



2017 Sanderson Farms Championship

(The fifth of 45 events in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season)

Jackson, Miss.
CC of Jackson

October 23-29, 2017
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,421

FedExCup Points: 300/winner
Purse: \$4,300,000 (\$774,000/winner)

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, October 28, 2017

Weather: Sunny and cool, with a high of 57. NW wind 10-16 mph, with gusts to 22 mph.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Ryan Armour 66-68-67—201 (-15)

Chesson Hadley 68-70-68—206 (-10)

Five players at 207 (-9)

Ryan Armour

Ryan Armour sank a clutch 16-foot putt for par at the last to post a 5-under 67 and step out to a commanding five-stroke lead at 15-under 201.

For the second straight day, Armour made four consecutive birdies on Nos. 13-16. He made birdie at the par-4 16th by sinking a putt of 57' 3". His par-saving putt at No. 18 dropped from 15' 10", bringing his round total to 138' 9".

Since 2000, the largest 54-hole lead in the Sanderson Farms Championship before this week was four strokes (Bill Haas/2010).

The last time a leader with a 54-hole lead of more than four strokes did not convert for the win on the PGA TOUR was at the 2015 World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship. JB Holmes led by five strokes before an ultimate Dustin Johnson victory at the Doral Resort & Spa.

Before this week, Armour's best position after 54 holes on the PGA TOUR was a T4 at the 2007 Valero Texas Open (T6) in his rookie season.

Since 1990, when the event was neither cancelled nor condensed in rounds, the 54-hole leader has held on for the win 10 times, but not since Scott Stallings in 2012.

In his last nine rounds on the PGA TOUR, dating to the Wyndham Championship (T4), Armour has amassed 51 birdies and is a cumulative 32-under-par.

Armour is making his fifth start in the Sanderson Farms Championship, having never made a cut before this week's event. His 5-under 67 in last year's opening round marked his only sub-par score in the event before rounds of 66-68-67 this year.

Armour, who joined the PGA TOUR in 2007, made a return this year by virtue of his 11th-place finish on last year's Web.com Tour priority list. On that Tour last year, he finished solo-second at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship in the Web.com Tour Finals.

As a PGA TOUR rookie, Armour earned three top-10 finishes in 2007. His next top-10 showing didn't come until his T4 finish at this year's Wyndham Championship, thanks largely to a career-low 9-under 61 in round two.

Armour, who has bounced between the PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour for the last decade, did not make a start on the PGA TOUR from 2011-2014. On the Web.com Tour, Armour won the 2016 Panama Claro Championship.

Armour is making his 105th career start on TOUR this week, with a solo-fourth-place showing at the 2007 OHL Classic at Mayakoba his best showing.

Chesson Hadley

Making just his second start in the Sanderson Farms Championship, Chesson Hadley made five birdies and one bogey (par-4 12th) en route to a 4-under 68. At 10-under 206, he will begin Sunday's final round five strokes back. Hadley missed the cut in last year's event, following rounds of 74-69.

Hadley is making his second start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season this week. En route to a T3 finish at the Safeway Open three weeks ago, he posted a career-low 11-under 61 in round two.

Hadley is the winner of one event on the PGA TOUR, the 2014 Puerto Rico Open.

Scott Strohmeier

In his first-ever start on the PGA TOUR, Monday qualifier Scott Strohmeier made five birdies and one bogey (par-4 ninth) to post a 4-under 68 and get to 9-under 207. He will begin the final round six strokes back.

The last Monday qualifier to win on the PGA TOUR was Arjun Atwal at the 2010 Wyndham Championship.

Strohmeier has struggled off the tee this week, hitting just 16 of 42 fairways in regulation.

Strohmeier, a former teammate and roommate with last season's FedExCup champion Justin Thomas while playing golf at the University of Alabama, qualified for this week's event via pre-qualifying and then Monday qualifying. On Monday, following a four-way playoff after shooting a 4-under 68. He holed a bunker shot for eagle to win the playoff on the third extra hole.

Strohmeier was teammates with Thomas on the 2013 Alabama team that won the NCAA Championship. Three of the five players from that team have earned PGA TOUR cards: Thomas, Trey Mullinax and Bobby Wyatt.

Strohmeier, who has also never played in a Web.com Tour event, won his lone individual title at the 2013 NCAA Baton Rouge Regional, the second-to-last event of his college career. He finished two shots ahead of Wyatt and six shots ahead of Thomas.

Strohmeier closed his career by beating Illinois' Brian Campbell in the championship match of the 2013 NCAA Championship, helping Alabama to a 4-1 victory over the Illini. Campbell played on the PGA TOUR last season.

Strohmeier, who turned professional in 2013, was diagnosed with an infection in his body in the spring of 2015. Unaware of the infection for years, he ended up in the hospital for treatment and didn't return to the game until later that summer.

For the first stage of Q School recently in South Florida, Strohmeier stayed with Thomas. He did not play well enough to advance to the second stage.

Vaughn Taylor

Making his ninth start in the Sanderson Farms Championship, Vaughn Taylor bogeyed his final hole of the day to drop to 9-under 207.

Taylor, who didn't compete in last year's event, has finished inside the top-20 in each of his last three starts; T17/2013, T20/2014, T20/2015.

Last season, Taylor finished No. 114 in the FedExCup, while posting seven top-25 finishes in 26 starts. Playing out of the Past Champion category in the 2015-16 season, he earned his third PGA TOUR victory at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am at age 39. Before that, he had won the Barracuda Championship twice (2004, 2005).

Taylor, who joined the PGA TOUR in 2004, is making his 337th start this week. He is exempt through the 2017-18 season by virtue of his 2016 win at Pebble Beach.

Miscellaneous Notes

Local Jonathan Randolph overcame three early bogeys with four birdies in a five-hole stretch en route to a 1-under 71 and get to 7-under 209. He will begin the final round of his eighth Sanderson Farms Championship eight strokes back. His best finish in the event is T14 in 2013.

J.J. Henry withdrew after the first hole with a back injury.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Derek Fathauer (67), Chesson Hadley (68), Beau Hossler (69), Sam Burns (69), Johnson Wagner (69), Greg Chalmers (69).

R2: Vaughn Taylor (66), Grady Brame, Jr. (67), Ben Crane (71).

R3: None.

Scoring averages at the par-72 Country Club of Jackson:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.538	36.053	71.591	--
R2:	36.000	35.654	71.654	71.598
R3:	36.400	35.720	72.120	71.772