



## 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)

### Semifinals Notes – Sunday, March 25, 2018

#### Weather

Mostly cloudy. High of 84. Wind SSE 12-22 mph.

#### Semifinals Results

Bubba Watson (35) def. Justin Thomas (2), 3 and 2

Kevin Kisner (32) def. Alex Noren (13), 19 holes

#### Final-Round Matchups

Championship – Bubba Watson (35) vs. Kevin Kisner (32)

Consolation – Justin Thomas (2) vs. Alex Noren (13)

#### Miscellaneous Notes

While the event began with 19 countries represented by the field, both players in the final are from the United States.

Kevin Kisner and Bubba Watson both played collegiately at the University of Georgia and will meet in Sunday afternoon's championship match.

For the first time since the event moved to the group-play format, neither the No. 1 nor No. 2 seed is advancing to the championship match.

- 2017 – No. 1 Dustin Johnson (won)
- 2016 – No. 2 Jason Day (won)
- 2015 – No. 1 Rory McIlroy (won)

#### MATCH 109 – BUBBA WATSON def. JUSTIN THOMAS, 3 and 2

Bubba Watson defeated Justin Thomas, 3 and 2, to advance to the finals. Watson will take on Kevin Kisner in search of his 11<sup>th</sup> career PGA TOUR victory and second World Golf Championships title (2015 WGC-HSBC Champions).

Player	Seed	Record	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Bubba Watson	(35)	5-0-1	19-8-3
Justin Thomas	(2)	5-1-0	6-6-0

The largest deficit Thomas faced in his first five matches of the event was 1-down to Kyle Stanley during the quarterfinals, but Watson took a 3-up lead with a birdie-eagle stretch on Nos. 5 and 6. Watson sealed the victory with halves at holes 13-16 to win 3 and 2.

With a win against Kisner in the championship match, Watson would become the fifth player with multiple major championships and multiple World Golf Championships titles, joining Ernie Els, Rory McIlroy, Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods.

- 2012 Masters Tournament
- 2014 Masters Tournament
- 2015 WGC-HSBC Champions

Guaranteed a top-two result, Watson will capture the best finish by a left-handed player in the history of the event. He already held this distinction with his fourth-place finish in 2011.

Thomas would have been projected to move to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking with a win against Watson. Thomas, currently No. 1 in the FedExCup standings, will face Alex Noren in the consolation match.

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

RD. 1 – def. Branden Grace, 5 and 3

RD. 2 – def. Marc Leishman, 3 and 2

RD. 3 – halved with Julian Suri

RD. 4 – def. Brian Harman, 2 and 1

QF – def. Kiradech Aphibarnrat, 5 and 3

SF – def. Justin Thomas, 3 and 2

#### **MATCH 110 – KEVIN KISNER defeated ALEX NOREN, 19 holes**

Kevin Kisner defeated Alex Noren after 19 holes to advance to the finals. The match was the first in the semifinals to go extra holes since Paul Casey defeated Camilo Villegas after 24 holes in 2010.

<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>5-0-1</b>	<b>8-3-1</b>
Alex Noren	(13)	5-1-0	10-4-0

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

RD. 1 – halved with Adam Hadwin

RD. 2 – def. Bernd Wiesberger, 5 and 4

RD. 3 – def. Dustin Johnson, 4 and 3

RD. 4 – def. Matt Kuchar, 1 up

QF – def. Ian Poulter, 8 and 6

SF – def. Alex Noren, 19 holes

Kisner and Noren each birdied holes 3-6 for halves, and were all square after 12 holes with a combined 10 birdies and an eagle. Both Noren and Kisner made par on each of the remaining six holes, but Kisner made a birdie at the first extra hole (No. 12) to defeat Noren.

Kisner is looking to earn a victory for the third consecutive season. Kisner's wins on the PGA TOUR:

- 2015 The RSM Classic (2015-16 season)
- 2017 Fort Worth Invitational

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.

In Saturday's quarterfinal match, Kisner defeated Ian Poulter, 8 and 6, matching the third-largest margin of victory in tournament history.

Alex Noren, who lost in the quarterfinals in 2017 to eventual champion Dustin Johnson, is the only player to have advanced as far as the quarterfinals in each of the last two seasons. Noren is making his eighth start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season (his first as a full-time member) and is guaranteed his third top-five.