



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)**

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, November 19, 2017

Weather: Sunny and breezy with a high of 68. Wind NW 10-15 mph with gusts of 20 mph.

Rounds three and four were contested on the Seaside Course only.

Final-Round Leaderboard

Austin Cook	66-62-66-67—261 (-21)
J.J. Spaun	67-70-62-66—265 (-17)
Brian Gay	65-64-69-68—266 (-16)
Brian Harman	69-68-66-65—268 (-14)
Kevin Kisner	67-68-65-68—268 (-14)
Andrew Landry	70-64-67-67—268 (-14)
Chris Kirk	63-70-64-71—268 (-14)

Austin Cook

Austin Cook converted a three-shot lead into a four-stroke victory with three birdies in his last four holes (Nos. 15, 17, 18) in his first start at The RSM Classic. Cook earns his first career PGA TOUR victory in his 14th career TOUR start, and just his fourth official start as a member, at the age of 26 years, 8 months, 6 days.

With his win, Cook collects 500 FedExCup points and moves to No. 3 in the FedExCup. All seven winners of The RSM Classic went on to qualify for the FedExCup Playoffs.

With the victory, Cook is Fully Exempt on the PGA TOUR through the 2019-20 season. If not otherwise exempt, Cook earns a spot into the following PGA TOUR events in 2018: Sentry Tournament of Champions, CareerBuilder Challenge, Arnold Palmer Invitational, Masters Tournament, RBC Heritage, THE PLAYERS Championship, DEAN & DELUCA Invitational, the Memorial Tournament, The National and the PGA Championship.

Cook became 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.

Cook adds his name to the list of four additional players that have made The RSM Classic their first career PGA TOUR victory, including the last three winners: Austin Cook (2017), Mac Hughes (2016), Kevin Kisner (2015), Robert Streb (2014) and Tommy Gainey (2012).

The PGA TOUR rookie becomes the first rookie to win this season on TOUR and fourth first-time winner joining Ryan Armour (Sanderson Farms Championship), Patrick Cantlay (Shriners Hospitals for Children Open) and Patton Kizzire (OHL Classic at Mayakoba).

Cook set a tournament record for low 54-hole total with his score of 194. The previous record was 196 by the last two winners, Kevin Kisner (2015) and Mac Hughes (2016).

Prior to his win, Cook had two top-10s on the PGA TOUR: T6 (2015 Barbasol Championship) and T7 (RBC Canadian Open).

Cook played four events this fall and made the cut in all: Sanderson Farms Championship (T25), Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (T20), OHL Classic at Mayakoba (T50).

This week, veteran caddie Kip Henley was on the bag for Cook. Henley has previously caddied for Brian Gay (10 years) and Vijay Singh.

Cook converted his first 54-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR to victory. He becomes the fifth player this season (eight events) to hold a lead/co-lead after 54 holes and go on to win.

Cook becomes the third consecutive 54-hole leader at The RSM Classic to hold on for the win, and fifth overall: Heath Slocum (2010), Chris Kirk (2013), Kevin Kisner (2015), Mac Hughes (2016) and Austin Cook (2017).

As a former golfer at the University of Arkansas, Cook competed at Sea Island four years during the SEC Championships.

Cook only missed two greens in regulation on Seaside's hole Nos. 7-18. He led the field in total birdies (23) and had only two bogeys throughout the tournament.

Cook's stats by round:

R1: 13/14 Fairways, 16/18 Greens, 2/2 Scrambling, 28 putts

R2: 11/14 Fairways, 17/18 Greens, 1/1 Scrambling, 28 putts

R3: 12/14 Fairways, 14/18 Greens, 4/4 Scrambling, 29 putts

R4: 12/14 Fairways, 13/18 Greens, 4/5 Scrambling, 29 putts

About Austin Cook

Full name: Austin Clark Cook

Height: 5-7

Weight: 160

Birthdate: March 13, 1991

Birthplace: Little Rock, Arkansas

Residence: Jonesboro, Arkansas

Family: Wife, Crys

Education: University of Arkansas (2013, Biology)

Special Interests: Hunting, cooking, woodworking

Turned Professional: 2014

Web.com Tour Graduate (2017)

Joined TOUR: 2018

J.J. Spaun

Following his career-low round on the PGA TOUR, a third-round 62, J.J. Spaun closed with a 4-under 66 to finish alone in second. Spaun was in search of his first victory on the PGA TOUR in his 36th career start on TOUR.

Spaun was hoping to become just the second player to win on the Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada (PGA TOUR-era), Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR. 2016 RSM Classic champion Mac Hughes was the first one to accomplish the feat when he won at Sea Island in 2016.

Spaun was the 2015 Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada Player of the Year, two years after Mac Hughes was named Player of the Year.

With his runner-up finish, Spaun has two top-10s in his five starts on TOUR this season, including a T10 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

The runner-up surpasses Spaun's previous-best finish on TOUR, a T4 at the 2017 Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Spaun's trip to the FedExCup Playoffs in 2016 was the first of his career, and he was 97th on the final FedExCup standings. With his runner-up at The RSM Classic, he moved from 46th in the FedExCup standings to No. 10.

Brian Gay

With two bogeys, a double bogey, two birdies and an eagle, Brian Gay picked up two shots on the par-4 18th, holing out from 161 yards with a 9-iron. Gay finished alone in third, his best finish on TOUR since a T3 at the 2017 Barbasol Championship.

Gay becomes the fifth player this season to record two eagles in a single round, and the first in a domestic event.

The third-place finish marks Gay's second top-four finish in six starts at The RSM Classic (T4/2014).

The four-time PGA TOUR winner remains in search of his fifth-career win and first since the 2013 CareerBuilder Challenge.

Additional Player Notes

Of the eight former University of Georgia golfers in the field, three finished tied for fourth: Brian Harman, Kevin Kisner and Chris Kirk.

St. Simons Island resident Brian Harman fired a 5-under 65 in the final round to finish T4, his second top-10 in six starts at The RSM Classic (T10/2014). He missed the cut the last two years in 2015 and 2016.

2013 RSM Classic champion Chris Kirk entered the final round trailing Austin Cook by three shots after a 6-under 64 in the third round. He closed with a 1-over par 71 to finish T4.

With his first hole-in-one on the PGA TOUR, Ted Potter Jr. aced No. 6 with an 8-iron from 180 yards. It marked the third hole-in-one in tournament history and the second on the sixth hole (Will Mackenzie/2015/R3). For the ace, Potter won a \$10,000 gift card to Bass Pro Shops and a \$10,000 donation to the Davis Love Foundation was made.

Kevin Streelman finished T17 after making just one bogey over 72 holes. He led the field in Scrambling (91.67%) along with winner Austin Cook.

In his first start back since mid-June, Brandt Snedeker posted rounds of 67-67-70-70 to finish T29.

In his RSM Classic debut, Bubba Watson finished 67th after rounds of 71-64-76-69.

Zach Johnson's weekend score of 9-under was good enough for a T8 finish, his first top-10 in eight starts at The RSM Classic.

Miscellaneous Notes

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

Champion	Year won	Finish
Mac Hughes	2016	MC
Kevin Kisner	2015	T4
Robert Streb	2014	MC
Chris Kirk	2013	T4
Tommy Gainey	2012	MC
Ben Crane	2011	MC
Heath Slocum	2010	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).

R4: David Hearn (65), Padraig Harrington (66), William McGirt (66), Johnson Wagner (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	---
R4 Seaside	35.027	34.397	69.425	69.239