



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)

Finals Notes – Sunday, March 25, 2018

Weather

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

Format

Following the group format, the Round of 16 became single elimination, followed by the Quarterfinals on Saturday afternoon. The Semifinals on Sunday morning were followed by the Championship Match and Consolation Match on Sunday afternoon.

Final-Round Matchups

Championship Match – Bubba Watson (35) def. Kevin Kisner (32), 7 and 6

Consolation Match – Alex Noren (13) def. Justin Thomas (2), 5 and 3

Miscellaneous Notes

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

Kevin Kisner and Bubba Watson both played collegiately at the University of Georgia and met 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 advanced to the championship match.

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

MATCH 112 – BUBBA WATSON def. KEVIN KISNER, 7 and 6

After defeating Justin Thomas, 3 and 2, to advance to the finals, Bubba Watson cruised to a 7 and 6 victory over Kevin Kisner to claim his 11th career PGA TOUR victory and second World Golf Championships title (2015 WGC-HSBC Champions).

Watson took control of the match by winning the first five holes, despite just one birdie (No. 1) in that stretch. He won Nos. 2-4 with pars and then the par-4 fifth hole when Kisner conceded. Kisner did not win a hole until No. 11, moving from 7 down to 6 down with seven holes remaining, but a birdie by Watson on the par-5 12th hole closed out the match 7 and 6.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Career Dell Tech Match Play Record</u>
Bubba Watson	(35)	6-0-1	20-8-3
Kevin Kisner	(32)	5-1-1	8-4-1

Bubba Watson

With the victory, Watson collects 550 points and moves to No. 4 in the FedExCup standings. Watson has rebounded from his worst season on the PGA TOUR, finishing 75th in the FedExCup and recording just six top-25s.

Since the event moved to an 18-hole championship match in 2011, Watson's 7-and-6 victory is the largest in the title match, topping Jason Day's 5 and 4 victory over Louis Oosthuizen in 2016.

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

FINALS – def. Kevin Kisner, 7 and 6

Watson's PGA TOUR victories (11):

2010 Travelers Championship

2011 Farmers Insurance Open, Zurich Classic of New Orleans

2012 Masters Tournament

2014 Genesis Open, Masters Tournament

2015 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, Travelers Championship

2016 Genesis Open

2018 Genesis Open, World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play

Players with multiple victories on the PGA TOUR this season: Patton Kizzire (2), Justin Thomas (2), Bubba Watson (2).

With his victory, Watson becomes 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
- 2018 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play

Watson won in his eighth start at the Dell Technologies Match Play, with a fourth-place finish in his debut appearance in 2011 his previous-best finish.

With this victory, Watson captures 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.

Most wins by lefthanders on the PGA TOUR:

42 – Phil Mickelson

11 – Bubba Watson

8 – Mike Weir

6 – Bob Charles

4 – Steve Flesch

2 – Brian Harman, Ted Potter, Jr.

1 – Sam Adams, Ernie Gonzales, Russ Cochran, Eric Axley, Greg Chalmers, Cody Gribble

2017-18 starts-made cuts-top-10s-wins: 9-8-3-2

PGA TOUR career starts-made cuts-top-10s-wins: 282-205-59-11

About Bubba Watson

Height/Weight: 6-3, 180

Birthdate: November 5, 1978

Birthplace/Residence: Bagdad, Florida/Orlando, Florida

Family: Wife, Angie; Caleb, Dakota Hope

Education: Faulkner State Community College; University of Georgia (2008, Consumer Economics)

Turned pro/Joined TOUR: 2002/2006

Web.com Tour Graduate: 2005

Kevin Kisner

Kevin Kisner earns his seventh runner-up finish on the PGA TOUR, the second-most of any player during that stretch (Jordan Spieth/8). He owns two victories in 169 starts (2015 The RSM Classic, 2017 Fort Worth Invitational).

Kisner moves to No. 27 in the FedExCup standings.

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 runner-up finish to Watson marking his best result. A T4 at The RSM Classic was his previous-best showing.

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

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.

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

FINALS – lost to Bubba Watson, 7 and 6

MATCH 111 (CONSOLATION) – ALEX NOREN def. JUSTIN THOMAS, 5 and 3

After falling in 19 holes to Kevin Kisner in Sunday morning's semifinals, Alex Noren bounced back to defeat Justin Thomas 5 and 3 and earn third-place honors at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play. All square through three holes, Noren won three of the next four holes to move 2 up, a lead he would never relinquish.

Player	Seed	Record	Career Dell Tech Match Play Record
Alex Noren	(13)	6-1-0	11-4-0
Justin Thomas	(2)	5-2-0	6-7-0

Alex Noren

Noren collects his third top-five finish of the season (P2-Farmers Insurance Open, 3-The Honda Classic, 3-WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play) and moves up to No. 14 in the FedExCup standings.

Noren has improved in each of his four starts at the Dell Technologies Match Play: 2010 (T33), 2013 (T17), 2017 (T5), 2018 (3).

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 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

SF – lost to Kevin Kisner, 19 holes

CONSOLATION – def. Justin Thomas 5 and 3

Justin Thomas

Thomas would have been projected to move to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking had he advanced to the championship match this week.

The two-time winner this season was in search of his ninth PGA TOUR victory.

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
SF – lost to Bubba Watson, 3 and 2
CONSOLATION – lost to Alex Noren, 5 and 3

FedExCup

Justin Thomas, who lost to Alex Noren in the consolation match Sunday, maintains his lead in the FedExCup with 1,713 points, 384 ahead of Patton Kizzire. With victory at the Dell Technologies Match Play, Bubba Watson earned 550 FedExCup points and moved to No. 4 in the standings with 1,175 points. Here are the current FedExCup standings;

Here's a look at the final FedExCup positions of past champions at the Dell Technologies Match Play;

<i>Year</i>	<i>DTMP winner</i>	<i>FEC finish</i>
2018	Bubba Watson	4th (current)
2017	Dustin Johnson	4th
2016	Jason Day	6th
2015	Rory McIlroy	15th
2014	Jason Day	10th
2013	Matt Kuchar	6th
2012	Hunter Mahan	19th
2011	Luke Donald	3rd