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Dates: November 13-19, 2017

Where: St. Simons Island, Georgia

Courses: Sea Island GC (Seaside Course/Host; Plantation Course)

Par/Yards: Seaside (35-35—70/7,005), Plantation (36-36—72/7,058)

Defending champion: Mac Hughes

Purse: \$6,200,000 (\$1,116,000 to winner)

Field: 156

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Twitter/Instagram: @TheRSMClassic; social media them #RSMGivesThanks

PGA TOUR's fall schedule wraps up with eighth playing of The RSM Classic

The RSM Classic welcomes an outstanding field (including tournament host Davis Love III) to the Golden Isles this week as it serves as the final event of the fall portion of the 2017-18 wraparound schedule. With Sea Island Golf Club providing a tremendous setting with a unique atmosphere for a PGA TOUR tournament, The RSM Classic never fails to provide a dramatic finish, including most recently Mac Hughes surviving a five-man playoff to become the first player to win on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, Web.com Tour and the PGA TOUR.

The RSM Classic and the FedExCup

The RSM Classic (now in its eighth year overall) enters the fifth season featuring a wraparound schedule that bridges two years with 49 events including the FedExCup Playoffs events. The 2017-18 PGA TOUR season includes eight events during the fall of 2017, all of which will award FedExCup points. With a break after this week's event, the season will resume in January with the traditional swing through Hawaii before moving to the West Coast. The FedExCup Playoffs once again feature four events, concluding in September with the TOUR Championship and the crowning of the FedExCup champion.

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

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

About the Sea Island Golf Club

Situated on the southern tip of St. Simons Island, the majestic Sea Island Golf Club serves as the host venue of The RSM Classic. As stated on its website, "At Sea Island, Davis Love III learned how to play golf from his father, practiced with his brother and introduced the game to his son." This world-class facility features three Championship 18-hole golf courses, an award-winning Golf Performance Center and well-respected instructors.

Seaside Course

- The Seaside Course, which has made its way in the past on Golf Digest's "Top 100 Courses in the United States", is situated on the southern tip of Saint Simons Island and is a true oceanside course. The storied Seaside Course, originally designed in 1929, has been the site of many prestigious golf events and has challenged some of the game's finest golfers, including Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus and Sam Snead.
- Seaside was originally built as a 9-hole course by legendary English architects Harry S. Colt and Charles Alison in 1929. In 1973, Joe Lee designed Marshside Nine. These two distinct nines were transformed into the current world-class Seaside course in 1999 by Tom Fazio.

Plantation Course

- With Rees Jones' renovation, the Plantation Course unfolds among a forest of ancient live oak and cedar, with a hint of danger lurking in its tidal creeks and lakes. Plantation boasts expansive fairways that give definition to the course, showcasing beautiful views of the ocean, oaks, and blooming flowers.
- Jones calls the new Plantation "parkland by the sea" for its magnificent vistas of the Atlantic Ocean and its lush natural scenery. Rees added, "I took the work of Walter Travis (who designed Plantation in 1926) and Dick Wilson (who fashioned Retreat in 1960) and produced a classic style course with a similar flavor."

A look back at The RSM Classic in 2016

Mac Hughes, who led outright each of the first three rounds of The RSM Classic in 2016, posted a 1-under 69 in the final round to get to 17-under 265, joining a playoff with Camilo Villegas, Blayne Barber, Billy Horschel and Henrik Norlander. On the third extra hole Monday morning, the par-3 17th, Hughes rolled in a 15-foot putt to save par from off the green to claim his first career PGA TOUR victory in his ninth start two days before his 26th birthday.

More about Hughes' victory

- Hughes recorded his first PGA TOUR victory in his ninth start at the age of 25 years, 11 months and 29 days.
- Played his first 46 holes in 2016 without a bogey, including an opening-round 9-under 61.
- Joined Tommy Gainey (2012), Robert Streb (2014) and Kevin Kisner (2015) as players to record their first PGA TOUR win at The RSM Classic.
- Joined Kisner (2015), Chris Kirk (2013) and Heath Slocum (2010) as players to carry the 54-hole lead on to victory. He is the first to go on to win after leading after the first three rounds.
- Became the 13th Canadian to win on the PGA TOUR, joining George Knudson, Mike Weir, Ian Leggatt, Stan Leonard, Richard Zokol, Dan Halldorson, Dave Barr, Al Balding, Jules Huot, Al Johnston, Stephen Ames and Nick Taylor. (Ames and Johnston became Canadian citizens prior to winning).
- With his win, Hughes becomes the first player to win on the Mackenzie Tour–PGA TOUR Canada, Web.com Tour and the PGA TOUR. In 2013, he won the Cape Breton Open on the Mackenzie Tour on the way to claiming Player of the Year honors. In 2016, he won the Price Cutter Charity Championship on the Web.com Tour.
- Hughes earned his PGA TOUR card for the 2016-17 season after finishing 17th on Web.com Tour regular-season money list and 20th in the Web.com Tour Finals.

Sea Island Connections in the field

Tournament host, Sea Island resident and “Team RSM” member Davis Love III headlines a growing list of players with Sea Island connections, with the majority training out of the state-of-the-art Sea Island Golf Performance Center. At the present time, more than two dozen PGA TOUR professionals live or train in the area, including (but not limited to) Davis Love III, last week's winner Patton Kizzire, Zach Johnson, Matt Kuchar, Jonathan Byrd, Harris English, Brian Harman, Rick Lamb, Scott Langley, Blake Olson, J.T. Poston, Hudson Swafford, Josh Teater, Michael Thompson and Bobby Wyatt.

Select Player Information

Davis Love III

- World Golf Hall of Fame member
- Winner of 21 PGA TOUR titles, including the 1992 and 2003 PLAYERS Championship and the 1997 PGA Championship.
- Most recent win came at the 2015 Wyndham Championship.
- Winning Captain of the 2016 U.S. Ryder Cup Team.
- Making eighth RSM Classic start (T33/2010, MC/2011, T4/2012, MC/2013, T41/2014, T33/2015, MC/2016)
- At 53 years old, will be making his 749th official PGA TOUR start.
- Son, Dru, will play in The RSM Classic as a sponsor exemption.

Patton Kizzire

- Sea Island resident Patton Kizzire broke through for his first PGA TOUR win last week at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba, holding off a final-round charge from Rickie Fowler to win in his 63rd PGA TOUR start. With the win, took the lead in the FedExCup standings by three points over Pat Perez.
- Has improved in each week during the 2017-18 Season: MC-Safeway Open, T10-Sanderson Farms Championship, T4-Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, Won-OHL Classic at Mayakoba.
- Will make his fourth start at The RSM Classic: MC-2016, MC-2015, T54-2014.
- In a ceremony prior to the start of The RSM Classic in 2015, was named the 2015 Web.com Tour Player of the Year. Won twice and had two runner-up finishes among 12 top-10 finishes that season.

Brandt Snedeker

- 2012 FedExCup champion and eight-time PGA TOUR winner will be making his first start since the 2017 Travelers Championship. Snedeker has been sidelined since June due to a rib injury.
- Will make his fourth start at The RSM Classic: T45-2016, MC-2015, T32-2011.

Chesson Hadley

- Making his fifth start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season. In his first three starts, finished T3/Safeway Open, 2nd/Sanderson Farms Championship and T4/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.
- 2013-14 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year and top candidate for 2017 Web.com Tour Player of the Year.
- Making fifth start in The RSM Classic (T45-2016, MC-2015, T32-2014, MC-2013).
- Winner of the 2014 Puerto Rico Open
- After winning the LECOM Health Challenge and Albertsons Boise Open on the 2017 Web.com Tour, finished first on the Web.com Tour Regular Season and Finals money lists.

Zach Johnson

- Team RSM member
- 12-time PGA TOUR champion seeking first win since the 2015 Open Championship.
- Making his eighth start in The RSM Classic, led by top-20 finishes in 2010 (T12) and 2013 (T16).
- Recently finished No. 48 in the FedExCup, advancing to the Playoffs for the 10th time in 11 years.

Kevin Kisner

- Making first start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season
- Two-time PGA TOUR winner: 2015 The RSM Classic, 2017 DEAN & DELUCA Invitational
- Making his seventh start in The RSM Classic (MC-2016, Won-2015, T4-2014, T20-2013, MC-2012, T26-2011)
- Member of the winning United States Team for the 2017 Presidents Cup (2-0-2; teamed three times with Phil Mickelson for two victories and a halve; halved singles match with Anirban Lahiri to accumulate three points)
- Advanced to the 2017 TOUR Championship for third straight season, finishing career-best 1wth in FedExCup.
- 2016-17 banner season included career-best numbers in top-10s (8), top-25s (12), made cuts (25 in 28 starts).

Bubba Watson

- Nine-time PGA TOUR winner, most recently at the 2016 Genesis Open
- Winner of the 2012 and 2014 Masters Tournament
- Making his first start at The RSM Classic
- Recently finished No. 75 in the 2017 FedExCup standings, his worst showing in the 11-year FedExCup era.

Cameron Champ

- 22-year-old played collegiately at Texas A&M and made his professional debut on the PGA TOUR last week at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba.
- The Sacramento, California native made two starts on the PGA TOUR as an amateur: 2017 U.S. Open (T32) and 2017 Safeway Open (MC).
- At the 2017 U.S. Open, was one of two amateurs to make the cut. After two rounds, he led the field in driving distance and was T8 on the leaderboard. Finished T32.
- Has advanced through Second Stage of Q-School and will compete in the Final Stage as he attempts to earn his Web.com Tour card.
- Playing this week on a sponsor exemption.

Braden Thornberry

- Junior at Ole Miss is the reigning NCAA Individual Champion, having captured the title as a sophomore.
- Native of Olive Branch, Mississippi has eight career collegiate victories.
- Rated the No. 1 college golfer in the country heading into the 2017-18 and preseason first team All-American (Golfweek.com)
- Made his PGA Tour debut at the FedEx St. Jude Classic last summer and placed fourth, the highest amateur finisher at the FedEx St. Jude since 1965 and has the best amateur finish on the PGA Tour in 2017. Also competed in the Greenbrier Classic as the winner of the Fred Haskins Award

2017-18 PGA TOUR Rookies Select Notes

Tyler Duncan

- In his first start as a rookie on the PGA TOUR, the 28-year-old product of Purdue University (2012) posted scores of 65-66-71-75—277 (-11) at the Safeway Open to finish T5. The outright leader after the first and second rounds, he posted a final-round, 3-over 75 but remained among the top five. On the Web.com Tour last season, Duncan recorded four top-10 finishes, highlighted by second- and third-place showings in back-to-back starts. From 2014-2017, Duncan split his time between the Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR Latinoamérica.

Sam Ryder

- The Stetson University alum became the first Hatter to win on the 2017 Web.com Tour when he blitzed the field at the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Heartland Chevy Dealers en route to an eight-stroke victory. Ryder, who ranked first on Tour in total driving, played consistently throughout the season, notching 10 top-25 finishes.

Keith Mitchell

- The 25-year-old University of Georgia alum finished the 2017 Web.com Tour season with six top-10 finishes, including a T3 finish at the News Sentinel Open presented by Pilot. After finishing the Regular Season at No. 26 on the money list, Mitchell went on to capture two sixth-place finishes in the Web.com Tour Finals and earn his first PGA TOUR card. Mitchell's first TOUR appearance came in March 2017, after Monday qualifying for the Valspar Championship. He finished T11.

Brandon Harkins

- In his first start as a rookie on the PGA TOUR, the California State University-Chico grad finished T9 at the Safeway Open last month. Between 2011 and 2014, the 31-year-old competed on the Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada and PGA TOUR Latinoamérica. On last year's Web.com Tour, he collected four top-10 finishes, highlighted by a second- and third-place showing.

2017-18 PGA TOUR First-Year Member Select Notes

Beau Hossler

- First-year member Beau Hossler will make his fifth start of the season at The RSM Classic, with top-10 finishes at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (T7) and Sanderson Farms Championship (T10). His most recent start led to a T34 at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba. The winner of the 2016 Fred Haskins Award as the national's outstanding collegiate golfer recently secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2017-18 season with a 23rd-place finish on the 2017 Web.com Tour Regular Season money list.

2017-18 PGA TOUR Season notes to date

- Brendan Steele took the early lead in the FedExCup for the second-consecutive season, becoming the first player to win back-to-back at the Safeway Open.
- Coming off of his first appearance in the TOUR Championship, PGA TOUR veteran Pat Perez won for the third time in 403 starts with his four-stroke victory over Keegan Bradley at the CIMB Classic.
- 2017 FedExCup champion and Player of the Year Justin Thomas defeated Marc Leishman in a playoff to win the inaugural edition of THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES. Three of Thomas' seven PGA TOUR wins have come in Asia (2015, 2016 CIMB Classic).
- Uncharacteristically, World No. 1 Dustin Johnson failed to convert a six-stroke lead after 54 holes at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, with Justin Rose (who entered the final round eight back) carding a 67 to win by two over Brooks Koepka, Henrik Stenson and Johnson.
- PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour veteran Ryan Armour won for the first time on TOUR at the Sanderson Farms Championship, cruising to a five-stroke win over Chesson Hadley.
- After a long road back from back problems, Patrick Cantlay stepped into the winner's circle by outlasting Whee Kim and Alex Cejka in a playoff to win the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. He joined a long list of players who have posted their first TOUR win in Las Vegas, including Jim Furyk (1995) and Tiger Woods (1996).
- Patton Kizzire took over the top spot in the FedExCup standings by just three points over Pat Perez after holding off a final-round charge from Rickie Fowler to win the OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

A closer look at the field

- Past FedExCup champions: Bill Haas (2011) and Brandt Snedeker (12)
- Nine players currently ranked inside the top 30 in the FedExCup: Patton Kizzire (1), Chesson Hadley (8), Whee Kim (9), Ryan Armour (10), Charles Howell III (18), Scott Brown (19), Si Woo Kim (25), Nick Taylor (29), Brian Harman (30).
- Four players who finished inside the top 30 in the FedExCup standings during the 2016-17 season and advanced to the TOUR Championship: Kevin Kisner (12th last year), Matt Kuchar (14), Webb Simpson (17) and Brian Harman (25).
- Eight players inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking, led by Matt Kuchar (14), Brian Harman (26) and Kevin Kisner (27).
- Players with seven or more PGA TOUR wins: Davis Love III (21), Ernie Els (19), Zach Johnson (12), Stuart Appleby (9), Bubba Watson (9), Brandt Snedeker (8), K.J. Choi (8), Retief Goosen (7), Matt Kuchar (7).
- Sponsor exemptions: Cameron Champ, Dru Love, Henrik Norlander, Braden Thornberry

Past Champions in the field

All seven of the past champions of The RSM Classic are in the field this week.

Champion	Year won
Mac Hughes	2016
Kevin Kisner	2015
Robert Streb	2014
Chris Kirk	2013
Tommy Gainey	2012
Ben Crane	2011
Heath Slocum	2010

Major Champions in the field

There are 10 former major champions in the field this week.

Player	# Majors won
Ernie Els	4
Padraig Harrington	3

Retief Goosen	2
Zach Johnson	2
Bubba Watson	2
Stewart Cink	1
Davis Love III	1
Graeme McDowell	1
Webb Simpson	1

Miscellaneous RSM Classic Notes

- There have been three playoffs at The RSM Classic:
 - Ben Crane defeated Webb Simpson in 2011.
 - Robert Streb outlasted Brendon de Jonge and Will Mackenzie in 2014.
 - Mac Hughes defeated Billy Horschel, Henrik Norlander, Blayne Barber and Camilo Villegas in 2016.
- Best come-from-behind victory: 7 strokes (Tommy Gainey, 2012).
- Best 18-hole score: 60 (Tommy Gainey, round four, 2012).
- Kevin Kisner owns the tournament scoring record (260 in 2015).
- Kisner also owns the event's largest margin of victory (six strokes).
- Mac Hughes (2016), Kevin Kisner (2015), Chris Kirk (2013) and Ben Crane (2010) have carried the 54-hole lead on to victory at the event.

About RSM

- RSM US LLP is the sixth-largest global audit, tax and consulting network.
- RSM is celebrating its 91st year of operation and has firms in 120 countries.
- RSM features over 41,400 staff members in over 800 offices across the world.
- The change from the McGladrey Classic to The RSM Classic in 2015 reflected the title sponsor's name change from McGladrey LLP to RSM US LLP. The Chicago-based firm announced in June, 2015 that the change would be occurring on October 26, 2015 to unite its international network under one brand and better showcase its global capabilities.
- "Team RSM" features Davis Love III, Zach Johnson, Chris DiMarco, Dru Love, Andy Sullivan, Paul Lawrie, Paul Waring, Hinrich Arkenau.

Tournament Week – Schedule of Events (select events)

Tuesday

- Mac Hughes press conference – Media Center (9:00 a.m.)
- Brandt Snedeker press conference – Media Center (10:15 a.m.)
- Patton Kizzure press conference – Media Center (11:00 a.m.)
- Wiffle Ball Classic featuring PGA TOUR players and Wives — Frederica Academy Baseball Field (5 p.m.)

Wednesday

- Community Day — Free admission to the general public (gates open at 7 a.m.)
- Press Conference with Kevin Kisner – Media Center (following 8:20 a.m. Pro-Am)
- Press Conference with Davis Love III – Media Center (following 8:30 a.m. Pro-Am)
- Youth Golf Zone sponsored by Southeast Georgia Health System — Sea Island Golf Performance Center Practice Putting Green (3 p.m.)
- Charity Putting Challenge featuring PGA TOUR pros, Special Olympics athletes and Boys and Girls Club participants — Sea Island Golf Performance Center Practice Putting Green (4 p.m.)
- Web.com Player of the Year celebration — Miller Lite Village (5 p.m.)

Friday

- Taste of the Golden Isles Food & Spirits Event at the Casino Building in Pier Village featuring live music from Suzy and the Bird Dogs (5 p.m.)

Saturday

- Military Appreciation Day
- Bridgestone Folds of Honor Million Dollar Challenge — located near the main entrance
- The RSM Concert Event featuring Jake Owen, sponsored by Southeast Georgia Health System — located at McKinnon/St Simons Island Airport (7 p.m.)