



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)**

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, November 18, 2017

Weather: Mostly sunny with a high of 72. Wind S 10-15 mph.

Rounds three and four are being contested on the Seaside Course only.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Austin Cook	66-62-66—194 (-18)
Chris Kirk	63-70-64—197 (-15)
Brian Gay	65-64-69—198 (-14)
J.J. Spaun	67-70-62—199 (-13)
Kevin Kisner	67-68-65—200 (-12)

Austin Cook

Austin Cook recorded a 4-under 66 in the third round and will carry a three-shot lead into Sunday over Chris Kirk. Cook's three-round total of 194 is the lowest 54-hole score on the PGA TOUR this season, topping Pat Perez's 195 total through three rounds at the CIMB Classic.

Cook's score of 194 through three rounds is also the new 54-hole low in the eight-year history of The RSM Classic, which was previously held by Kevin Kisner (2015) and Mac Hughes (2016) who both went on to win the event after posting 54-hole scores of 196.

The three-shot lead entering the final round ties Kisner's mark in 2015 for the largest in the history of The RSM Classic.

Entering this week, Cook's best finishes on the PGA TOUR this season were a T20 in the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and a T25 at the Sanderson Farms Championship. This is Cook's fourth start of the season and he has made the cut in each.

Cook is looking to add his name to the list of four players that have made The RSM Classic their first-career PGA TOUR victory. Mac Hughes (2016), Kevin Kisner (2015), Robert Streb (2014) and Tommy Gainey (2012) all earned their first win at this event.

Cook is hoping to become the fifth player to win in his first start at The RSM Classic. Following Heath Slocum's win in the inaugural 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 entering the final 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.

Third-Round Leader Notes

Through seven events in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, the third-round leader has gone on to win four times. The feat was most recently accomplished by Patton Kizzire at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

Four of the seven winners in the history of The RSM Classic held the lead going into the final round: Heath Slocum (2010), Chris Kirk (2013), Kevin Kisner (2015) and Mac Hughes (2016).

Chris Kirk

2013 RSM Classic champion Chris Kirk carded a third-round 64 and trails Austin Cook by three shots. The 64 is Kirk's lowest score in seven starts at The RSM Classic, including the win and three other top-20 results.

Kirk was the leader by one after the first round, but an even-par 70 Friday positioned him five shots off the lead entering the weekend.

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.

Brian Gay

Brian Gay carded a 1-under 69 Saturday to move to 14-under 198 through three rounds at The RSM Classic, trailing Austin Cook by four strokes.

Gay bounced back from a double bogey on the par-4 fifth hole with back-to-back birdies on Nos. 6 and 7 en route to a 1-under 69. Currently four strokes behind leader Austin Cook, Gay is seeking his second top-5 finish in six starts at The RSM Classic (T4 in 2013).

Gay is currently tied with 54-hole leader Austin Cook for the most birdies through three rounds (19).

Gay's 129 total through two rounds was 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.

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 21st-place finish in 2009. He is currently No. 92 in the FedExCup standings.

J.J. Spaun

J.J. Spaun fired an 8-under 62 Saturday to move to 13-under 199 and into fourth place, trailing leader Austin Cook by five shots entering the final round. The 62 is a new career-low for Spaun on the PGA TOUR, which was previously set with a 63 in the final round of the 2017 Wyndham Championship.

In addition to setting a personal career-low, Spaun tied Trevor Immelman (2011) and Ben Crane (2012) for the lowest third-round score in the history of The RSM Classic.

Spaun made four consecutive birdies on holes 5-8 in round three, tying his career-best streak. He also made four in a row in the second round of the 2017 Valero Texas Open.

This is Spaun's first start at The RSM Classic and fifth this season. He has placed in the top-15 in each of the last two events, with a T10 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and a T14 at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

Spaun's best finish on TOUR to date is T4 at the 2017 Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Spaun's trip to the FedExCup Playoffs last season was the first of his career, and he was 97th on the final FedExCup standings. In the current standings, he stands 46th.

Kevin Kisner

Kevin Kisner, who won The RSM Classic in 2015, is currently in fifth place after a 5-under 65 on Saturday. Kisner chipped in on the par-4 11th hole Saturday and has now holed out in each round.

Kisner is making his 2017-18 season debut this week. When Kisner won this event in 2015, it was the first win of his PGA TOUR career.

The resident of Aiken, South Carolina had a career year on TOUR last season, including personal bests in top-10s (8), top-25s (12) and made cuts (25 in 28 starts). He has won in each of the last two seasons and finished a career-high No. 12 in the FedExCup a season ago.

Braden Thornberry

Amateur Braden Thornberry, a current junior at Ole Miss, posted a 1-under 69 Saturday and currently sits T33. 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

Zach Johnson (T8) birdied his first four holes of the day (Nos. 10-14) and was bogey-free on his way to a third-round 64. The Sea Island resident had never shot better than 65 at The RSM Classic and his best finish at the event was a T12 in 2010.

The only player in the field without a bogey this week is Kevin Streelman (T25). Streelman has only missed nine greens through 54 holes, but is 9-of-9 scrambling.

After being named the 2017 Web.com Tour Player of the Year at an event Wednesday, Chesson Hadley opened with rounds of 67-69-70 and will enter the final round T43. 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.

Miscellaneous Notes

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

Champion	Year won	R1-2 Scores
Mac Hughes	2016	70-72—142 (MC)
Kevin Kisner	2015	67-68-65—200 (5 th)
Robert Streb	2014	71-69—140 (MC)
Chris Kirk	2013	63-70-64—197 (2 nd)
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).

R3: J.J. Spaun (62), Zach Johnson (64), William McGirt (65), Trey Mullinax (66), Stephan Jaeger (66), Brian Stuard (67), Ted Potter, Jr. (67), Cameron Percy (67), Johnson Wagner (67), Kevin Streelman (67), Kelly Craft (68), Bud Cauley (68).

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1 Seaside	34.987	34.385	69.372	---
R1 Plantation	35.000	35.156	70.156	---
R2 Seaside	34.922	34.740	69.662	---
R2 Plantation	35.436	35.487	70.923	70.542
R3 Seaside	34.164	34.301	68.466	69.180