



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)

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, October 29, 2017

Weather: Sunny and cool, with a high of 63. NW wind 7-12 mph.

Final-Round Leaderboard

Ryan Armour	66-68-67-68—269 (-19)
Chesson Hadley	68-70-68-68—206 (-14)
Jonathan Randolph	69-69-71-67—276 (-12)

Ryan Armour

Ryan Armour stuck to his process all week and played steady golf in the final round, hitting 10 of 14 fairways and 15 of 18 greens, never relinquishing his commanding lead to win the Sanderson Farms Championship by five strokes for his first PGA TOUR victory.

Armour earned his first PGA TOUR victory in his 105th career start at the age of 41 years, 8 months, 2 days. A solo-fourth at the 2007 OHL Classic at Mayakoba was his previous-best result.

Following Pat Perez (41) at the 2017 CIMB Classic, Armour is the second winner in his 40s this season and the oldest winner since Rod Pampling (47) at the 2016 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

With the win, Armour earns 300 FedExCup points and moved 131 spots from No. 140 to No. 9 in the FedExCup standings and becomes fully exempt through the 2019-20 season. He also earns spots in the 2018 Sentry Tournament of Champions, THE PLAYERS Championship and the PGA Championship, as well as several invitational events. Additionally, Armour earns 300 points towards making the 2019 U.S. Presidents Cup team.

Armour's stellar play on the back nine at the Country Club of Jackson was evident as he was a total of 14-under on that nine, compared to 5-under total on the front nine. His 28 birdies for the week was well ahead of Jonathan Randolph's 23 as most for the week. Armour also led the Approach Shot Proximity to the Hole statistic for the week (29' 5") and Putts Made Distance (441' 3"). However, he ranked 74th in Driving Distance, when 76 players made the cut, with 264 yards.

This week marked Armour's 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 66-68-67-68 this year.

For just the fourth time in his PGA TOUR career, Armour posted all four rounds in the 60s (2007 OHL Classic at Mayakoba/4th, 2007 Valero Texas Open/T6, 2015 The Greenbrier Classic/T22, 2017/Sanderson Farms Championship/1st). He was the only player with four rounds in the 60s this week.

Armour joins ten other players who have made the Sanderson Farms Championship their first TOUR win: Ryan Armour (2017), Cody Gribble (2016), Peter Malnati (2015), Nick Taylor (2014), Chris Kirk (2011), D.J. Trahan (2006), Luke Donald (2002), Cameron Beckman (2001), Willie Wood (1996), Ed Dougherty (1995) and Brian Henninger (1994).

Armour is one of five first-round leaders at the Sanderson Farms Championship since 2000 who've held on for the win: Ryan Armour (2017), Bill Haas (2010), D.J. Trahan (2006), John Huston (2003) and Steve Lowery (2000).

Armour led by five strokes heading into the final round. 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 earlier today at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions in China, when Dustin Johnson led by six strokes and was overtaken by Justin Rose who claimed the title with a final-round 67.

Armour's five-stroke winning margin is the largest at the Sanderson Farms Championship since Frank Conner beat Brian Mogg by five in 1988. It's also the largest winning margin this season. Pat Perez won by four strokes at the CIMB Classic earlier this month. The last player to win by five was Marc Leishman at the 2017 BMW Championship.

Since 1990 - when the event was neither cancelled nor condensed in rounds - the 54-hole leader has held on for the win 11 times. Armour is the first since Scott Stallings in 2012. 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.

In his last 10 rounds on the PGA TOUR, dating to the Wyndham Championship (T4), Armour has amassed 57 birdies and is a cumulative 36-under-par.

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.

About Ryan Armour

EXEMPT STATUS: 11th on 2017 Web.com Tour priority list

FULL NAME: Ryan Patrick Armour

HEIGHT: 5-9

WEIGHT: 170

BIRTHDATE: February 27, 1976

BIRTHPLACE: Akron, Ohio

RESIDENCE: Jupiter, Florida

FAMILY: Wife, Erin; Patrick David, Nicholas John

EDUCATION: Ohio State University (1999, Communications)

SPECIAL INTERESTS: All sports, reading

TURNED PROFESSIONAL: 1999

CLUB AFFILIATION: Dye Preserve (Jupiter, Florida); Silver Lake CC (Silver Lake, Ohio)

Web.com Tour Graduate (2014, 2016, 2017)

JOINED TOUR: 2007

Armour's Statistics By Round:

R1: 10/14 fairways, 16/18 greens, 28 putts, 1/2 scrambling

R2: 8/14 fairways, 13/18 greens, 27 putts, 3/5 scrambling

R3: 12/14 fairways, 13/18 greens, 26 putts, 2/5 scrambling

R4: 10/14 fairways, 15/18 greens, 29 putts, 2/3 scrambling

Armour's Strokes Gained Summary (week):

Off-the-Tee	-0.156 (39)
Tee-to-Green	+10.966 (2)
Approach-the-Green	+8.040 (3)
Around-the-Green	+2.769 (13)
Putting	+7.684 (2)
Total	+18.649 (1)

Chesson Hadley

Making just his second start in the Sanderson Farms Championship, Chesson Hadley never really mounted a challenge until he birdied No. 13 and followed with a five-foot eagle putt at No. 14 and briefly got within four after starting the final round five back. Hadley eventually matched Armour's round of 4-under 68 to finish solo runner-up behind Armour. Hadley missed the cut in last year's event, following rounds of 74-69.

Hadley's runner-up finish resulted in a move from No. 24 to No. 6 in the FedExCup.

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.

With a T3 finish at the Safeway Open and his runner-up result at the Sanderson Farms Championship, this marks just the second time in Hadley's career that he has made two consecutive cuts to begin the season. In 2013-14, he opened with a T72 at the Safeway Open, before posting a T5 in his next start at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. That season he went on to finish No. 49 in the FedExCup, his best performance in the season-long competition.

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

Last season, Hadley played primarily on the Web.com Tour, making 19 starts for two victories and two runner-ups to earn fully exempt status on the PGA TOUR this season after winning both the Regular Season and Finals money list, including an invitation to the 2018 PLAYERS Championship.

Jonathan Randolph

After beginning the final round eight shots back, local Jonathan Randolph tried to make it a close competition, shooting 7-under 29 on the front nine to get within three strokes of Armour. With seven birdies on the front nine, Randolph's two pars came at the two par-3 holes (Nos. 4 and 7). A 2-over 38 on the back nine resulted in a 5-under 67 and a solo-third, his career-best on the PGA TOUR.

In his eighth Sanderson Farms Championship, Randolph, who calls the Country Club of Jackson his home course, posted his best result with a solo-third. His previous-best finish in the event was T14 in 2013.

Randolph's solo-third marked the second top-10 result in his 54th start on TOUR. His first career top 10 was a T8 at the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship.

A native of Brandon, Mississippi and a graduate of Jackson Prep, Randolph was an All-American at the University of Mississippi in 2009-10. This season is his third on the PGA TOUR, having also played in 2014-15 and 2016-17. He did not retain his PGA TOUR card after 2016-17, but earned TOUR status with a T2 finish at the Albertson's Boise Open during the Web.com Tour Finals.

Scott Strohmeier

In his first-ever start on the PGA TOUR, Monday qualifier Scott Strohmeier posted a top-10 finish, earning a trip to next week's Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in Las Vegas as a non-member. Despite two double bogeys in the final round, Strohmeier produced five birdies to shoot 1-under 71 and finish T4. He led in Driving Distance for the week with 325.4 yards.

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, during 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, 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 Web.com Tour Q School recently in South Florida, Strohmeier stayed with Thomas. He did not play well enough to advance to the second stage.

Miscellaneous Notes

Smylie Kaufman holed a 32-foot putt for birdie on the 72nd hole to sneak into T4 and record his first top-5 finish since a T5 at the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship. His only other top-5 result in 59 starts on TOUR was a win at the 2015 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Michigan native Brian Stuard produced his first top-10 result since winning the 2016 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. The T4 also marked his best result in three appearances at the Sanderson Farms Championship (T39/2016, T59/2010).

In his fourth Sanderson Farms Championship appearance, Jason Kokrak produced a bogey-free, final-round 67 to move from T32 at the start of the day to T7, his best finish in this event (T7/2017, T12/2016, T20/2015, T49/2012).

Nicholas Lindheim posted his career-best result in his 24th start on the PGA TOUR with a T7. Lindheim's only other top-25 result on the PGA TOUR was a T23 at this event one year ago.

After securing his PGA TOUR card for the 2017-18 season with a 10th-place finish on the 2017 Web.com Tour Regular Season money list, Ben Silverman posted his career-best result (T7) while making his second PGA TOUR start as a member following a T43 at the Safeway Open earlier this month. His only other TOUR appearance was a missed cut at the 2014 RBC Canadian Open. Silverman was recently named the Mackenzie Tour captain of the Aruba Cup (match play event vs. PGA TOUR Latinoamérica in December). He gave himself a plan out of college to make it to the PGA TOUR by age 30, and earned his PGA TOUR card at age 29. He got married last year and had first child, Jack Palmer, in 2017 before securing his first Web.com Tour win at the Price Cutter Charity Classic presented by Dr Pepper.

Ricky Barnes' 6-under 66 marked the low round on Sunday and his low 18-hole score in 10 rounds at the Sanderson Farms Championship. He finished T10 after starting the final round in T43 position.

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.

R4: Ricky Barnes (66), Jason Kokrak (67).

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
R4:	35.867	36.467	72.333	71.912