



## 2017 The RSM Classic

(8th of 45 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

**St. Simons Island, GA**  
**Seaside Course (Host)**  
**Plantation Course**

**November 16-19, 2017**  
**Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,005**  
**Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,058**

**Purse: \$6,200,000**  
**FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)**

### Second-Round Notes – Friday, November 17, 2017

*Weather: Sunny and breezy with a high of 68. Wind ENE 10-15 mph.*

#### Second-Round Leaderboard

Austin Cook (SS)	66-62—128 (-14)
Brian Gay (SS)	65-64—129 (-13)
C.T. Pan (PL)	68-65—133 (-9)
Chris Kirk (SS)	63-70—133 (-9)
Vaughn Taylor (SS)	67-66—133 (-9)

Rounds of the day:

Plantation: C.T. Pan (7-under 65)

Seaside: Austin Cook (8-under 62)

#### 36-hole cut

73 professionals and one amateur at 3-under 139 from a field of 155 professionals and one amateur.

#### Austin Cook

With a second-round, 8-under 62 on the Seaside Course to move to 14-under 128, Austin Cook surged into the lead by one stroke over Brian Gay at The RSM Classic. Cook's previous best round on the PGA TOUR was a second-round 64 at the 2015 FedEx St. Jude Classic.

Austin Cook (-14) and Kevin Streelman (-5) are the only players in the field without a bogey through 36 holes.

Cook's 128 through two rounds equals the best opening 36-hole score at The RSM Classic: Mac Hughes (2016), Billy Horschel (2011).

Cook's 128 total through two rounds tops the previous-best opening 36-hole score on TOUR this season by three strokes, set on four occasions and most recently by J.J. Spaun at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

R2 at a glance: 11 of 14 fairways, 17 of 18 greens, 28 putts, 1 of 1 scrambling.

Cook has made the cut in all four starts on the PGA TOUR this season, led by a T20 in the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and a T25 in the Sanderson Farms Championship.

Cook is hoping to become the fifth player to make The RSM Classic his first career PGA TOUR win and fourth-consecutive; Mac Hughes (2016), Kevin Kisner (2015), Robert Streb (2014) and Tommy Gainey (2012).

Cook is hoping to become the fifth player to win in his first start at The RSM Classic. In addition to Heath Slocum in the first-ever RSM Classic in 2010, Ben Crane (2011), Robert Streb (2014) and Mac Hughes (2016) also won in their first appearance at The RSM Classic.

This marks Cook's first lead/co-lead after any round on the PGA TOUR.

Cook secured his PGA TOUR card for this season by finishing No. 15 on the Web.com Tour Regular Season money list. In 24 starts on that Tour, the Little Rock, Arkansas, native posted eight top-10s and 18 made cuts.

#### Second-Round Lead Notes

Chris Kirk (2013) and Mac Hughes (2016) are the only players to carry the second-round lead/co-lead on to victory at The RSM Classic.

Through seven events this season, the second-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win three times (Pat Perez/CIMB Classic, Ryan Armour/Sanderson Farms Championship, Patton Kizzire/OHL Classic at Mayakoba).

### **Brian Gay**

Brian Gay carded a 6-under 64 Friday on the Seaside Course to move to 13-under 129 through two rounds at The RSM Classic, trailing Austin Cook by one stroke.

Gay's 64 marked quite a contrast from a second-round 76 on the Plantation Course in 2016.

R2 at a glance: 12 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens, 26 putts, 4 of 5 scrambling.

Gay's 129 total through two rounds is his best opening 36-hole score on the PGA TOUR, topping the 130 he opened with en route to winning the 2009 FedEx St. Jude Classic.

A 7-under 65 Thursday tied Gay's lowest opening round, in relation to par, on the PGA TOUR. On two previous occasions, he opened with a 7-under, most recently at the 2013 RSM Classic.

PGA TOUR victories (523 starts): 2008 OHL Classic at Mayakoba, 2009 RBC Heritage, 2009 FedEx St. Jude Classic, 2013 CareerBuilder Challenge.

Gay is making his sixth start at The RSM Classic (MC-2016, T4-2013, T43-2012, MC-2011, T33-2010).

In four starts this season, Gay owns two top-25 finishes (T18 – Sanderson Farms Championship, T25 – OHL Classic at Mayakoba) and two missed cuts (Safeway Open, Shriners Hospitals for Children Open).

Gay has advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs eight times in his career, led by a 21<sup>st</sup>-place finish in 2009. He is currently No. 92 in the FedExCup standings.

### **Chris Kirk**

Chris Kirk, the 2013 RSM Classic champion when the event was only played on the Seaside Course, followed up an opening-round 9-under 63 on the Plantation Course with an even-par 70 Friday on the Seaside Course. After leading by one after the first round, he will enter the weekend T3, five strokes behind Austin Cook.

The four-time TOUR winner has gone winless the last two seasons, with his last win coming at the 2015 DEAN & DELUCA Invitational. He has advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs all seven seasons he has been on TOUR.

Kirk is one of eight former University of Georgia golfers in the field: Hudson Swafford, Bubba Watson, Chris Kirk, Brian Harman, Kevin Kisner, Harris English, Keith Mitchell and Greyson Sigg. Kisner was the second Georgia Bulldog to win The RSM Classic (2015).

Kirk is also one of 12 Georgia Bulldogs who have won on the PGA TOUR. Last season, three former UGA players won on the PGA TOUR: Hudson Swafford (CareerBuilder Challenge), Russell Henley (Houston Open) and Brian Harman (Wells Fargo Championship).

Kirk has played in three domestic events this season, and one overseas (THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES/T54).

Kirk lived in St. Simons Island for six and a half years, but now lives in Athens, Georgia.

### **C.T. Pan**

One year after finishing T6 in his inaugural appearance in The RSM Classic with rounds of 66-64-67-71, C.T. Pan has turned in rounds of 68-65 to sit T3 through two rounds.

Pan entered the 13<sup>th</sup> hole Thursday at 4-under for the tournament, then played the final six holes at 5-under – including birdies on Nos. 13, 14 and 16 and an eagle on the par-5 18<sup>th</sup> hole on Plantation – to move to 9-under.

During his rookie season in 2016-17, Pan made 14 cuts in 29 starts, led by a runner-up finish at the Farmers Insurance Open. He went on to finish No. 88 in the FedExCup standings. He is currently No. 89 in the standings this season, now with four made cuts in five starts, including a T17 at the CIMB Classic.

### **Braden Thornberry**

Amateur Braden Thornberry, a current junior at Ole Miss, posted a 6-under 64 on the Seaside Course Friday to move to T23. A native of Olive Branch, Mississippi, Thornberry has eight career collegiate victories, including winning low medalist honors at the NCAA Championship as a sophomore.

In his PGA TOUR debut at the 2017 FedEx St. Jude Classic he placed fourth, the highest amateur finisher at the FedEx St. Jude Classic since 1965 and had the best amateur finish on the PGA TOUR in 2017. Thornberry also competed in The Greenbrier Classic as the winner of the Fred Haskins Award.

### **Additional Player Notes**

In his return to competition due to a rib injury, Brandt Snedeker (T6) has carded rounds of 67-67 and will enter the weekend six strokes behind Austin Cook. Here's a look at his finishes at The RSM Classic (T45-2016, MC-2015, T32-2011). Snedeker is one of 13 players who have qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs all 11 seasons.

Bubba Watson (T12) posted a 6-under 64 on the Seaside Course, including a front-nine 29, tying his career-best nine-hole score on the PGA TOUR (third time). His 29 included eight 3s and one 5 (par at the par-5 7<sup>th</sup>). Last season, Watson averaged 70' 1" in feet of putts made for 18 holes on TOUR, ranking T158th. On the front nine in the second round, he made 69' 3" en route to his 29. This is Watson's first start in The RSM Classic.

OHL Classic at Mayakoba winner and Sea Island resident Patton Kizzire (T12) is seeking to become the first player to win in back-to-back weeks since Justin Thomas at the 2017 Sentry Tournament of Champions and Sony Open in Hawaii.

Bud Cauley moved to T12 following a bogey-free 7-under 63 on the Seaside Course, one shy of his personal-best score on the PGA TOUR – 62 during round one at The RSM Classic in 2012.

After being named the 2017 Web.com Tour Player of the Year at an event Wednesday, Chesson Hadley opened with rounds of 67-69 and will enter the weekend T23. He has three top-five finishes in four prior starts this season, in addition to a WD at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba due to illness.

Tournament host Davis Love III missed the cut for the second consecutive year following rounds of 72-73. In eight starts at The RSM Classic, Love has four missed cuts and one top-10 (T4/2012). Love's son, Dru, also missed the cut with rounds of 76-73.

With his dad Jay on the bag, Bill Haas (70-71—141) missed the cut for the first time in five starts at The RSM Classic (MC-2017, T13-2016, T33-2015, T22-2014, 2-2010).

The RSM Classic defending champion Mac Hughes missed the cut with rounds of 70-72. Hughes has missed the cut in his three starts on TOUR this season. Two weeks ago, he and wife Jenna welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Kenton Robert.

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

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

<b>Champion</b>	<b>Year won</b>	<b>R1-2 Scores</b>
Mac Hughes	2016	70-72—142 (MC)
Kevin Kisner	2015	67-68—135 (T12)
Robert Streb	2014	71-69—140 (MC)
Chris Kirk	2013	63-70—133 (T3)
Tommy Gainey	2012	72-73—145 (MC)
Ben Crane	2011	73-71—144 (MC)
Heath Slocum	2010	74-76—150 (MC)

### **Bogey-free rounds:**

R1: Chris Kirk (63/PL), Joel Dahmen (64/PL), Hudson Swafford (65/PL), Nick Watney (65/SS), Jason Kokrak (65/PL), Brian Gay (65/PL), Austin Cook (66/PL), Sam Saunders (67/SS), Ben Silverman (67/PL), Henrik Norlander (68/SS), Denny McCarthy (68/SS), Aaron Wise (68/PL), Greg Chalmers (68/SS), Patrick Rodgers (69/SS), Kevin Streelman (69/PL), Roberto Diaz (70/PL), Matt Atkins (71/PL).

R2: Austin Cook (62/SS), Bud Cauley (63/SS), Andrew Landry (64/SS), Kelly Kraft (65/SS), Rob Oppenheim (66/PL), Jonathan Randolph (67/SS), Kevin Streelman (68/SS), Brian Stuard (68/PL), Matt Kuchar (68/PL), Chesson Hadley (69/PL).

### **Scoring Averages**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
R1 Seaside	34.987	34.385	69.372	---
R1 Plantation	35.000	35.156	70.156	---
R2 Seaside	34.922	34.740	69.662	69.516
R2 Plantation	35.436	35.487	70.923	70.542