



2017 Hero World Challenge

Albany Golf Course
Albany, Bahamas

November 30-December 3, 2017
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,309

Purse: \$3,500,000

FINAL-Round Notes – Sunday, December 3, 2017

Weather: Partly cloudy and breezy. High of 83. Wind NE 10-15 mph.

Final-Round Leaderboard

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Rickie Fowler | 67-70-72-61—270 (-18) |
| Charley Hoffman | 69-63-70-72—274 (-14) |
| Tommy Fleetwood | 66-69-74-67—276 (-12) |
| Jordan Spieth | 68-67-72-69—276 (-12) |

Rickie Fowler

After beginning the day seven strokes behind 54-hole leader Charley Hoffman, Rickie Fowler stormed up the leaderboard with a tournament-record, final-round 11-under 61 to win the Hero World Challenge by four strokes over Hoffman. Fowler finished with a 72-hole winning total of 18-under 270.

In comparison, the largest final-round, come-from-behind victory at the Hero World Challenge is 12 strokes (Tom Lehman/2000).

Fowler's victory comes at the age of 28 years, 11 months and 20 days.

Fowler's lowest round in official PGA TOUR events is 62, set at the 2011 Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Prior to Fowler's 61, the previous low final round score by a Hero World Challenge winner was 64, set on three occasions and most recently by Luke Donald in 2005.

Fowler opened his round with seven birdies before making his first par on the par-4 eighth hole. In comparison (in official PGA TOUR events), that would equal the longest such streak to open a round since Joe Durant had seven in a row at the beginning of round four at the 2005 Honda Classic.

The longest birdie streak on the PGA TOUR is nine holes, set by Mark Calcavecchia during a second-round 65 at the 2009 RBC Canadian Open (finished T8).

Fowler made the turn in 8-under 28, leading to a two-stroke lead at the time.

Fowler posted 11 birdies on the day. In official PGA TOUR events, his benchmark is nine birdies in the final round of The National in 2017.

Fowler finished this week with 30 birdies, three more than his highest total in official PGA TOUR events (27 – 2017 Houston Open).

Fowler's statistics this week: 43/72 greens (T14), 36/52 fairways (T5), 10/12 sand saves (2), 98 putts (T1).

In 197 official PGA TOUR starts, Fowler owns four victories: 2012 Wells Fargo Championship, 2015 THE PLAYERS Championship, 2015 Dell Technologies Championship, 2017 The Honda Classic.

Fowler wins in his sixth start at the Hero World Challenge. He has never failed to finish inside the top six at the event (1-2017, T3-2016, 3-2015, T6-2014, T4-2012, T6-2011).

Fowler is coming off of a seven-place finish in the FedExCup, the third time in eight seasons he has finished inside the top 10.

Third-Round Leader Results at the Hero World Challenge

In 2016, eventual champion Hideki Matsuyama (at 19-under 197) held a commanding seven-stroke lead over Henrik Stenson and Dustin Johnson, tying Jordan Spieth (2014) for the largest 54-hole lead at the Hero World Challenge, with Spieth going on to a record 10-stroke win over Henrik Stenson in 2014.

The 54-hole leader/co-leader has won the World Challenge five times in the last 14 seasons (Tiger Woods/2007, Graeme McDowell/2012, Jordan Spieth/2014, Bubba Watson/2015, Hideki Matsuyama/2016).

Overall, the third-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win eight times in 19 attempts (Tom Lehman/1999, Padraig Harrington/2002, Davis Love III/2003, Woods/2007, McDowell/2012, Spieth/2014, Watson/2015, Matsuyama/2016).

Tiger Woods

Host Tiger Woods, the winner of 79 career PGA TOUR titles including 14 major championships, finished T9 in his return to competition this week at the Hero World Challenge. With rounds of 68-68-75-68, Woods finished 10 strokes behind Rickie Fowler.

Woods owns five victories (2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2011) and five runner-up finishes (most recent to Zach Johnson in 2013) in 15 prior Hero World Challenge starts.

A year ago, Woods led the field with 24 birdies with rounds of 73-65-70-76, finishing in 15th place. This week he had 17 birdies (T9).

A missed cut at the 2017 Farmers Insurance Open marks Woods' last start on the PGA TOUR. Before this week, his last round in a tournament was an opening-round 77 before withdrawing from the Omega Dubai Desert Classic (February 2).

Woods' R1 statistics: 12/18 greens, 7/13 fairways, 0/1 sand save, 28 putts.

Woods' R2 statistics: 12/18 greens, 9/13 fairways, 26 putts.

Woods' R3 statistics: 9/18 greens, 7/13 fairways, 1/2 sand saves, 28 putts.

Woods' R4 statistics: 13/18 greens, 11/13 fairways, 2/3 sand saves, 28 putts.

Comparing Woods and his playing partners this week:

R1: Woods (69), Justin Thomas (69)

R2: Woods (68), Henrik Stenson (71)

R3: Woods (75), Hideki Matsuyama (72)

R4: Woods (68), Justin Thomas (68)

Additional Player Notes

After beginning the day with a five-stroke cushion Jordan Spieth and Justin Rose, Charley Hoffman posted a final-round even-par 72 to finish in second place (four strokes behind Rickie Fowler). In official PGA TOUR events, Hoffman has led/co-led following the third round four times, most recently carrying that lead on to a runner-up finish at the 2017 RBC Canadian Open. He has never gone on to win after leading/co-leading after the third round.

With a final-round 3-under 69, 2014 World Challenge champion Jordan Spieth finished T3 in his fifth start at the Hero World Challenge (T16-2013, 1-2014, 4-2015, T6-2016, T3-2017). He won in 2014 by a record 10 strokes over Henrik Stenson with a tournament-record 26-under 262, becoming the first player to win the event in wire-to-wire fashion.

Albany resident Justin Rose posted a final-round 2-under 70 to finish T5. He made his fourth start at the Hero World Challenge (T6-2014, 13-2015, WD-2016, T5-2-17), including a final-round, (then) course-record 10-under 62 at Albany in 2015 to finish in 13th place.

Defending champion Hideki Matsuyama finished T5 in his attempt to join Tiger Woods (2006-07) as the only players to win the Hero World Challenge in back-to-back seasons. This week marked Matsuyama's fourth start at the Hero World Challenge (13/2014, T17/2015, 1/2016, T5/2017).

With rounds of 69-70-74-68, 2017 FedExCup champion and PGA TOUR Player of the Year Justin Thomas finished in 11th place in his first start at the Hero World Challenge. Thomas has bookend pairings with tournament host Tiger Woods this week, with both posting 3-under 69s on day one and 4-under 68s on day four.

Henrik Stenson, with wife Emma serving as his caddie this week, finished in 17th place, marking the first time in five starts he failed to record a top-five finish at the Hero World Challenge. Prior to this week, he had posted runner-up finishes in his last two starts (2014, 2016).

Miscellaneous Notes

Past Hero World Challenge winners: Jordan Spieth (T3), Hideki Matsuyama (T5) and five-time winner Tiger Woods (T9).

First-time participants: Charley Hoffman (2), Tommy Fleetwood (T3), Francesco Molinari (8), Justin Thomas (11), Alex Noren (T12), Kevin Kisner (T12), Kevin Chappell (T14), Daniel Berger (T14).

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Tommy Fleetwood (66), Matt Kuchar (67), Dustin Johnson (68)

R2 – None

R3 – None

R4 – Rickie Fowler (61), Tommy Fleetwood (67), Kevin Kisner (70)

Scoring Averages at the par-72 Albany Golf Club:

| | Front 9 | Back 9 | Total | Cumulative |
|---------|---------|--------|-------|------------|
| Round 1 | 34.55 | 34.89 | 69.44 | --- |
| Round 2 | 34.55 | 34.88 | 69.43 | --- |
| Round 3 | 36.06 | 36.82 | 72.88 | --- |
| Round 4 | 33.77 | 35.78 | 69.55 | 70.34 |