



2018 John Deere Classic

(The 37th of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Silvis, Illinois
TPC Deere Run

July 12-15, 2018
Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,268

FedExCup Pts: 500 to the winner
Purse: \$5,800,000 (\$1,044,000)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, July 12, 2018

Weather: Sunny, with a high of 91. Wind S 10-15 mph

First-Round Leaderboard

Steve Wheatcroft	62 (-9)
Michael Kim	63 (-8)
Andres Romero	64 (-7)
Nick Taylor	64 (-7)
Johnson Wagner	64 (-7)
Joel Dahmen	64 (-7)

Seven Things To Know

- Defending John Deere Classic champion Bryson DeChambeau withdrew with a right shoulder injury after 15 holes
- Last player to withdraw while in defense of a PGA TOUR title was Hideki Matsuyama earlier this season at the Waste Management Phoenix Open
- Steve Wheatcroft finishes round with six straight birdies to post career-low round
- After an even-par front nine, Joel Dahmen made five birdies and an eagle (par-5 10th) on his inward nine (64/T3)
- Zach Johnson (69/T56) and Steve Stricker (70/T79), playing in the same group, are both making their 17th start in this week's John Deere Classic. Both finished T5 at TPC Deere Run last year
- With a 2-under 69, PGA TOUR Special Temporary Member Joaquin Niemann opens with round in the 60s in seventh straight event
- Sponsor invites: University of Illinois' Nick Hardy posts bogey-free, 5-under 67 (T11). In PGA TOUR debut, 2018 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championships medalist (Augusta University) Broc Everett opens with bogey-free, 4-under 67 (T26)

First-Round Lead Notes

- 2 First-round leaders/co-leaders at the John Deere Classic to win since moving to TPC in 2000 (John Senden/2006, Brian Harman/2014)
- 7 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on PGA TOUR in 2017-18 (most recent: Webb Simpson/THE PLAYERS Championship)

Steve Wheatcroft (-9/1st)

Age: 40 (February 21, 1978)

Joined TOUR: 2007

Entering this week

#209	FedExCup
#927	OWGR
0	PGA TOUR wins
165	PGA TOUR starts
15	PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18
0	Top-10s in 2017-18
6	Starts at John Deere Classic
0/2	Wins when holding 18-hole lead/co-lead

- Reeled off six straight birdies on Nos. 13-18 to end his round. Also birdied Nos. 2, 6 and 10
- 9-under 62 supplants his previous career-low by a stroke (469 rounds)
- Most-consecutive birdies on the PGA TOUR this season is seven
- Birdied each of the par-5 holes (Nos. 2, 10 and 17)
- Hit 12/14 fairways and 17/18 greens in regulation (No. 9)
- Making his seventh start at the John Deere Classic, with a T8 in 2015 his lone top-25 finish
- Has made six cuts in 15 starts on the PGA TOUR this season, with a T28 at the Corales Puntacan Resort & Club Championship his best showing.
- In search of his first career TOUR win in his 166th start. Lone runner-up finish (T2) came at 2015 CareerBuilder Challenge

Michael Kim (-8/2nd)

- Made nine birdies against one bogey (par-4 eighth) to tie his career-low round (8-under 64/R2/2018 CareerBuilder Challenge/T50)
- Comes into this week's John Deere Classic on the heels of missed cuts in five of last six starts on TOUR
- Making third start in the John Deere Classic (2016/T47, 2017/T71)
- Only two (of nine) over-par scores at TPC Deere Run came in both previous final rounds (72s)
- Looking for first career TOUR win in his 84th start. Best finish is T3 at 2016 Safeway Open

Johnson Wagner (-7/T3)

- Made nine birdies against two bogeys to open with 7-under 64, his best score in relation to par since R1 of the 2016 Safeway Open (7-under 65/T3)
- Making his ninth start at the John Deere Classic. Top-10 finishes came in three-consecutive years (2014/T7, 2015/T5, 2016/T5). Missed last year's cut
- Seeking fourth career PGA TOUR title and first since 2012 Sony Open in Hawaii
- Comes into the week outside top-125 in FedExCup standings at No. 144

Zach Johnson (-2/T56)

- In addition to T5 last year and victory in 2012, claimed an additional five top-10 finishes at the John Deere Classic
- In 59 rounds at the John Deere Classic, has posted just six over-par scores, but not since round three of 2008. Has now played 38 consecutive rounds at par-or-better.
- Most recent missed cut (of three) came in 2007
- Has made 18 starts on the PGA TOUR this season, two of which resulted in top-10 showings (T8/The RSM Classic, 5th/Valero Texas Open)
- In search of 13th career TOUR title and first since a playoff victory at the 2015 Open Championship

Steve Stricker (-1/T79)

- Winner of the event from 2009-2011
- In addition to three wins, has collected an additional five top-10 finishes at the John Deere Classic, including a T5 in 2017.
- Following today's 1-under 70, moves to 188-under par after 61 rounds at the John Deere Classic
- Making 11th start on the PGA TOUR this season and remains in search of first top-10 finish
- Comes off a T20 at the U.S. Open in most recent TOUR start before this week
- In six starts on PGA TOUR Champions this season, has collected two wins (Cologuard Classic, Rapsican Systems Classic). Finished no worse than T5 in the other four events
- Most recent of 12 PGA TOUR wins came at the 2012 Sentry Tournament of Champions

Miscellaneous Notes

There are 15 players competing in this week's John Deere Classic also scheduled to compete in next week's Open Championship at Carnoustie: Bronson Burgoon (68), Austin Cook (69), Bryson DeChambeau (WD), Chesson Hadley (69), Zach Johnson (69), Matt Jones (68), Sung Kang (76), Si Woo Kim (73), Patton Kizzire (70), Kelly Kraft (66), Andrew Landry (71), Francesco Molinari (65), Ryan Moore (70), Chez Reavie (73), Kyle Stanley (74).

The John Deere Classic is the final event of The Open Qualifying Series USA, offering one spot to the leading player (not otherwise exempt) who finishes in the top five and ties.

Rory Sabbatini withdrew during round one.

Course Statistics

Toughest Hole

R1: Par-4 18th (4.303)

Easiest Hole

Par-5 17th (4.465)

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	34.497	35.148	69.645	---
	Early	Late		
R1:	69.38	69.91		

Bogey-free rounds

R1: Steve Wheatcroft (62), Andres Romero (64), Nick Hardy (66), Parker McLachlin (66), John Merrick (66), Broc Everett (67), Billy Hurley III (67), Conrad Shindler (67), Nick Watney (68), Richy Werenski (68).