



## **2018 World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play**

*(The 20<sup>th</sup> of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)*

**Austin, Texas**

**Austin County Club**

**March 21-25, 2018**

**Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,108**

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

### **Round Four Notes – Saturday, March 24, 2018**

#### **Weather**

Mostly cloudy. High of 82. Wind NE 15-20 mph.

#### **Group format**

The 64-player Dell Technologies Match Play field was divided into 16 four-player groups. Each group played round-robin matches within their group on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Players received 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 advanced to the Round of 16 for single-elimination match play on Saturday morning, with eight winners advancing to the quarterfinals Saturday afternoon.

#### **Round of 16 Matchups**

Kevin Kisner (32) defeated Matt Kuchar (16), 1 up  
Ian Poulter (58) defeated Louis Oosthuizen (25), 2 and 1  
Alex Noren (13) defeated Patrick Reed (19), 5 and 3  
Cameron Smith (46) defeated Tyrrell Hatton (12), 2 and 1  
Justin Thomas (2) defeated Si Woo Kim (50), 6 and 5  
Kyle Stanley (45) defeated Sergio Garcia (7), 3 and 1  
Kiradech Aphibarnrat (28) defeated Charles Howell (59), 1 up  
Bubba Watson (35) defeated Brian Harman (18), 2 and 1

#### **Quarterfinal Matchups**

Kevin Kisner (32) vs. Ian Poulter (58)  
Justin Thomas (2) vs. Kyle Stanley (45)  
Kiradech Aphibarnrat (28) vs. Bubba Watson (35)  
Alex Noren (13) vs. Cameron Smith (46)

#### **Seeds**

Justin Thomas (2) and Alex Noren (13) are the top seeds remaining who have advanced into the quarterfinals. Ian Poulter (58) is the lowest seed remaining. Kevin Sutherland (2002) is the lowest seed (62) to win the event.

#### **Global field**

Of the 19 countries represented by the field, five countries remain represented in the eight remaining players:

- USA – Kevin Kisner, Justin Thomas, Kyle Stanley, Bubba Watson
- Australia – Cameron Smith
- Sweden – Alex Noren
- England – Ian Poulter
- Thailand – Kiradech Aphibarnrat (Note: No player from Asia has won the event)

#### **Miscellaneous Notes**

Should he reach the final this week, Justin Thomas would 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/2015) or moved to No. 1 in the world by winning the event (Jason Day/2016).

Ian Poulter advanced to the quarterfinals with his 27<sup>th</sup> career win at the event, good for second-most all-time (Tiger Woods/33). Poulter and Sergio Garcia each played in their 41<sup>st</sup> match in their history at the event and are in a two-way tie for second-most all time (Woods/43). With Garcia falling in the Round of 16, Poulter will move into solo second place with 42 starts following Saturday's quarterfinal matchup against Kevin Kisner.

The only top-10 seed to earn a berth in the quarterfinals is Justin Thomas (No. 2).

Of the 15 players making their first appearance at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, only Cameron Smith advanced to the quarterfinals.

In total, four players remain a perfect 4-0 this week: Kiradech Aphibarnrat, Alex Noren, Ian Poulter and Justin Thomas.

#### **MATCH 97 – BUBBA WATSON defeated BRIAN HARMAN, 2 and 1**

Bubba Watson defeated Brian Harman, 2 and 1, to advance to a quarterfinal matchup with Kiradech Aphibarnrat. The critical stage of the match occurred on Nos. 8-12, with Watson winning four of the five holes with a birdie-birdie-par-birdie-eagle flurry. Both players had advanced to the Round of 16 with identical 2-0-1 records in group play.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Seed</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Career Dell Tech Match Play Record</b>
<b>Bubba Watson</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>3-0-1</b>	<b>17-8-3</b>
<b>Brian Harman</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>2-1-1</b>	<b>2-1-1</b>

#### **Watson round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Branden Grace, 5 and 3  
RD. 2 – defeated Marc Leishman, 3 and 2  
RD. 3 – halved with Julian Suri  
RD. 4 – defeated Brian Harman, 2 and 1

#### **Harman round-by-round**

RD. 1 – halved with Jhonattan Vegas  
RD. 2 – defeated Peter Uihlein, 3 and 2  
RD. 3 – defeated Rory McIlroy, 5 and 3  
RD. 4 – lost to Bubba Watson, 2 and 1 (eliminated)

Watson's best finish in the event came in his first appearance in 2011, reaching the consolation match and finishing fourth.

Watson earned his 10<sup>th</sup> career victory earlier this season at the Genesis Open. Last season, Watson had his worst finish in the final FedExCup standings (No. 75) and recorded six top-25s.

Harman was one of two group winners making their WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play debuts (Cameron Smith). This week (T9) will mark his seventh top-10 finish in 11 starts this season.

#### **MATCH 98 – KIRADECH APHIBARNRAT defeated CHARLES HOWELL III, 1 up**

28<sup>th</sup>-seeded Kiradech Aphibarnrat birdied the final two holes (Nos. 17 and 18) to defeat Charles Howell III, 1 up, to advance to a quarterfinal matchup with Bubba Watson. Both Aphibarnrat and Howell had entered the Round of 16 with 3-0 records.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Seed</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Career Dell Tech Match Play Record</b>
<b>Kiradech Aphibarnrat</b>	<b>(28)</b>	<b>4-0-0</b>	<b>5-2-0</b>
<b>Charles Howell III</b>	<b>(59)</b>	<b>3-1-0</b>	<b>10-11-0</b>

#### **Aphibarnrat round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Chez Reavie, 3 and 2  
RD. 2 – defeated Keegan Bradley, 1-up  
RD. 3 – defeated Jon Rahm, 4 and 3  
RD. 4 – defeated Charles Howell III, 1 up

#### **Howell round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Phil Mickelson, 3 and 2  
RD. 2 – defeated Rafa Cabrera Bello, 3 and 1  
RD. 3 – defeated Satoshi Kodaira, 2 and 1  
RD. 4 – lost to Kiradech Aphibarnrat, 1 up (eliminated)

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), advanced to a quarterfinal matchup with Bubba Watson following a 1 up victory over Charles Howell III.

Aphibarnrat is one of four players with a perfect 4-0-0 record so far this week.

Howell, the lowest seed (59) to advance out of group play this week, has made 10 starts at the event and advanced to the round of 16 three times (2018, 2017, 2007). He has yet to make it to the quarterfinals, however. He advanced from his group last year by winning a three-man playoff against Tyrrell Hatton and Rafa Cabrera Bello on the fifth playoff hole, but went on to lose to Jon Rahm, 6 and 4, in the Round of 16.

This is Howell's 13<sup>th</sup> start of the 2017-18 season and will represent his third top-10 (T4/OHL Classic at Mayakoba, T6/Farmers Insurance Open, T9/WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play).

#### **MATCH 99 – KYLE STANLEY defeated SERGIO GARCIA, 3 and 1**

Kyle Stanley won three of his final four holes with birdies (Nos. 14, 16, 17) for a 1 up victory over Sergio Garcia, moving on to a quarterfinal match up with Justin Thomas.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Seed</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Career Dell Tech Match Play Record</b>
<b>Kyle Stanley</b>	<b>(45)</b>	<b>3-1-0</b>	<b>4-2-0</b>
<b>Sergio Garcia</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>3-1-0</b>	<b>22-18-1</b>

#### **Stanley round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Matthew Fitzpatrick, 1 up

RD. 2 – lost to Paul Casey, 4 and 2

RD. 3 – defeated Russell Henley, 1 up

\*Stanley defeated Casey in a sudden-death playoff with a birdie on the second extra hole.

RD. 4 – defeated Sergio Garcia, 3 and 1

#### **Garcia round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Shubhankar Sharma, 1 up

RD. 2 – defeated Dylan Frittelli, 2-up

RD. 3 – defeated Xander Schauffele, 3 and 1

RD. 4 – lost to Kyle Stanley, 3 and 1 (eliminated)

Kyle Stanley advanced out of group play this week after forcing a sudden-death playoff with Paul Casey on Friday, eventually winning with a birdie on the second extra hole to advance to the round of 16. Stanley, who is making his second appearance at the event, advanced to the round of 16 (and now the quarterfinals) for the first time.

Spain's Sergio Garcia, making his first start since the birth of his daughter last week, advanced to the round of 16 for the first time since the tournament moved to the group format in 2015. Garcia's best finish at the event came in 2010 when he advanced to the consolation match and finished fourth.

#### **MATCH 100 – JUSTIN THOMAS defeated SI WOO KIM, 6 and 5**

Reigning FedExCup champion Justin Thomas defeated reigning PLAYERS Championship winner Si Woo Kim, 6 and 5, to advance to the quarterfinals against Kyle Stanley.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Seed</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Career Dell Tech Match Play Record</b>
<b>Justin Thomas</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>4-0-0</b>	<b>5-5-0</b>
<b>Si Woo Kim</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>2-1-1</b>	<b>3-2-2</b>

#### **Thomas round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Luke List, 2 up

RD. 2 – defeated Patton Kizzire, 3 and 1

RD. 3 – defeated Francesco Molinari, 7 and 5

RD. 4 – defeated Si Woo Kim, 6 and 5

#### **Kim round-by-round**

RD. 1 – halved with Pat Perez

RD. 2 – defeated Gary Woodland, 5 and 3  
RD. 3 – defeated Webb Simpson, 2 up  
RD. 4 – lost to Justin Thomas, 6 and 5 (eliminated)

Thomas, currently No. 1 in the FedExCup, would move to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking if he advances to the final match this week. Thomas is one of four players with a perfect 4-0-0 record this week.

Thomas' week included a victory over Patton Kizzire Thursday, 3 and 1, in a matchup of the top two players in the FedExCup standings and the only multiple winners during the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season.

Thomas has won seven of his last 32 starts on the PGA TOUR, including two victories during the 2017-18 season. Entering the week, Thomas has four top-10s this season and four additional top-25s.

In 13 starts this season, Kim will own three top-10 finishes after this week (OHL Classic at Mayakoba/3<sup>rd</sup>, WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play/T9, Sentry Tournament of Champions/10<sup>th</sup>).

#### **MATCH 101 – CAMERON SMITH defeated TYRRELL HATTON, 2 and 1**

Australian Cameron Smith was 2 down after Tyrrell Hatton birdied the first two holes in Saturday's Round of 16, but bounced back with birdies of his own to win the third-, fourth- and seventh holes to take a 1 up lead. With back-to-back birdies on Nos. 12 and 13, Smith went on to a 2-and-1 victory over Hatton, advancing to a quarterfinal match against Alex Noren.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Seed</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Career Dell Tech Match Play Record</b>
<b>Cameron Smith</b>	<b>(46)</b>	<b>3-0-1</b>	<b>3-0-1</b>
<b>Tyrrell Hatton</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>2-2-0</b>	<b>4-3-0</b>

#### **Smith round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Patrick Cantlay, 2 up  
RD. 2 – defeated Hideki Matsuyama, 1-up  
RD. 3 – halved with Yusaku Miyazato  
RD. 4 – defeated Tyrrell Hatton, 2 and 1

#### **Hatton round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Alexander Levy, 3 and 2  
RD. 2 – defeated Brendan Steele, 3 and 2  
RD. 3 – lost to Charley Hoffman, 3 and 2  
\*Hatton defeated Steele in a sudden-death playoff with a birdie on the first extra hole  
RD. 4 – lost to Cameron Smith, 2 and 1 (eliminated)

Of the players making their debut appearance at the Dell Technologies Match Play this week, Cameron Smith is the only player to advance to the quarterfinals.

Smith currently ranks No. 26 in the FedExCup standings with two top-fives and four additional top-25s. His best finish came at the CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, where he finished in third place and one shot outside the playoff between Justin Thomas and Marc Leishman.

Hatton, who earned a spot in the round of 16 for the first time in his second appearance at the event, is coming off his best result in a World Golf Championships event, finishing third at the WGC-Mexico Championship.

#### **MATCH 102 – ALEX NOREN defeated PATRICK REED, 5 and 3**

Group 13 winner and 13<sup>th</sup> seeded Alex Noren defeated Patrick Reed, 5 and 3, to advance to a quarterfinal match up against Cameron Smith. Reed won the first hole with a par, but failed to win another hole, with Noren winning Nos. 4, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 15 for a stress-free 5-and-3 victory.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Seed</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Career Dell Tech Match Play Record</b>
<b>Alex Noren</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>4-0-0</b>	<b>9-3-0</b>
<b>Patrick Reed</b>	<b>(19)</b>	<b>3-1-0</b>	<b>9-6-1</b>

#### **Noren round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Kevin Na, 4 and 2

RD. 2 – defeated Thomas Pieters, 5 and 4  
RD. 3 – defeated Tony Finau, 1 up  
RD. 4 – defeated Patrick Reed, 5 and 3

#### **Reed round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Hao Tong Li, 3 and 2  
RD. 2 – defeated Charl Schwartzel, 1-up  
RD. 3 – defeated Jordan Spieth, 2 and 1  
RD. 4 – lost to Alex Noren, 5 and 3 (eliminated)

One year after losing to eventual champion Dustin Johnson in the quarterfinals, 5 and 3, first-year PGA TOUR member Alex Noren is seeking to become the second player from Sweden to win a WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play (2007 champion Henrik Stenson). Noren is one of four players who has yet to lose a match this week.

Noren has two top-fives in seven previous starts this season (P2/Farmers Insurance Open, 3<sup>rd</sup>/The Honda Classic).

In five starts at the Dell Technologies Match Play Championship, Reed has advanced to the Round of 16 twice but failed to reach the quarterfinals (lost in round of 16 in 2016),

#### **MATCH 103 – IAN POULTER defeated Louis Oosthuizen, 2 and 1**

Ian Poulter cruised to a 4-up lead through 13 holes against Louis Oosthuizen, hanging on for a 2-and-1 victory to advance to a quarterfinal match up against Kevin Kisner.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Seed</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Career Dell Tech Match Play Record</b>
<b>Ian Poulter</b>	<b>(58)</b>	<b>4-0-0</b>	<b>27-14-0</b>
<b>Louis Oosthuizen</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>2-2-0</b>	<b>19-10-0</b>

#### **Poulter round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Tommy Fleetwood, 3 and 2  
RD. 2 – defeated Daniel Berger, 2 and 1  
RD. 3 – defeated Kevin Chappell (concession; back injury)  
RD. 4 – defeated Louis Oosthuizen, 2 and 1

#### **Oosthuizen round-by-round**

RD. 1 – defeated Jason Dufner, 1 up  
RD. 2 – lost to James Hahn, 3 and 1  
RD. 3 – defeated Jason Day, 2-up  
\*Oosthuizen defeated Dufner in a sudden-death playoff with a par on the first extra hole  
RD. 4 – lost to Ian Poulter, 2 and 1

Ian Poulter, the 2010 Dell Technologies Match Play champion, earned his 27<sup>th</sup> win at the event, good for second-most all-time (Tiger Woods/33). Poulter could join Jason Day (2014, 2016), Geoff Ogilvy (2006, 2009) and Tiger Woods (2003, 2004, 2008) as multiple winners of the event.

Poulter is one of four players to post a 4-0-0 record through the Round of 16.

Oosthuizen earned his way into the Round of 16 matchup with Poulter following a 2-up victory over Jason Day on Friday in a rematch of the 2016 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play final, won by Day. He made his ninth appearance in the event this week, advancing to the quarterfinals three times, including his runner-up in 2016 and twice losing in the quarterfinals (2014, 2015).

#### **MATCH 104 – KEVIN KISNER defeated MATT KUCHAR, 1 up**

Kevin Kisner birdied six of his final eight holes to assist in a 1 up victory over Matt Kuchar, advancing to the quarterfinals against Ian Poulter.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Seed</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Career Dell Tech Match Play Record</b>
<b>Kevin Kisner</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>3-0-1</b>	<b>6-3-1</b>
<b>Matt Kuchar</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>2-1-1</b>	<b>23-9-3</b>

#### **Kisner round-by-round**

RD. 1 – halved with Adam Hadwin  
RD. 2 – defeated Bernd Wiesberger, 5 and 4  
RD. 3 – defeated Dustin Johnson, 4 and 3  
RD. 4 – defeated Matt Kuchar, 1 up

**Kuchar round-by-round**

RD. 1 – halved with Zach Johnson  
RD. 2 – defeated Yuta Ikeda, 1-up  
RD. 3 – defeated Ross Fisher, 6 and 4  
RD. 4 – lost to Kevin Kisner, 1 up (eliminated)

Kisner, who advanced out of group play for the first time in three starts at the Dell Technologies Match Play, has made nine starts this season with the best result being a T4 at The RSM Classic.

Kuchar's week included a hole-in-one on the par-3 seventh hole en route to a 6 and 4 victory over Ross Fisher on Friday. The 2013 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play champion made his ninth start at this event, with additional top-5 finishes in 2011 (3<sup>rd</sup>) and 2012 (T5).

Please visit [www.pgatourmedia.com](http://www.pgatourmedia.com) for further information.