



2018 World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play

(The 20th 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)

Quarterfinal 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.

Quarterfinal results Matchups

Bubba Watson (35) defeated Kiradech Aphibarnrat (28), 5 and 3

Justin Thomas (2) defeated Kyle Stanley (45), 2 and 1

Kevin Kisner (32) defeated Ian Poulter (58), 8 and 6

Alex Noren (13) defeated Cameron Smith (46), 4 and 2

Semifinal Matchups

Kevin Kisner (32) vs. Alex Noren (13)

Justin Thomas (2) vs. Bubba Watson (35)

Miscellaneous Notes

While the event began with 19 countries represented by the field, three of the final four players are from the United States.

- USA – Kevin Kisner, Justin Thomas, Bubba Watson
- Sweden – Alex Noren

Twice since the event began in 1999, all four players in the final four have been American – 1999 (Jeff Maggert, Andrew Magee, John Huston and Steve Pate) and 2002 (Kevin Sutherland, Scott McCarron, Brad Faxon and Paul Azinger).

MATCH 105 – BUBBA WATSON defeated KIRADECH APHIBARNRAT, 5 and 3

Bubba Watson defeated Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat 5 and 3. Watson's victory included five birdies and no bogeys. The pair left the ninth hole all square, but wins on holes 10-13 and 15 gave Watson the victory.

Player	Seed	Record	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Bubba Watson	(35)	4-0-1	18-8-3
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	(28)	4-1-0	5-3-0

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

QF – defeated Kiradech Aphibarnrat, 5 and 3

Bubba already owns the distinction of having the best finish in tournament history by a left-handed player with his fourth-place finish in 2011.

Watson earned his 10th 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. With his play on Saturday, Watson has guaranteed his third top-10 finish of the 2017-2018 PGA TOUR Season after having four top-10s in all of last season.

Watson has one World Golf Championships victory at the 2015 WGC-HSBC Champions.

MATCH 106 – JUSTIN THOMAS defeated KYLE STANLEY, 2 and 1

Reigning FedExCup winner Justin Thomas defeated Kyle Stanley thanks to five birdies between holes 5-17. 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).

Player	Seed	Record	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Justin Thomas	(2)	5-0-0	6-5-0
Kyle Stanley	(45)	3-2-0	4-3-0

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
QF – Defeated Kyle Stanley, 2 and 1

At 24 years, 10 months and 25 days on Sunday, Justin Thomas would become the youngest winner in tournament history if he were to go on and win on Sunday. Rory McIlroy was the previous youngest with his 2015 victory (25y/11m/25d). Thomas is in search of the first World Golf Championships victory of his career.

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

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.

MATCH 107 – ALEX NOREN defeated CAMERON SMITH, 4 and 2

Sweden's Alex Noren defeated Australia's Cameron Smith, 4 and 2, to advance to the semifinals. Noren birdied three of the first six holes while Smith failed to record a birdie in the match after recording eight birdies in round 4 on Saturday morning.

Player	Seed	Record	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Alex Noren	(13)	5-0-0	10-3-0
Cameron Smith	(46)	3-1-1	3-1-1

One year after losing to eventual champion Dustin Johnson in the quarterfinals, 3 and 2, first-year PGA TOUR member Alex Noren is seeking to become the second player from Sweden to win a Dell Technologies Match Play (2007 champion Henrik Stenson).

Playing as a full PGA TOUR member for the first time this season, Noren, a nine-time winner on the European Tour, has played in eight events without missing a cut, finishing in the top 30 in five of his seven starts this season. Noren will now have three top-fives in eight total starts this season (P2/Farmers Insurance Open, 3rd/The Honda Classic, guaranteed top-four finish at Dell Technologies Match Play).

With a win, Noren would move into the top five in the FedExCup standings.

Noren and Justin Thomas are the only two players who reached the semifinals with a 5-0-0 record.

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
QF – defeated Cameron Smith, 4 and 2

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

MATCH 108 – KEVIN KISNER defeated IAN POULTER, 8 and 6

Kevin Kisner defeated Ian Poulter, 8 and 6, matching the third-largest margin of victory in tournament history to advance to the semifinals where Kisner will face Sweden’s Alex Noren.

Player	Seed	Record	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Kevin Kisner	(32)	4-0-1	7-3-1
Ian Poulter	(58)	4-1-0	27-15-0

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
QF – defeated Ian Poulter, 8 and 6

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.

Largest margins of victory in tournament history:

- 9 and 8, Tiger Woods def. Stephen Ames, first round, 2006
- 8 and 7, Ben Crane def. Rory McIlroy, second round, 2011
- 8 and 7, Tiger Woods def. Stewart Cink, final round, 2008
- 8 and 7, Stephen Ames def. Robert Karlsson, first round, 2007
- 8 and 6, Kevin Kisner def. Ian Poulter, quarterfinals, 2018
- 8 and 6, Zach Johnson def. Martin Kaymer, second round, 2016
- 8 and 6, Mike Weir def. Alvaro Quiros, first round, 2010

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