



## 2018 WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS-BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL

(The 41<sup>st</sup> of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

**Akron, Ohio**  
**Firestone Country Club**  
**South Course**

**August 2-5, 2018**  
**Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,400**

**FedExCup Pts: 550**  
**Purse: \$10,000,000**

### Third-Round Notes – Saturday, August 4, 2018

*Weather: Partly cloudy, with a high of 90. Wind WSW 5-10 mph.*

#### Third-Round Leaderboard

Justin Thomas	65-64-67—196 (-14)
Rory McIlroy	65-67-67—199 (-11)
Ian Poulter	62-67-70—199 (-11)
Jason Day	65-66-69—200 (-10)

#### Five Things To Know

- Beginning the third round tied for the lead with Ian Poulter and Tommy Fleetwood, Justin Thomas shoots a 3-under 67 to take a three-stroke lead to the final round
- Thomas is in search of his first World Golf Championships title and third PGA TOUR victory of the season to join Dustin Johnson and Bubba Watson as the only three-time winners this season
- Three back of the lead, Rory McIlroy (67) was also three back going into the final round when he won at Firestone in 2014
- Rickie Fowler rebounds from a second-round 74 to shoot a 5-under 65 for the round of the day
- Following a 66-68 start, Tiger Woods cards a 3-over 73 in round three to drop to 3-under for the tournament

#### Third-Round Lead Notes

- 4 Largest final-round comeback at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational (Keegan Bradley, 2012)
- 8 Third-round leaders/co-leaders at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational to win since 1999 (most recent: Tiger Woods/2013)
- 12 Third-round leaders/co-leaders to win on PGA TOUR in 2017-18 (most recent: Dustin Johnson/RBC Canadian Open)

#### Justin Thomas (-14/1<sup>st</sup>)

**Age:** 25 (April 29, 1993)

**Joined TOUR:** 2015

#### Entering this week

#2	FedExCup
#3	OWGR
111	PGA TOUR starts
8	PGA TOUR wins
2	Starts at WGC-Bridgestone Invitational
0	Top-10 finishes at WGC-Bridgestone Invitational
17	PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18

6 Top-10s in 2017-18

5/7 Wins when holding 54-hole lead/co-lead

**Wins (8):** 2015 CIMB Classic, 2016 CIMB Classic, 2017 Sentry Tournament of Champions, 2017 Sony Open in Hawaii, 2017 PGA Championship, 2017 Dell Technologies Championship, 2017 THECJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, 2018 The Honda Classic

- Defending FedExCup champion made six birdies to combat three bogeys for a third-round 67, highlighted by a chip-in from behind the par-3 12<sup>th</sup> green
- Has previously held at least a share of a 54-hole lead on the PGA TOUR seven times and converted the victory on five occasions. Would become the first player to convert the 54-hole lead/co-lead at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational since 2013 (Woods)
- Making his third start in the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational (2017/T28, T33/2016)
- At 14-under 196, puts himself in position to claim his third PGA TOUR win of the season (THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, The Honda Classic)
- With a win, would join Dustin Johnson and Bubba Watson as three-time winners this season on TOUR
- Is in search of his ninth career PGA TOUR victory and first World Golf Championships title after placing second at the WGC-Mexico Championship in March
- Thomas has not finished inside the top five in a stroke play event on TOUR since the WGC-Mexico Championship
- Comes off a missed cut in his most recent start at The Open Championship
- Will defend his PGA Championship title next week at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis

### **Rory McIlroy (-11/T2)**

**Age:** 29 (May 4, 1989)

**Joined TOUR:** 2010

#### **Entering this week**

#24 FedExCup

#7 OWGR

144 PGA TOUR starts

14 PGA TOUR wins

7 Starts at WGC-Bridgestone Invitational

5 Top-10 finishes at WGC-Bridgestone Invitational

13 PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18

4 Top-10s in 2017-18

**Wins (14):** 2010 Wells Fargo Championship, 2011 U.S. Open, 2012 The Honda Classic, PGA Championship, Dell Technologies Championship, BMW Championship, 2014 The Open Championship, WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, PGA Championship, 2015 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, Wells Fargo Championship, 2016 Dell Technologies Championship, TOUR Championship, 2018 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard.

- 2014 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational champion carded a bogey-free 67 to move into a tie for second and three strokes back of Thomas
- 67 continued a streak of 11 consecutive rounds under par on the PGA TOUR and in the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational. His longest streak of consecutive rounds under par is 16 (2015 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard/R1 – 2015 Wells Fargo Championship/R4)
- Is making his eighth start in the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, having collected top-10 finishes in 2017 (T5), 2014 (1st), 2012 (T5), 2011 (T6) and 2010 (T9)
- 14-time PGA TOUR winner is in search of his second win of the season (Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard)
- Began the final round of the 2014 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational three strokes behind leader Sergio Garcia before making birdie on four of the first five holes en route to a 66 and two-stroke win
- A win would make McIlroy just the second multiple winner of the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational (Woods)

**Ian Poulter (-11/T2)****Age:** 42 (January 10, 1976)**Joined TOUR:** 2004**Entering this week**

#34 FedExCup  
 #32 OWGR  
 248 PGA TOUR starts  
 3 PGA TOUR wins  
 13 Starts at WGC-Bridgestone Invitational  
 0 Top-10 finishes at WGC-Bridgestone Invitational  
 15 PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18  
 3 Top-10s in 2017-18

**Wins (3):** 2010 WGC Dell Technologies Match Play, 2012 WGC-HSBC Champions, 2018 Houston Open

- Quick start with birdies on Nos. 2 and 3 to grab the lead, but made four bogeys coming in and finished even for his third round
- Heads into the final round ranked first in Strokes Gained: Putting (5.475)
- Has never finished inside the top 10 in the event. Best showings were a pair of T13s in 2001 and 2006
- Is making his first start in the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational since 2015 (T17)
- In 42 World Golf Championships starts, won the 2010 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play and 2012 WGC-HSBC Champions
- In addition to his win at the Houston Open, finished in the top 10 this season at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play (T5) and RBC Heritage (T7)
- In search of his first-ever multiple-win season on the PGA TOUR

**Additional Player Notes****Jason Day (-10/4<sup>th</sup>)**

- Birdied Nos. 1 and 2 to begin his round for the second day in a row; bogeyed the 18<sup>th</sup> to fall into solo fourth
- Is making his ninth start at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, having collected top-10 finishes in 2016 (T3) and 2011 (T4)
- With two prior World Golf Championships titles (2014, 2016 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play), would become the fifth player with three or more WGC titles with a win (Woods, Johnson, Mickelson, Ogilvy)
- Is in search of his 13<sup>th</sup> TOUR win and third of the season (Farmers Insurance Open, Wells Fargo Championship)
- With a win this week, would join Dustin Johnson and Bubba Watson as three-time winners this season

**Rickie Fowler (-8/T7)**

- Four-time PGA TOUR winner rebounded from a 74 in round two to shoot his second bogey-free round of the tournament with a 5-under 65
- 65 represented the low round of the day
- Five top-10s in nine career starts at Firestone
- Will begin the final round six strokes back of the lead. His largest come-from-behind victory on TOUR was three strokes at both the 2015 PLAYERS Championship and 2015 Dell Technologies Championship.

**Tiger Woods (-3/T28)**

- Eight-time winner of the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational carded a 3-over 73 to fall to 3-under for the tournament
- Lone birdie came at the par-3 12<sup>th</sup> (12' 3" putt)
- His 73 is his highest score at Firestone since a final-round 7-over 77 in 2010

**Course Statistics****Toughest Hole****R1:** Par-4 9<sup>th</sup> (4.268)**R2:** Par-3 12<sup>th</sup> (3.225)**Easiest Hole****R1:** Par-5 2<sup>nd</sup> (4.507)**R2:** Par-5 2<sup>nd</sup> (4.479)

**R3:** Par-4 4<sup>th</sup> (4.324)

**R3:** Par-5 2<sup>nd</sup> (4.310)

**Scoring Averages**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>R1:</b>	34.155	34.211	68.366	--
<b>R2:</b>	34.662	35.211	69.873	--
<b>R3:</b>	34.873	35.324	70.197	69.479

  

	<b>Early</b>	<b>Late</b>
<b>R1:</b>	68.39	68.34
<b>R2:</b>	69.26	70.47
<b>R3:</b>	70.14	70.25

**Bogey-free:**

**R1:** Ian Poulter (62), Rickie Fowler (63), Jason Day (65), Luke List (65), Rory McIlroy (65), Patrick Reed (66)  
Daniel Berger (67), Matt Kuchar (68).

**R2:** Tommy Fleetwood (63), Louis Oosthuizen (66), Tyrrell Hatton (67)

**R3:** Rory McIlroy (67), Rickie Fowler (65), Dustin Johnson (66)