



GENESIS OPEN

2018 Genesis Open

(15th of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Pacific Palisades, CA
Riviera Country Club

February 15-18, 2018

Purse: \$7,200,000 (\$1,296,000)
Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,322

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, February 17, 2018

Weather: Sunny with a high of 70. Wind S at 5-10 mph.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Bubba Watson	68-70-65—203 (-10)
Patrick Cantlay	66-69-69—204 (-9)
Cameron Smith	72-68-68—205 (-8)
Kevin Na	68-70-67—205 (-8)
Tony Finau	66-71-68—205 (-8)
Graeme McDowell	69-66-70—205 (-8)

Bubba Watson

Bubba Watson shot a third-round 65 and sits at 10-under 203, good enough for a one-shot lead over Patrick Cantlay.

Watson, a nine-time PGA TOUR winner, is looking for his first victory since he won at the Genesis Open in 2016. That week, he defeated Jason Kokrak and Adam Scott by one shot, finishing at 15-under. He also won the Genesis Open in 2014, shooting matching bogey-free 64s on the weekend to win by two over Dustin Johnson.

Watson is coming off his worst season on the PGA TOUR, finishing 75th in the FedExCup and recording just six top-25s. Watson's last top-five on the PGA TOUR came last year at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, playing with J.B. Holmes in the team event. His last top-five in an individual stroke-play event came at the 2016 World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship the next start after his most recent victory at the Genesis Open. The 2016 Genesis Open was also the last time Watson was in the final group on the final day.

So far in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, Watson has made four of five cuts with his best finish coming last week, a T35 at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

This is the 11th time Watson has held at least a share of the 54-hole lead, recording three victories in those instances, including the last time he won at the Genesis Open in 2016. At the 2014 Genesis Open, Watson was T6 entering the final round.

Watson eagled the opening hole at Riviera, his 128th eagle since 2007. Watson has the most eagles of any player on the PGA TOUR since 2007, with Dustin Johnson (123), Charley Hoffman (108) and Charles Howell III (108) trailing his total.

Watson left The Riviera Country Club Friday and took part in the NBA All-Star Celebrity Game at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles, recording two points on free throws in a winning effort.

Watson's Strokes Gained stats through three rounds:

Stat	Rank
Strokes Gained: Off the Tee	32 nd
Strokes Gained: Approach The Green	1 st
Strokes Gained: Around The Green	16 th
Strokes Gained: Putting	32 nd

Third-Round Lead Notes

Last year, eventual champion Dustin Johnson (17-under) held a five-stroke advantage over Wesley Bryan through 54 holes. Prior to Johnson in 2017, the last 36-hole leader to win the Genesis Open was Phil Mickelson in 2008.

Since 2000, only eight 54-hole leaders of the Genesis Open have converted for the win. Since 2010, four to have done so are Steve Stricker (2010), Aaron Baddeley (2011), Bubba Watson (2016) and Dustin Johnson (2017).

Seven of 14 third-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this season, most recently Ted Potter, Jr. at last week's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Patrick Cantlay

Patrick Cantlay, who shared the 36-hole lead, shot a second-straight 69, punctuated by a 54-foot, 3-inch birdie putt at the par-4 18th, and is one shot behind leader Bubba Watson through three rounds at the Genesis Open. The birdie putt was the longest made putt of Cantlay's PGA TOUR career, besting a 53-foot, 9-inch putt at the 2012 Wyndham Championship.

R1 statistics: 10 of 14 fairways, 16 of 18 greens, 1 of 2 scrambling, 29 putts.

R2 statistics: 8 of 14 fairways, 15 of 18 greens, 2 of 3 scrambling, 31 putts.

R3 statistics: 8 of 14 fairways, 10 of 18 greens, 6 of 8 scrambling, 26 putts.

This is only the second time that Cantlay has been in second place heading into the final round, his first coming at the 2017 Valspar Championship, where he eventually finished second. In his first career victory earlier this year, he was T4 through 54 holes at the 2017 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

In two previous appearances at the Genesis Open, Cantlay failed to advance to the weekend (2012/78-72, 2013/70-75).

Cantlay claimed his first PGA TOUR title with a playoff victory over Alex Cejka and Whee Kim at the 2017 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Cantlay is making his 47th career start on TOUR and his sixth start this season. After playing just 13 events last season, and making the cut in all 13, Cantlay fulfilled a Major Medical Extension with a runner-up result at the 2017 Valspar Championship in just his second start that season. Cantlay advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs (one of five to do so from outside the top 30 at the beginning of the Playoffs) and made it through all four Playoffs events, eventually ending the season No. 29 in the standings. Cantlay currently sits No. 11 in the FedExCup standings.

Cantlay joined 2017 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year Xander Schauffele as the only rookies to advance all the way to the 2017 TOUR Championship in the FedExCup Playoffs.

Cameron Smith

Australia's Cameron Smith made an eagle on the par-5 11th to go with four birdies against no bogeys to shoot a third-round 65, putting him two shots behind leader Bubba Watson. Smith has now gone 38-straight holes without a bogey going back to the 16th hole in the first round, when he bogeyed the par-3 16th. He has only made three bogeys so far this week, the least amount of bogeys recorded in the field so far this week.

This is Smith's best position through 54 holes in an individual stroke play event in his career, having held the 54-hole lead at last year's Zurich Classic of New Orleans, where he eventually won with partner Jonas Blixt.

Graeme McDowell

Graeme McDowell posted a third-round 1-under 70 and is two shots behind leader Bubba Watson tied with Cameron Smith, Kevin Na and Tony Finau.

Making his 191st PGA TOUR start, McDowell is in search of his fourth PGA TOUR victory: 2010 U.S. Open, 2013 RBC Heritage, 2015 OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

This marks McDowell's sixth appearance at the Genesis Open, with his only previous made cuts coming in 2017 (67th) and 2009 (T41).

McDowell is making his sixth start of the 2017-18 season, with a T10 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open his best outing.

Currently No. 87 in the FedExCup standings, McDowell is still in search of his first trip to the TOUR Championship during the FedExCup era. His best finish in the FedExCup was No. 42 in 2012.

Additional Player Notes

First-round co-leader and 2016 Puerto Rico Open champion Tony Finau shot a third-round 68 and is T3, two shots behind Watson's lead. This marks Finau's fourth appearance at the Genesis Open. In 2015, he finished T56 before missing the cut in both 2016 and 2017.

Playing on a sponsor exemption, China's Haotong Li sits T26 at 2-under. Li is one of four players of Chinese heritage in the field this week, with Zecheng Dou, Xinjun Zhang and C.T. Pan all missing the cut. This week marked the most

players from China playing a PGA TOUR event (outside of WGC-HSBC Champions). Chinese New Year (Spring Festival), the Year of the Dog, began yesterday (February 16). Li aced the par-3 sixth hole with a 6-iron from 189 yards. It was the first ace at the tournament since 2016 when Ryan Moore aced the par-3 16th in the final round. Tyrone Van Aswegen also recorded an ace that year at the par-3 16th in the third round. Players with the first hole-in-one each round on holes 14 or 16 will win a Genesis G80 Sport, as well as a Genesis G80 Sport for their caddie, meaning that Li didn't win a Genesis car for his hole in one on the sixth hole.

Defending Genesis Open champion and World No. 1 Dustin Johnson shot a bogey-free 64, the best round of the day, to move up to T8 from T53 to start the day. His round included a 29 on the opening nine. Johnson is looking for his second win of the season to go along with a win at the Sentry Tournament of Champions.

With rounds of 72-76, tournament host Tiger Woods missed the cut for just the 25th time in his career. Prior to missing the cut this week at The Riviera Country Club, Woods' two previous starts came at the Farmers Insurance Open, missing the cut in 2017 and finishing T23 this year. In 11 starts at the Genesis Open, Woods owns four top-10 results. His best finish is runner-up in 1998. He also posted a T2 in 1999. Without a win in 11 starts in this event, the Genesis Open is the only tournament where Woods has made double-digit appearances and failed to collect a victory.

Miscellaneous Notes

Since 2004, no other hole on the PGA TOUR has yielded more eagles than No. 1 at The Riviera Country Club. Before Thursday's first round, 384 total eagles had been made on the opening hole at Riviera. Six players recorded eagles at No. 1 in the opening round (Rory McIlroy, Padraig Harrington, Sean O'Hair, Brandon Harkins, Aaron Baddeley, John Merrick). During the second round, nine players eagled the hole (Ryan Moore, Brandon Harkins, John Huh, Pat Perez, Kelly Kraft, Luke Donald, Adam Scott, Charles Howell III, Parker McLachlin). During the third round, nine players eagled the hole (Bubba Watson, Kevin Na, Justin Thomas, Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson, Talor Gooch, Kevin Chappell, Peter Uihlein, Sangmoon Bae) and no players made bogey or worse.

The par-4 10th hole at The Riviera Country Club tempted 91 of the 144 players in the field to 'go for the green' in the opening round and 104 of 142 players in the second round. Of the 91 in the first round, only two players found the surface – 2017 Genesis Open runner-up Thomas Pieters (birdie) and last week's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am winner Ted Potter, Jr. (bogey). Of the 104 in the second round, two players again found the surface – Jonas Blixt (par) and Martin Flores (par). In the third round, 63 of 76 players in the field went for the green, with Troy Merritt recording the only successful attempt. Merritt knocked his tee shot just 3 feet, 3 inches from the hole, but missed the eagle putt, eventually making birdie.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Chez Reavie (68).

R2 – Martin Kaymer (67), Cameron Smith (68).

R3 – Dustin Johnson (64), Cameron Smith (65), Adam Hadwin (66).

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.545	36.657	72.203	--
R2:	35.150	36.969	72.118	72.163
R3:	34.618	35.987	70.605	71.648