



2018 FedEx St. Jude Classic

(The 32nd 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Memphis, Tennessee
TPC Southwind

June 4-10, 2018
Par/Yardage: 35-35—70/7,238

FedExCup Points: 500
Purse: \$6,600,000 (\$1,188,000)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, June 7, 2018

Weather: Sunny, with a high of 91. Wind SE 4-8 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Seamus Power	65 (-5)
11 players	66 (-4)

Five Things to Know

- Reigning U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka reeled off four straight birdies (Nos. 18-3) en route to a 4-under 66 (T2).
- With four top-10 finishes in his last five starts at the FedEx St. Jude Classic, including runner-up showings in 2013 and 2016, Phil Mickelson opened with a 4-under 66, his best opening-round score in eight tournament starts.
- 2016 and 2017 FedEx St. Jude Classic winner Daniel Berger made four birdies and four bogeys to open with an even-par 70. With a win this week, he would become the first player to win the same PGA TOUR event three years in a row since Steve Stricker won the John Deere Classic from 2009-2011.
- Steve Stricker, 51, posted one of only two bogey-free rounds Thursday (66). Andrew Putnam was the other (67).
- This week's FedEx St. Jude Classic offers players the final opportunity to get inside the top 60 in the Official World Golf Ranking and earn a spot into next week's U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills.

First-Round Lead Notes

9 First-round leaders/co-leaders at the FedEx St. Jude Classic to win since 1990 (Most recently, Ben Crane in 2014).
7 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on the PGA TOUR in 2017-18 (most recent, Webb Simpson/THE PLAYERS).
61 Low first round in tournament history (61/Bob Estes/2001/TPC Southwind)

Seamus Power (65/1st)

Age: 31 (March 4, 1987)

Joined TOUR: 2016-17

Entering this week

#129	FedExCup
#345	OWGR
43	PGA TOUR starts
0	PGA TOUR wins
1	Starts at the FedEx St. Jude Classic (T27/2017)
18	PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18
2	Top-10s in 2017-18 (T5/Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, T10/Zurich Classic of New Orleans)

- Best position after 18 holes on the PGA TOUR before this week was T2 (2016 Sanderson Farms Championship/T29).
- Waterford, Ireland native now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Made six birdies against one bogey (par-3 fourth).

- Hit six of 14 fairways and 13 of 18 greens in regulation.
- Won the 2016 United Leasing & Finance Championship on the Web.com Tour.

Additional Player Notes

Among 11 players at 4-under 66 are 51-year-old **Steve Stricker** (bogey-free), **Brandon Harkins** (birdied four of his first five holes), **Wesley Bryan** (holed his approach shot at the par-4 13th from 169 yards), **Stuart Appleby** (birdied last three holes) and 2015 FedEx St. Jude Classic winner **Fabian Gomez**.

Phil Mickelson (66/T2)

- Making his eighth start in the FedEx St. Jude Classic, today's 66 marked his 13th consecutive round of par-or-better in the event. He has now posted a sub-par score in 20 of 27 total tournament rounds.
- Today's 66 supplants his previous low opening-round score of 67 from 2014 (T11).
- Since 2013, remains the most under par of any player at the FedEx St. Jude Classic at 45-under par. Brooks Koepka, who didn't compete in 2013, trails at 27-under par after opening with a 4-under 66.
- Since the 2013 FedEx St. Jude Classic, has collected top-10 finishes in 2013 (T2), 2015 (T3), 2016 (T2) and 2017 (9th). Finished just outside the top 10 in 2014 (T11).
- After collecting his 43rd TOUR victory at this season's World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship, is looking to become the sixth multiple winner in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season (Justin Thomas, Patton Kizzire, Jason Day, Justin Rose, Bubba Watson). Has not won multiple times on TOUR since 2013 (Waste Management Phoenix Open, The Open Championship).

Dustin Johnson (67/T13)

- 2012 FedEx St. Jude Classic champion Dustin Johnson opened with a 3-under 67 in his sixth tournament start.
- With one foot in the water hazard on the par-4 12th, holed a tricky chip for birdie to get back to 2-under.
- The only chance Johnson, No. 2 in the Official World Golf Ranking, has of re-claiming the No. 1 spot is with a victory this week.

Joaquin Niemann (69/T36)

- Coming off T8 and T6 finishes at the Fort Worth Invitational and the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide, respectively, 19-year old Chilean opened with a 1-under 69, despite bogeys on three of his first seven holes.
- Today's 69 marks his ninth sub-par score in his last 11 rounds on the PGA TOUR.
- With his T6 finish last week at Muirfield Village Golf Club, earned Special Temporary Membership of the PGA TOUR, allowing him unlimited sponsor invitations as he vies to play his way into the top-125 on the FedExCup points list and earn his TOUR card for the 2018-19 season.
- Was No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking before making his professional debut at the 2018 Valero Texas Open (6th).

Braden Thornberry (73/T115)

- Ole Miss rising senior and sponsor invite Braden Thornberry played his last three holes, Nos. 7-9, in 3-over par to open with a 3-over 73, just three days after earning a spot into next week's U.S. Open through Sectional Qualifying.
- A week after being named 2017 NCAA Individual Champion last year, Olive Branch, Mississippi native made TOUR debut at the FedEx St. Jude Classic (T4).
- Says greatest U.S. Open memory as a kid was watching Tiger Woods defeat Rocco Mediate in a playoff at Torrey Pines in 2008. Thornberry's caddie this week is Matthew Achatz, who caddied for Mediate that week.

FedEx St. Jude Classic and the U.S. Open

This week's FedEx St. Jude Classic offers players the final opportunity to get inside the top 60 in the Official World Golf Ranking and earn a spot into next week's U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills.

This year marks the 12th consecutive playing of the FedEx St. Jude Classic the week before the U.S. Open. No-one has ever won a PGA TOUR event and then won the U.S. Open the following week. The best U.S. Open finish by the prior week's champion is a T16 by Lee Westwood in 2010. Since moving to TPC Southwind in 1989, the FedEx St. Jude Classic was also

played the week before the U.S. Open in 2001 (Bob Estes/T30 U.S. Open), 1999 (Ted Tryba/T66 U.S. Open) and 1992 (Jay Haas/T23 U.S. Open).

Following his 2017 victory at the FedEx St. Jude Classic, Daniel Berger missed the cut at the U.S. Open at Erin Hills.

The best U.S. Open finish by a winner of the FedEx St. Jude Classic the same year was a T3 by Fred Couples in 1993, when the Memphis event was contested two weeks after the U.S. Open.

The last two U.S. Open champions, Dustin Johnson (2016) and Brooks Koepka (2017), competed in the FedEx St. Jude Classic the week before claiming their first major championship title.

Twenty-nine players in the FedEx St. Jude Classic field are already exempt into next week's U.S. Open:

Aphibarnrat, Kiradech	Hughes, Mackenzie	Snedeker, Brandt
Axley, Eric	Johnson, Dustin	Stallings, Scott
Baddeley, Aaron	Jones, Matt	Stenson, Henrik
Berger, Daniel	Koepka, Brooks	Stricker, Steve
Chappell, Kevin	List, Luke	Stuard, Brian
Duncan, Tyler	Lowry, Shane	Thornberry, Braden
Finau, Tony	Mickelson, Phil	Uihlein, Peter
Gay, Brian	Mullinax, Trey	Varner, Harold
Griffin, Lanto	Reavie, Chez	Werenski, Richy
Howell, Charles III	Schwartzel, Charl	

Course Statistics

Toughest Hole

R1: par-4 fifth (4.244)

Easiest Hole

par-5 16th (4.609)

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.615	35.154	70.769	--

	Early	Late
R1:	70.42	71.12

Bogey-free rounds

R1: Steve Stricker (66), Andrew Putnam (67)