



## 2018 Valspar Championship

(The 18<sup>th</sup> of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Palm Harbor, Fla.

March 8-11, 2018

Purse: \$6,500,000 (winner: \$1,170,000)

Innisbrook Resort & GC (Copperhead Course)

Par/Yards: 36-35 - 71/7,340

### Third-Round Notes – Saturday, March 10, 2018

Weather: Partly cloudy. High of 72. Wind SE 5-15 mph.

#### Third-Round Leaderboard

Position	Name	Score
1	Corey Conners	67-69-68—204 (-9)
T2	Justin Rose	70-69-66—205 (-8)
	Brandt Snedeker	70-68-67—205 (-8)
	Tiger Woods	70-68-67—205 (-8)

#### Corey Conners

PGA TOUR rookie and Canada native Corey Conners retained the solo lead he held after each of the first two rounds, shooting a 3-under 68 to hold a one-shot lead over Justin Rose, Brandt Snedeker and Tiger Woods.

This marks the first time Conners has held the 54-hole lead/co-lead in 21 career starts on the PGA TOUR. Before this week, Conners' best position after any round on the PGA TOUR was T21 after the first round of The Honda Classic two weeks ago (T59).

Conners is the first player since Marc Leishman (2017 BMW Championship) to hold the solo lead after each of the first three rounds of a PGA TOUR event. Leishman held on to win and is the most recent wire-to-wire winner on TOUR.

A win from Conners following fellow Canadian Adam Hadwin's victory at the 2017 Valspar Championship would mark the first time in PGA TOUR history that two different Canadians won the same event in back-to-back seasons. Mike Weir won the Genesis Open in 2003 and 2004.

Conners, who came into the week as third alternate, received his spot in the field when Kyle Stanley withdrew. He learned of his spot in the field after shooting a 71 in the Monday Qualifier, which would not have been enough to play his way in. The last alternate to win on the PGA TOUR was Vaughn Taylor at the 2016 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Conners is making his 11<sup>th</sup> start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, with a T29 at the Farmers Insurance Open being his best finish. In 10 starts this season, Conners has just one missed cut (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am).

Conners made his way to the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of a 41<sup>st</sup>-place finish on the 2017 Web.com Tour priority list. Conners made 23 starts on the Web.com Tour in 2017 and had three top-10s.

#### Tiger Woods

Tiger Woods shot a 4-under 67 in the third round and will enter the final round one shot back of Corey Conners.

With rounds of 70-68-67—205 (-8), Woods has opened a tournament with three consecutive under-par rounds for the first time since the 2015 Wyndham Championship (T10). He has won 49 of the previous 96 events at which he opened with three under-par scores.

Woods is seeking his 80<sup>th</sup> career victory, which would bring him within two of Sam Snead for most wins on the PGA TOUR (82).

A victory for Woods would represent the 11<sup>th</sup> all-time instance of Phil Mickelson and Woods winning back-to-back events on TOUR (in either order). The last such two-week stretch came in 2013, when Woods won the Farmers Insurance Open and Mickelson won the Waste Management Phoenix Open the following week. Woods and Mickelson would also be the

first back-to-back winners aged 40 or older since 2016 (Greg Chalmers/Barracuda Championship/42, Henrik Stenson/The Open Championship/40).

This is Woods' first start at the Valspar Championship. He has won nine titles in his 40 career tournament debuts.

### **Justin Rose**

Justin Rose shot a third-round 66 and stands T2 entering the final round. Rose will play in the final pairing Sunday with 54-hole leader Corey Connors.

Rose holed out on the par-5 11<sup>th</sup> from 120 yards for an eagle-3. That was Rose's first career eagle on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole in 37 career rounds at Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead).

Rose is making his 10<sup>th</sup> appearance at the Valspar Championship where he has two previous top-10s (T8/2014, T5/2011). Most recently, Rose missed the cut in 2015.

Rose won the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions earlier this season, his eighth career PGA TOUR victory. He entered the final round in a tie for fourth place, eight shots behind 54-hole leader Dustin Johnson.

### **Brandt Snedeker**

Brandt Snedeker will enter the final round tied for second with Justin Rose and Tiger Woods following his third-round 67.

Snedeker's record in eight previous starts at the Innisbrook Resort's Copperhead Course include two top-10s (4<sup>th</sup>/2011, T8/2008) and seven made cuts (MC/2009). Snedeker has now played 12 of his 33 career rounds at Innisbrook Resort's Copperhead course under par.

The best result for Snedeker in six PGA TOUR starts this season is T20 at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, where he strung together four sub-par rounds.

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

Adam Scott was 5-under in the third round and moved to T11 entering the final 18 holes. The 66 tied Scott's low round at the event (R2/2013, R2/2010) and is his lowest score of the 2017-18 season (22 rounds), besting a 67 from the third round of The Honda Classic.

Scott Stallings shot a 6-under 65 in the third round, setting his career-low at the event (21 rounds) and tying the round of the week (Tyrone Van Aswegen/R2). In his Valspar Championship debut in 2011, Stallings had two rounds of 66 en route to a third-place result, but has only made one cut in six starts since (68<sup>th</sup>/2017). Stallings had seven birdies in the third round, the most in any round this week at the tournament.

Sam Burns is T5 after three rounds following his 4-under 67. Burns, who has earned 122 non-member FedExCup points this season, qualifies for Special Temporary Membership on the PGA TOUR if he matches the number of points earned by the player who was No. 150 in the FedExCup in 2016-17 (Rick Lamb, 269 points). Burns would need to finish in a two-way tie for third place or better this week to reach 269 non-member points.

William McGirt had an eagle, four birdies and one bogey on the back nine, good for a 5-under 30, the lowest nine-hole score through three rounds of the Valspar Championship.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Jimmy Walker (69), Luke Donald (70).

R2: Tyrone Van Aswegen (65), Aaron Wise (67), Bill Haas (68).

R3: Russell Knox (66), Adam Scott (66), Austin Cook (69).

Scoring Averages at the par-71 Copperhead Course:

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
R1	36.931	35.931	72.861	--
R2	36.930	35.357	72.287	72.574
R3	35.744	34.936	70.679	71.942

Cumulative Snake Pit Statistics:

<b>Hole</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Scoring Average</b>
16	1	4.321
17	5	3.170
18	7	4.162