenix Open champions: Hideki Matsuyama/2016 (T3/-12), Brooks Koepka/2015 (T54/-2), Phil Mickelson/2005, 2013 (T12/-10), Kyle Stanley/2012 (T50/-3), Hunter Mahan/2010 (T54/-2), J.B. Holmes/2006, 2008 (T42/-5), Mark Wilson/2011 (MC), and Aaron Baddeley/2007 (74-68, MC).

Scoring Averages at TPC Scottsdale

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	35.298	35.641	70.939	---
R2	34.710	35.405	70.115	70.527
R3	33.960	35.240	69.200	70.084

Bogey-free rounds at TPC Scottsdale:

R1: Byeong Hun An (66), Ryo Ishikawa (68), Chris Kirk (66), Matt Kuchar (64), Marc Leishman (68), Hideki Matsuyama (65), William McGirt (69), Phil Mickelson (68), Geoff Ogilvy (70), John Peterson (66).
R2: Scott Piercy (65), Martin Laird (66), Luke List (66), Brendan Steele (67), Morgan Hoffmann (67), Jason Bohn (68).

R3: Byeong Hun An (65), Marc Leishman (65), Troy Merritt (65), Russell Henley (66), Louis Oosthuizen (68), Rickie Fowler (69), Steve Stricker (70).

Attendance Figures at TPC Scottsdale:

Thursday: 103,420
Friday: 169,004
Saturday: 204,906

The Waste Management Phoenix Open is just 21,585 spectators away from breaking the all-time attendance record for a week.