



2018 World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play

(The 20th of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Austin, Texas

March 21-25, 2018

Purse: \$10,000,000 (\$1,700,000 to the winner)

Austin County Club

Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,108

First-Round Notes – Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Weather

Mostly sunny, high of 79 with a low of 45, Wind SE 10-18 mph.

Group format

The 64-player Dell Technologies Match Play field is divided into 16 four-player groups. Each group will play round-robin matches within their group on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Players receive one point for a victory, ½ point for a draw and zero points for a loss.

The player with the best record in each of the four-player groups advances to the Round of 16 for single-elimination match play. In the event two players are tied in points following the completion of group play, those players will have a sudden-death hole-by-hole-playoff starting on No. 1. If three or more players are involved, it will be a stroke-play hole-by-hole playoff. The Round of 16 will be played Saturday morning, followed by the Quarterfinals on Saturday afternoon. The Semifinals will be Sunday morning, followed by the Championship Match and Consolation Match on Sunday afternoon.

The top seed for each of the 16 four-player groups are the top 16 players in order of their position in the Official World Golf Ranking. The remaining three players in each group were determined by a blind draw from each of three pools depending on their standing in the OWGR.

Miscellaneous Notes

Ian Poulter, Sergio Garcia and Paul Casey each played in the 38th match in their history at this event, tying Jim Furyk for the second-most matches played. Tiger Woods has played the most matches with 43.

Group 2 includes Justin Thomas and Patton Kizzire who are ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in the FedExCup standings, respectively. With a victory, Thomas could potentially move to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking. The last three winners of the Dell Technologies Match Play have either been No. 1 in the world (Dustin Johnson-2017/Rory McIlroy-2016) or moved to No. 1 in the world by winning the event (Jason Day-2015).

Top seeds from the 16 groups had a record of 8-5-3. The best seeds not to win were Dustin Johnson (No. 1) and Rory McIlroy (No. 6).

Players making their first appearance who won their first-round match include Peter Uihlein, Cameron Smith, Tony Finau and Xander Schauffele.

GROUP 1

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Bernd Wiesberger	(52)	1-0-0	1	4-6-1
Kevin Kisner	(32)	0-0-1	½	3-3-1
Adam Hadwin	(38)	0-0-1	½	0-0-1
Dustin Johnson	(1)	0-1-0	0	14-10-0

Group 1, round-by-round

RD. 1 - Wiesberger defeated Johnson, 3 and 1; Kisner halved with Hadwin

RD. 2 – Johnson vs. Hadwin, Kisner vs. Wiesberger

RD. 3 – Johnson vs. Kisner, Hadwin vs. Wiesberger

Last year, three players were able to rebound from a first-round loss and advance beyond the group stage. World No. 1 and defending champion Dustin Johnson is hoping to accomplish that task this year after an opening-round loss to Bernd Wiesberger. With his win at last year's Dell Technologies Match Play, Johnson became the first player in World Golf Championships' history to win all four of the different WGC events in his career. In total, Johnson has five World Golf Championships wins.

In Wednesday's opening match Johnson recorded just two birdies with a quadruple bogey, two double bogeys and two bogeys.

GROUP 2

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Justin Thomas	(2)	1-0-0	1	2-5-0
Francesco Molinari	(21)	1-0-0	1	3-10-0
Patton Kizzire	(48)	0-1-0	0	1-2-2
Luke List	(60)	0-1-0	0	0-1-0

Group 2 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Justin Thomas defeated Luke List, 2 up; Francesco Molinari defeated Patton Kizzire, 3 and 1

RD. 2 – Thomas vs. Kizzire, Molinari vs. List

RD. 3 – Thomas vs. Molinari, Kizzire vs. List

No. 2 seed Justin Thomas pulled ahead of Luke List 2 up on the sixth hole when List, thinking he was frustratingly knocking his putter against a bush, actually hit a rock/wall and slightly bent the putter making it a non-conforming golf club. List spent the next 12 holes putting with his wedge and managed to extend the match the full 18 holes. Thomas won the 18th hole with a birdie to solidify his 2-up victory.

The win for Thomas is just his second in this format after going 0-3-0 in 2016 and 1-2-0 in last year's event.

Thomas has won seven of his last 32 starts on the PGA TOUR, including two victories during the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season. The reigning FedExCup champion has eight top-25s in eight starts this year, including two victories and two additional top-10s. At the recent WGC-Mexico Championship, Thomas holed a 120-yard wedge on the 72nd hole to force a playoff with Phil Mickelson before falling in the playoff with a bogey. Thomas' weekend total of 16-under par in Mexico tied the all-time weekend record on the PGA TOUR after he went 62-64 to close.

Group 2 includes Thomas and Patton Kizzire who are ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in the FedExCup standings, respectively. With a victory, Thomas could potentially move to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking.

Francesco Molinari took down Kizzire, 3 and 1. Molinari has struggled in the event in the past entering the week with a 2-10-0 record. The Italian is a four-time winner on the European Tour, most recently at the 2016 Italian Open.

GROUP 3

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	(28)	1-0-0	1	2-2-0
Jon Rahm	(3)	0-0-1	½	6-1-1
Keegan Bradley	(63)	0-0-1	½	1-6-0
Chez Reavie	(43)	0-1-0	0	0-0-0

Group 3 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Rahm and Bradley halved; Aphibarnrat defeated Reavie, 3 and 2

RD. 2 – Rahm vs. Reavie; Aphibarnrat vs. Bradley

RD. 3 – Rahm vs. Aphibarnrat; Reavie vs. Bradley

Last year's runner-up Jon Rahm halved his match on the final hole with Keegan Bradley despite Bradley's three birdies and an eagle from holes 9-12. Bradley left the 15th hole 2 up with three holes remaining but bogeys on the 16th and 18th holes left each player with half a point after round 1.

Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat, winner of the European Tour's Saltire Energy Paul Lawrie Match Play in 2015 and the 2018 ISPS HANDA World Super 6 Perth which includes the match play format, defeated Chez Reavie 3 and 2 to take the day-1 lead in his group.

GROUP 4

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Jordan Spieth	(4)	1-0-0	1	10-4-1
Patrick Reed	(19)	1-0-0	1	7-5-1
Hao Tong Li	(34)	0-1-0	0	0-1-0
Charl Schwartzel	(49)	0-1-0	0	13-10-0

Group 4 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Jordan Spieth defeated Charl Schwartzel, 2 and 1; Patrick Reed defeated Hao Tong Li, 3 and 2

RD. 2 – Spieth vs. Li; Reed vs. Schwartzel

RD. 3 (FRI.) – Spieth vs. Reed; Li vs. Schwartzel

Fourth-seeded Jordan Spieth defeated South Africa's Charl Schwartzel, 2 and 1. In four prior appearances at the Dell Technologies Match Play, Spieth is yet to advance beyond the quarterfinals. His best appearance came in his inaugural effort in 2014 with a loss in the quarterfinals. Spieth played collegiately at the University of Texas and the 11-time PGA TOUR winner is still searching for his first World Golf Championships victory.

Patrick Reed, who became the youngest player to win a World Golf Championships event when he won what is now the Mexico Championship in 2014, defeated Hao Tong Li, 3 and 2. Reed has only advanced beyond the group stage in one of the past three Dell Technologies Match Play appearances.

Spieth and Reed will play against each other in Friday's third round. The two have been paired together 12 times between the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup:

- 2015, 2017 Presidents Cup: 5
- 2014, 2016 Ryder Cup: 7

Their record as a pairing: 8-1-3

- 2017 Presidents Cup: 3-0-1
- 2016 Ryder Cup: 2-1-1
- 2015 Presidents Cup: 1-0-0
- 2014 Ryder Cup: 2-0-1

GROUP 5

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Hideki Matsuyama	(5)	1-0-0	1	7-5-1
Cameron Smith	(46)	1-0-0	1	1-0-0
Patrick Cantlay	(30)	0-1-0	0	0-1-0
Yusaku Miyazato	(53)	0-1-0	0	0-1-0

Group 5 round-by-round

RD. 1- Hideki Matsuyama defeated Yusaku Miyazato, 2 and 1; Cameron Smith defeated Patrick Cantlay, 2 up

RD. 2 – Matsuyama vs. Smith, Cantlay vs. Miyazato

RD. 3 – Matsuyama vs. Cantlay, Smith vs. Miyazato

Playing against his fellow countryman Yusaku Miyazato, Japan's Hideki Matsuyama recorded a 2-and-1 victory. Matsuyama has only advanced from the group stage once in his three previous attempts where he lost to eventual champion Rory McIlroy in 2015.

A five-time PGA TOUR winner, Matsuyama has two World Golf Championships victories at the 2017 Bridgestone Invitational and the 2016 HSBC Champions. With a win, Matsuyama would join Tiger Woods (18), Dustin Johnson (5), Geoff Ogilvy (3) and Phil Mickelson (3) as the only players with three or more WGC career victories.

Australian Cameron Smith defeated USA's Patrick Cantlay, 2 up, in a battle of Dell Technologies Match Play rookies. Smith recorded his first PGA TOUR victory last year and in the team event, the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, with partner Jonas Blixt.

Smith currently ranks No. 26 in the FedExCup standings with only one missed cut in nine events this year including six top-25 finishes and two top-five finishes with his best coming at the CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES where he finished third just outside of a playoff with Marc Leishman and Justin Thomas.

GROUP 6

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Peter Uihlein	(57)	1-0-0	1	1-0-0
Brian Harman	(18)	0-0-1	½	0-0-1
Jhonnattan Vegas	(44)	0-0-1	½	2-1-1
Rory McIlroy	(6)	0-1-0	0	23-10-2

Group 6 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Peter Uihlein defeated Rory McIlroy, 2 and 1; Brian Harman and Jhonnattan Vegas halved

RD. 2 – McIlroy vs. Vegas; Harman vs. Uihlein

RD. 3 – McIlroy vs. Harman; Vegas vs. Uihlein

Peter Uihlein, the 57th seed, defeated Rory McIlroy 2 and 1 in a match that included 10 birdies and just one bogey between the two players. Uihlein led 5 up at the 11th hole but McIlroy stormed back with five consecutive birdies, but it was too late and pars on the 17th hole sealed the win for Uihlein.

A week after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, McIlroy is one of five top seeds to lose their opening-round match. McIlroy lost to Soren Kjeldsen in last year's opening round as well.

GROUP 7

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Sergio Garcia	(7)	1-0-0	1	20-17-1
Xander Schauffele	(20)	1-0-0	1	1-0-0
Dylan Frittelli	(41)	0-1-0	0	0-1-0
Shubhankar Sharma	(62)	0-1-0	0	0-1-0

Group 7 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Sergio Garcia defeated Shubhankar Sharma, 1 up; Xander Schauffele defeated Dylan Frittelli, 1 up

RD. 2 – Garcia vs. Frittelli, Schauffele vs. Sharma

RD. 3 – Garcia vs. Schauffele, Frittelli vs. Sharma

Spain's Sergio Garcia, playing for the first time since the birth of his daughter last week, birdied the final hole to defeat India's 21-year-old Shubhankar Sharma. Garcia birdied five of the final eight holes in the win. Garcia, who spends a lot of time in Austin as his wife, Angela is from the area, has yet to advance from the group stage since the event moved to the group format in 2015.

GROUP 8

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Jason Day	(8)	1-0-0	1	22-9-0
Louis Oosthuizen	(25)	1-0-0	1	18-8-0
Jason Dufner	(42)	0-1-0	0	4-10-1
James Hahn	(56)	0-1-0	0	0-1-0

Group 8 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Jason Day defeated James Hahn, 4 and 2; Louis Oosthuizen defeated Jason Dufner, 1 up

RD. 2 – Day vs. Dufner; Oosthuizen vs. Hahn

RD. 3 – Day vs. Oosthuizen; Dufner vs. Hahn

Jason Day won the 2016 Dell Technologies Match Play in the event's first playing at Austin Country Club. In that event, Day defeated Louis Oosthuizen, 5 and 4, in the finals. Day will again play Oosthuizen in Friday's third round of group stage. Oosthuizen was also victorious in his first-round match against Jason Dufner.

Day is one of three players with multiple Dell Technologies Match Play victories with wins in 2014 & 2016 joining Geoff Ogilvy (2006, 2009) and Tiger Woods (2003, 2004, 2008).

GROUP 9

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Kevin Chappell	(33)	1-0-0	1	2-2-0
Ian Poulter	(58)	1-0-0	1	24-14-0
Tommy Fleetwood	(9)	0-1-0	0	4-5-0
Daniel Berger	(26)	0-1-0	0	1-6-0

Group 9 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Ian Poulter defeated Tommy Fleetwood, 3 and 2; Kevin Chappell defeated Daniel Berger, 3 and 2

RD. 2 – Fleetwood vs. Chappell; Berger vs. Poulter

RD. 3 – Fleetwood vs. Berger; Chappell vs. Poulter

In a match between two English players, veteran Ian Poulter defeated Tommy Fleetwood 3 and 2. Poulter, the 2010 Dell Technologies Match Play champion, improved his career record in the event to 24-14, to tie David Toms and Paul Casey with the second-most matches won in tournament history. This is Poulter's 13th appearance at the event but his first since 2015 after missing the last two events.

GROUP 10

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Paul Casey	(10)	1-0-0	0	24-13-1
Kyle Stanley	(45)	1-0-0	0	2-1-0
Matthew Fitzpatrick	(31)	0-1-0	0	3-4-0
Russell Henley	(51)	0-1-0	0	2-4-0

Group 10 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Paul Casey defeated Russell Henley, 1 up; Kyle Stanley defeated Matthew Fitzpatrick, 1 up

RD. 2 – Casey vs. Stanley; Fitzpatrick vs. Henley

RD. 3 – Casey vs. Fitzpatrick; Stanley vs. Henley

Paul Casey won on the final hole despite never holding a lead at any other time of the match against Russell Henley. The win is the 24th match victory for the two-time runner-up at the Dell Technologies Match Play. The 24 matches won ties for second-most in tournament history with David Toms and Ian Poulter, who also won his first-round match. Tiger Woods has the most matches won with 33.

GROUP 11

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Bubba Watson	(35)	1-0-0	1	15-8-2
Julian Suri	(64)	1-0-0	1	1-0-0
Marc Leishman	(11)	0-1-0	0	5-7-1
Branden Grace	(23)	0-1-0	0	5-8-0

Group 11 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Julian Suri defeated Marc Leishman, 3 and 2; Bubba Watson defeated Branden Grace, 5 and 3

RD. 2 – Leishman vs. Watson; Grace vs. Suri

RD. 3 – Leishman vs. Grace; Watson vs. Suri

Both lower seeds were victorious in their first-round matches with Julian Suri (64) and Bubba Watson (35) winning their opening matches against Marc Leishman and Branden Grace, respectively.

Suri, an American who is a full-time member of the European Tour, jumped out to a 2-up lead with pars on the first two holes. Birdies on holes 12 and 13 put him 3 up with five holes remaining. A birdie on the 16th sealed the 3-and-2 victory. Suri has played in three PGA TOUR events this year, making the cut in two, but has yet to have a breakthrough performance. In the last year, Suri has made a significant move in the Official World Golf Rankings thanks to a victory on the European Challenge Tour followed by his first career win on the European Tour. Suri, who started the week as the first alternate, officially joined the field when Joost Luiten withdrew on Monday.

Suri and Watson were paired together in the final round of this year's AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Watson beat Branden Grace 5 and 3 for the largest margin of victory on the day. Watson came out of the gates on fire with birdies on the first four holes and birdies on seven of the first nine holes. Watson's best finish in this event came in his first appearance in 2011 when he reached the consolation match and finished fourth.

Watson is coming off his worst season on the PGA TOUR, finishing 75th in the FedExCup and recording just six top-25s. Watson returned to the winner's circle with his 10th career victory earlier this year at the Genesis Open. The win, in addition to three other top-25 finishes has him back in the top 30, currently at No. 21 in the FedExCup standings.

GROUP 12

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Tyrrell Hatton	(12)	1-0-0	1	3-1-0
Brendan Steele	(36)	1-0-0	1	2-1-1
Charley Hoffman	(22)	0-1-0	0	3-5-0
Alexander Levy	(55)	0-1-0	0	0-4-0

Group 12 round-by-round

RD. 1- Tyrrell Hatton defeated Alexander Levy, 3 and 2; Brendan Steele defeated Charley Hoffman, 1 up

RD. 2 – Hatton vs. Steele; Hoffman vs. Levy

RD. 3 – Hatton vs. Hoffman; Steele vs. Levy

England's Tyrrell Hatton is coming off his best finish in a World Golf Championships event having missed a playoff with Phil Mickelson and Justin Thomas by one stroke to finish third at the Mexico Championship earlier this month. Hatton defeated Alexander Levy, 3 and 2.

Hatton won the first two matches in group play in his Dell Technologies Match Play debut last year, but fell 2 and 1 in the deciding Friday match against Rafa Cabrera Bello, 2 and 1.

GROUP 13

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Alex Noren	(13)	1-0-0	1	6-3-0
Tony Finau	(29)	1-0-0	1	1-0-0
Thomas Pieters	(39)	0-1-0	0	2-3-2
Kevin Na	(61)	0-1-0	0	5-7-1

Group 13 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Alex Noren defeated Kevin Na, 4 and 2; Tony Finau defeated Thomas Pieters, 2 and 1

RD. 2 – Noren vs. Pieters; Finau vs. Na

RD. 3 – Noren vs. Finau; Pieters vs. Na

Sweden's Alex Noren dispatched of Kevin Na, 4 and 2, as Noren looks to become the second player from Sweden to win a World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play, joining 2007 champion Henrik Stenson.

Noren lost to eventual champion Dustin Johnson in last year's quarterfinal, 5 and 3, to finish T5. Noren playing for the first time as a full-time member of the PGA TOUR this season. Last year's T5 finish played a large role on Noren earning his PGA TOUR card from the non-member FedExCup points list.

American Tony Finau defeated Belgium's Thomas Pieters, 2 and 1, in his first appearance at the Dell Technologies Match Play. Finau is in the field as the 29th seed and has two runner-up finishes so far this season including the season-opening Safeway Open and later at the Genesis Open.

GROUP 14

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Charles Howell III	(59)	1-0-0	1	8-10-0
Rafa Cabrera Bello	(17)	1-0-0	1	9-4-1
Phil Mickelson	(14)	0-1-0	0	22-14-0
Satoshi Kodaira	(40)	0-1-0	0	0-1-0

Group 14 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Charles Howell III defeated Phil Mickelson, 3 and 2; Rafa Cabrera Bello defeated Satoshi Kodaira, 2 and 1

RD. 2 – Mickelson vs. Kodaira; Cabrera Bello vs. Howell

RD. 3 – Mickelson vs. Cabrera Bello; Kodaira vs. Howell

No. 59 seed Charles Howell III defeated Phil Mickelson, 3 and 2, as Mickelson made his return to competition following his first PGA TOUR victory in five years at the last WGC at the Mexico Championship. Howell advanced from his group last year by winning a three-man playoff against Tyrrell Hatton and Rafa Cabrera Bello on the fifth playoff hole. Howell went on to lose to Jon Rahm in the quarterfinals.

Last year, Howell defeated Cabrera Bello, 1 up, in the second round of group play.

This is Mickelson's first time losing in the first round of the event in his last 12 events dating back to 2002.

GROUP 15

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Pat Perez	(15)	0-0-1	½	3-3-1
Gary Woodland	(24)	0-0-1	½	7-5-0
Webb Simpson	(37)	0-0-1	½	7-7-0
Si Woo Kim	(50)	0-0-1	½	1-1-2

Group 15 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Pat Perez and Si Woo Kim halved; Gary Woodland and Webb Simpson halved.

RD. 2 – Perez vs. Simpson; Woodland vs. Kim

RD. 3 – Perez vs. Woodland; Simpson vs. Kim

In the first match of the day, Pat Perez found himself 3 down thru five holes to 2017 PLAYERS Championship winner Si Woo Kim. Perez, who won at the CIMB Classic earlier this season, never led in the match and was 2 down heading to the 16th tee. Perez won the 16th and 17th holes and with pars on the 18th, the matched ended halved.

Gary Woodland and Webb Simpson halved their match after Woodland led 3 up at the turn. Simpson squared the match on the 14th hole with Woodland going 1 up on a birdie at the 15th. Simpson birdied the 17th and made a crucial up-and-down to par the 18th for the halve.

Woodland finished runner-up at the 2015 World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play losing 4 and 2 to Rory McIlroy at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco where he beat Simpson in the third match of group play, 1 up.

GROUP 16

Player	Seed	Record	Points	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Yuta Ikeda	(47)	1-0-0	1	1-0-0
Matt Kuchar	(16)	0-0-1	½	21-8-3
Zach Johnson	(54)	0-0-1	½	14-14-1
Ross Fisher	(27)	0-1-0	0	8-6-0

Group 16 round-by-round

RD. 1 – Matt Kuchar and Zach Johnson halved; Yuta Ikeda defeated Ross Fisher, 2 and 1

RD. 2 – Kuchar vs. Ikeda; Fisher vs. Johnson

RD. 3 – Kuchar vs. Fisher; Ikeda vs. Johnson

Matt Kuchar and Zach Johnson combined for 15 birdies with Johnson recording birdies on five of the last six holes including each of the final four. Johnson was down 4 with four holes remaining. His birdie on the last came after he drove the green.

Johnson has advanced beyond group stage in each of the two past events at Austin Country Club, losing to Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson in the fourth rounds, respectively.

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