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2017 CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES Preliminary Pre-Tournament Notes

Pre-tournament Interviews

Tuesday, Oct. 17

2:00 p.m. - Group interview with Siwoo Kim, KJ Choi, Sangmoon Bae

3:00 p.m.– Group interview with Graeme McDowell, Marc Leishman and Xander Schauffele

Wednesday, Oct. 11,

Depending on Pro-Am times

- Justin Thomas
- Adam Scott
- Jason Day

2:00 p.m. - Five KPGA player who got exemptions from KPGA Korean Tour

Dates: October 16-22, 2017 (part of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season)

Where: Nine Bridges on Jeju Island, Jeju, Korea

Par/Yards: 36-36--72/7,196 yards

Field: 78 players

Eligibility: Eligible players for the 78-player field are:

- Top 60 available players from the final 2016-17 FedExCup Points List, to a floor of 125th position
- Five players designated by the KPGA, as follows:
 - Winner of the 2017 KPGA Championship
 - Winner of the 2017 KPGA Genesis Championship
 - Top 3 available players from the KPGA Genesis Points List as of October 9, 2017
- Two players from the Asian Tour, as follows:
 - The leading available player from the Asian Tour Order of Merit, as of October 9, 2017
 - The next highest ranked available player of KOR nationality from the Asian Tour Order of Merit as of October 9, 2017
- Top three available players of Korean nationality from the Official World Golf Ranking as of Monday, October 9, 2017.
- Eight sponsor exemptions
 - Five from among the current season's PGA TOUR membership
 - Three "unrestricted"

2016 champion: N/A

Purse: \$9,250,000/\$1,600,000 (winner)

FedExCup: 500 points (winner)

Format: 72-hole stroke play (not cut)

Website: <http://en.thecjcup.com/index.asp>

CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES and the FedExCup

The CJ CUP is a 72-hole stroke play event made up predominantly of PGA TOUR players, with additional competitors coming from a variety of KPGA and Asian Tour exemptions to complete the 78-player field. The tournament, in its inaugural year, is held at Nine Bridges Golf Club on Jeju Island and is the first official FedExCup event in South Korea with PGA TOUR members receiving official FedExCup points as part of the 2017-2018 PGA TOUR season.

The CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES is the third event of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season and is part of eight events during the fall of 2017, all of which will award FedExCup points, and the second of three consecutive events in Asia. After a seven-week break, the season will resume in January with the traditional swing through Hawaii

before moving to the West Coast. The FedExCup Playoffs once again features four events and concludes in September with the TOUR Championship and the crowning of the FedExCup champion.

In addition to 500 FedExCup points and a two-year PGA TOUR exemption, the winner this week (if not previously eligible) receives invitations to the 2018 Sentry Tournament of Champions, a winners-only event in January, along with two major championships (Masters Tournament and PGA Championship) and THE PLAYERS Championship. The player would also earn exemptions into six additional invitational events on the PGA TOUR.

Every week is significant in the race for the FedExCup – three of the seven winners from the fall calendar of 2016 (Justin Thomas, Hideki Matsuyama and Pat Perez) qualified for the TOUR Championship. The other four winners advanced through at least the second of four Playoffs events (Brendan Steele, Cody Gribble, Rod Pamplung and Mackenzie Hughes).

Earlier this year in May, FedEx extended its contract as sponsor of the FedExCup by 10 years through 2027.

Justin Thomas

Reigning 2017 FedExCup Champion and PGA TOUR Player of the Year Justin Thomas enjoyed a breakout season in 2016-17 on the PGA TOUR. His success began in the fall in Asia with his second consecutive victory at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia. He later won back-to-back events in Hawaii at the Sentry Tournament of Champions and the Sony Open in Hawaii. Thomas' 59 in the opening round of the Sony Open made him the youngest of seven players (eight times) to record a sub-60 round on the PGA TOUR (23 years, 9 months, 14 days). His four-day total of 253 also set a new PGA TOUR record.

Thomas' season got even better in the late summer and early fall, as he won his first major championship at the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow. In the FedExCup Playoffs, Thomas was able to win the Dell Technologies Championship, the second of the four FedExCup Playoffs events, and entered the TOUR Championship at No. 2 in the standings. With a runner-up finish at the TOUR Championship, Thomas capped off his season with the FedExCup, the fifth winner under the age of 30. Thomas joined Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Jordan Spieth as the only players to win five times in a season, including a major, before the age of 25.

Thomas made his debut on the U.S. Presidents Cup Team at Liberty National Golf Club, where he recorded a 3-1-1 record in a victorious effort for the U.S. Team.

With his historic season, Thomas was voted 2016-17 PGA TOUR Player of the Year. He is currently the No. 4 player in the Official World Golf Ranking and is making his second start of the PGA TOUR season.

Other notables in the Field

Jason Day

- A 10-time winner on the PGA TOUR and former No. 1 player in the world, Day makes his 2017-18 PGA TOUR season debut after his first full season without a victory in four years.
- While the Australian's season didn't go as well as expected, Day finished the year strong with six consecutive top-25 finishes that included a T6 at THE NORTHERN TRUST and a 4th at the BMW Championship, helping him reach the season-ending TOUR Championship for the fifth consecutive season.
- Day's 10 PGA TOUR victories include two World Golf Championships events, THE PLAYERS Championship in 2016 and the 2015 PGA Championship.
 - Day's victories: 2010 AT&T Byron Nelson, 2014 World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play, 2015 Farmers Insurance Open, RBC Canadian Open, PGA Championship, THE NORTHERN TRUST, BMW Championship, 2016 Arnold Palmer Invitational, World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play, THE PLAYERS Championship.
- Day was a part of the International Presidents Cup team that played in Incheon, South Korea, in 2015

Paul Casey

- Englishman Paul Casey capped off a second-straight outstanding season, finishing 11th in the final FedExCup standings on the strength of nine top-10s and 17 top-25s, against just one missed cut.
- Despite only one PGA TOUR win on his resume at the 2009 Shell Houston Open, Casey has amassed 48 top 10s in 219 career starts.
- Casey is ranked 14th in the Official World Golf Ranking.
- Casey is no stranger to success in South Korea, having won the Shinhan Donghae Open in 2011.

Adam Scott

- The Australian former No. 1 player in the world has 13 PGA TOUR victories with another 13 international victories worldwide.
- After winning twice in back-to-back starts on the PGA TOUR in 2016 at The Honda Classic and the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship, Adam Scott went winless in the 2016-17 season.
- Scott was a member of the International Presidents Cup team that played in Incheon, Korea, in 2015.
- Scott is making his season debut at this week's CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES.

Si Woo Kim

- Si Woo Kim is a two-time winner on the PGA TOUR, capturing the 2016 Wyndham Championship and THE PLAYERS Championship in 2017, the PGA TOUR's flagship event.
- In his win at THE PLAYERS, Kim fired a bogey-free, final round 69, the first player to shoot a bogey-free final round to win THE PLAYERS since Tim Clark in 2010. At the age of 21 years, 10 months and 16 days, Kim also became the youngest winner of THE PLAYERS.
- Two seasons ago, Kim was one of two PGA TOUR rookies to qualify for the season-ending TOUR championship.
- Kim is the first Asian player in PGA TOUR history to win twice before the age of 22.
- Kim made his first appearance for the International Team at the Presidents Cup last month at Liberty National Golf Club.

Xander Schauffele

- American Xander Schauffele had an incredible rookie season, becoming the first rookie to win the TOUR Championship on his way to being named the 2016-17 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year.
- Schauffele's mother is Taiwanese and grew up in Japan.
- He captured The Greenbrier Classic for his first PGA TOUR win.
- Schauffele's 2017-18 season started where it left off as he finished T3 at the CIMB Classic.

Anirban Lahiri

- Anirban Lahiri, a seven-time Asian Tour winner and now full member on the PGA TOUR, finished T10 at the CIMB Classic last week.
- Lahiri, from India, made his second start in last month's Presidents Cup as a Captain's Pick for the International Team.
- Finished 51st in the FedExCup in his second season on the PGA TOUR last season, his best finish to date.
- Was a member of the International Team at the 2015 Presidents Cup played in Incheon City, Korea.

Thomas Pieters

- Belgium's Thomas Pieters has won three times on the European Tour since 2015.
- Thanks to top-5 finishes at the Genesis Open, the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship, the Masters and the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational in 2017, Pieters has accepted PGA TOUR membership for this season.
- Played in the CIMB Classic in Malaysia.

KJ Choi

- Choi carried the torch for South Korea for many years on the PGA TOUR starting in 1999 when he became the first Korean player to earn his PGA TOUR card.
- In 2002, Choi became the first South Korean winner in TOUR history, closing with 5-under-par 67 for a four-stroke victory in the Compaq Classic of New Orleans
- In 2011, Choi set another mark for his country, becoming the first Korean and first Asian-born player to win THE PLAYERS.
- In total, Choi has eight PGA TOUR victories and 10 additional wins worldwide.

Pat Perez

- Beginning the day with a four-shot lead, American Pat Perez shot a final-round 69 to win last week's CIMB Classic in Malaysia by four shots over Keegan Bradley for his third PGA TOUR victory. At the age of 41 years, 7 months and 14 days, Perez is the oldest winner in tournament history.
- Perez collected his third win on TOUR (2009 CareerBuilder Challenge, 2016 OHL Classic at Mayakoba) in his 403rd start.
- With the victory, Perez moved to second in the FedExCup behind Safeway Open winner Steele, who finished T13 this week. He also earns an exemption into the Sentry Tournament of Champions in January in Maui.

- Perez is coming off his best season on the PGA TOUR, recording six top-10 finishes, including a win at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba, a T3 finish at the Sentry Tournament of Champions and a T2 finish at the Wells Fargo Championship. His strong play qualified him for the season-ending TOUR Championship, and he finished 15th in the final FedExCup standings. Perez has one other win on the PGA TOUR, the 2009 CareerBuilder Challenge.
- Perez' berth in the TOUR Championship was the first of his career, coming on the back of a T6 finish at the Dell Technologies Championship, his 400th start on the PGA TOUR. He began last season on a Major Medical Exemption, and his win at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba was good enough to earn full TOUR status.

Patrick Reed

- Even in a season where Patrick Reed didn't record a victory for the first time in five years, Reed did enough to qualify for his fourth consecutive TOUR Championship. Playing well at the right time, Reed finished runner-up at the PGA Championship and had top-20 finishes at the first two FedExCup Playoffs events (THE NORTHERN TRUST-T20, Dell Technologies Championship-T6).
- Has five victories on the PGA TOUR at age 27.
- Has been a foundation of the U.S. Ryder Cup teams in 2014 and 2016 as well as the U.S. Presidents Cup teams in 2017 and in 2015 in Korea.

A broader look at the field

- The field includes 16 players from Korea –

○ An, Byeong Hun	○ Kim, Whee
○ Bae, Sangmoon	○ Lee, Hyungjoon
○ Choi, K.J.	○ Lee, Junghwan
○ Choi, Jinho	○ Lee, Kyoung-Hoon
○ Hwang, Jung-gon	○ Lee, Gyu Min
○ Kang, Sung	○ Seung-Yul Noh
○ Kim, K.T.	○ Song, Young-han
○ Kim, Seunghyuk	○ Wang, Jeunghun
○ Kim, Si Woo	
- Additionally, James Hahn, Danny Lee and Kevin Na all have Korean heritage and are in the field.
- The CJ Cup will feature 13 players that competed in last month's Presidents Cup at Liberty National Golf Club just outside of Manhattan.
 - Justin Thomas, Daniel Berger and Patrick Reed from the U.S. team.
 - Jason Day, Anirban Lahiri, Adam Scott, Si Woo Kim, Marc Leishman, Charl Schwartzel, Branden Grace, Jhonattan Vegas, Emiliano Grillo and Adam Hadwin from the International side.
- The field is deep with 29 of the top 50 from last season's final FedExCup standings including 18 of the 30 players who reached the TOUR Championship and 22 of the top 50 in the OWGR.
- There are 17 countries represented in the field showing the global strength of the game.

Par-3 hole-in-one event – bibigo! Chef-go!

During competition, there is a hole-in-one prize at the par 3, 218-yard 13th hole called "bibigo! Chef-go!" The first player to make a hole-in-one at the 13th wins a private Korean food party hosted by bibigo that represents the best of Korean cuisine. The global Korean food brand Bibigo will provide their renowned chefs to the destination of the player's choosing to throw a one-time Korean food party! Prize valued at 50,000 USD.

Additional 2016-17 PGA TOUR season notes

- The top-3 finishers in the FedExCup last season were all members of the high school class of 2011: Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth, and Xander Schauffele. The 2011 class accounted for a total of 11 PGA TOUR wins between the three players and Daniel Berger, who won the FedEx St. Jude Classic.
- With his win at the TOUR Championship, Xander Schauffele became the first rookie to win the TOUR Championship as a FedExCup Playoffs event. Schauffele was one of only two rookies (Patrick Cantlay) at the TOUR Championship and one of only 11 rookies since the inception of the FedExCup in 2007 to qualify for the tournament.
- Six players won multiple events in 2016-17: Justin Thomas (5), Dustin Johnson (4), Jordan Spieth (3), Hideki Matsuyama (3), Marc Leishman (2) and Xander Schauffele (2).
- Jordan Spieth, a three-time winner in 2016-17 and an 11-time PGA TOUR winner, and Tiger Woods are the only players in the modern era with 10 or more PGA TOUR wins before the age of 24. Woods had 15 before he turned 24.
- In the 2016-17 season, 28 of the 47 PGA TOUR events were won by players in their 20s Just five seasons ago, that number was just 11.

- Five rookies claimed victory in 2016-17: Cody Gribble/Sanderson Farms Championship, Mackenzie Hughes/The RSM Classic, Wesley Bryan/RBC Heritage, Grayson Murray/Barbasol and Xander Schauffele (The Greenbrier Classic and TOUR Championship). Bryan was one of three players to win on the PGA TOUR the season after earning Web.com Tour Player of the Year honors, joining Stewart Cink (1997) and Zach Johnson (2004).
- With 10 straight seasons of having collected at least one PGA TOUR title, Dustin Johnson owns the longest active streak of seasons with a TOUR victory.