



2017 WGC-HSBC Champions
(4th of 45 events in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season)

Shanghai, China
Sheshan International Golf Club

October 26-29, 2017

Purse: \$9,750,000
Par/Yards 36-36—72/7,261

First-Round Notes – Thursday, October 26, 2017

Weather: Partly sunny with a high of 71 degrees Fahrenheit / 22 degrees Celsius. Winds ENE at 4-8 mph/6-13 kph.

First-round leaders

Brooks Koepka	64 (-8)
Gavin Green	65 (-7)
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	65 (-7)
Patrick Reed	66 (-6)
Haydn Porteous	66 (-6)

Brooks Koepka

Making his first start in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season, Brooks Koepka shot an eight-under 64 to take a one-shot first-round lead in the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions at Sheshan International Golf Club. His effort was one shot shy of the tournament's lowest opening round by Branden Grace in 2015.

Starting from the 10th tee, Koepka birdied 14, 16 and 17 before making an eagle on the par five 18th hole to turn in 31. He shot four more birdies against a lone bogey coming home to grab his first solo first-round lead in his PGA TOUR career. He previously tied for the first-round lead at the 2015 FedEx St Jude Classic (64) and the Open Championship in July (65) where he went on to finish T3 and T6, respectively.

This is Koepka's second appearance in the WGC-HSBC Champions following his T40 finish last season. His best WGC outing to date is a T5 at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play earlier this year where he lost to Jason Day in the quarter-finals. He has three career top-10s in World Golf Championships events.

In the recent 2016-17 PGA TOUR season, Koepka, 27, enjoyed a maiden major victory at the U.S. Open, where he won by four strokes over Brian Harman and Hideki Matsuyama at Erin Hills in June. It was also his second PGA TOUR victory which helped him finish 10th in the final FedExCup ranking. He also finished runner-up at the Shriners Hospitals and Valero Texas Open and was part of the victorious U.S. team in last month's Presidents Cup where he accumulated a 2-2-0 record.

Koepka Quotes:

I thought we played really well. Putted very well. One little hiccup and 3-putted from about, I don't know, 3 1/2, four feet. I felt like I started really well. Drove it really well. Any time you're making putts and you're keeping it in the fairway, you're going to shoot good. Any time you can get off to a good start and be close to the lead or have the lead, that's what you want. Just roll into that the rest of the week.

Since the Presidents Cup, we've had three weeks off, and I think I've probably seen him (Dustin Johnson) maybe 14 of the 21 days. You know, if we're home, we're spending most days together. I see him every day in the gym. If we're not in the gym, I'm over at his house or he comes over to mine. We're just hanging out. We both kind of have the same attitude. We're not going to take things too seriously. We like to relax. We like to work out. We've got the same interests, and makes it easy. To be honest with you, I don't think we've ever really talked about golf. More of just laughing, having a good time and hanging out and it's nothing, bouncing ideas -- maybe when we play practice rounds, that's about the only time we ever talk about golf. When we're away, we're away and I think that's kind of one of the beauties of our friendships. I don't think people actually realize how hard he actually works. He's naturally gifted but he also works at it pretty hard. If you see him in the gym or doing whatever, I think he's very focused and I don't think people give him enough credit.

Kiradech Aphibarnrat

Starting from the 10th tee, Kiradech Aphibarnrat sank nine birdies in a 10-hole stretch, including seven consecutive birdies from the 16th hole to fourth hole to post an opening 65 for T2. His card included one other birdie and three bogeys.

Kiradech's 65 is his lowest round on the PGA TOUR, bettering his previous best of 68 in the 2014 WGC-HSBC Champions. He is aiming to improve on his previous best WGC finish of T18 at the 2016 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play. This week's event is also his 11th appearance in the WGC.

Kiradech holds three European Tour titles and he also won the Asian Tour Order of Merit title in 2013, the same year when he enjoyed a T3 at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia for his best PGA TOUR outing to date. He is also fresh from a T2 finish at the Italian Open two weeks ago.

Kiradech Quotes:

I've played here a couple times but I've never finished good in this event. I'm confident with my swing, and the way I'm striking the ball and rolling the putts on the greens, I think it might be a good week. Really pleased with the way I'm playing. It's all about putting. I didn't hit the ball well. I didn't bring my A-game today but my putting is fantastic. I holed almost every putt on the greens. I'll just try to enjoy my game and try to enjoy the big event in Asia, especially a lot of top players are in the field. I'll play my own game and try to make lots of birdies.

Gavin Green

Making his debut in the World Golf Championships and WGC-HSBC Champions, Malaysia's Gavin Green fired a bogey-free 65 to share second place with Kiradech. It was also his lowest round on the PGA TOUR, bettering his previous best effort by one shot.

The 23-year-old Malaysian, who current leads the Asian Tour Order of Merit where he has won once and finished runner-up three times this season, was one of four players who was bogey-free in the opening round at Sheshan International Golf Club.

Green is making his sixth PGA TOUR start this week with his best finish being T61 at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia two weeks ago. He shot a first round 66 at the inaugural CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES in Jeju island, South Korea for T2 position last week before finishing T67 in South Korea's first ever PGA TOUR tournament.

Green quotes:

It's my first time here and obviously my first WGC. The last couple of weeks, playing on the PGA TOUR, it's a big difference for me. It takes a little getting used to. But I'm just enjoying it, enjoying the moment and enjoying the opportunity, and just trying to play some good golf. I've been trying to maybe step on it a little bit more than I should maybe. I'm taking a different approach this time. Just going to try and enjoy my first WGC. Dad's on the bag, so we're just going to enjoy it and sticking to the game plan. The par 5s. I hit it out of place a couple times but I

wedged it close and was able to give me a chance for birdies and I converted. So I think it was a huge turnaround for me. Hope to keep that going for the next three days.

Patrick Reed

Patrick Reed produced a flawless card with six birdies for a 66 to share fourth place in what is his fourth appearance in the WGC-HSBC Champions. This is the second straight week that Reed, a five-time PGA TOUR winner, has opened with a 66 following last week's CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES in South Korea where he went on to finish T11.

In the recent 2016-17 season, Reed finished 22nd in the final FedExCup standings following one runner-up finish and three other top-10s. Reed has one win in the WGC following his triumph in the 2014 WGC-Mexico Championship where he prevailed by one shot from Bubba Watson and Jamie Donaldson. His best finish at the WGC-HSBC Champions is T7 in 2015.

Reed quotes:

There was a couple out there I felt like I left but all in all just a really solid, steady day. Coming into the day, I told Kes that we needed to get off to a good start and I did just that. I felt like after the first couple holes where the driver was a little loose, it seemed like everything started to tighten up. I was hitting some quality iron shots. I only chipped once today, even though I missed a couple greens, I missed probably three or four greens by inches. So I still had putter in my hand. That's key around here. If you can have the flat stick in your hand all day and not have to chip, you're going to have a pretty clean card.

Miscellaneous Notes

South Africa's Hadyn Porteous, playing in his first WGC event and first WGC-HSBC Champions, shot a fine 66 which included 10 birdies, two bogeys and one double bogey for a share of fourth position with Reed. This is his second PGA TOUR start after finishing T30 at the Open Championship last year.

Wu Ashu emerged as the leading Chinese golfer after the opening day following a bogey free 67. Playing in his eighth WGC-HSBC Champions, Wu shot birdies on the second, fourth, fifth, 14th and 16th holes to post his best ever round at the WGC-HSBC Champions, bettering his previous best of 68 shot in 2012. The 32-year-old holds two European Tour victories and two on the Japan Golf Tour.

World No. 1 Dustin Johnson opened his campaign with a 68, sprinkling his card with six birdies against two dropped shots to trail the first round leader by four shots. He also trailed by four shots in T8 position after the opening round in 2013, the year he won the WGC-HSBC Champions.

Olympic gold medalist Justin Rose shot a 67, which included four consecutive birdies from the 18th to third holes, to lie in T6 alongside bronze medal winner Matt Kuchar, who shot five birdies against no bogeys. Rose is chasing his first win of 2017 after concluding the FedExCup Playoffs with four successive top-10s, including a T2 at the BMW Championship, while Kuchar is chasing his first win since 2015.

Defending champion and World No. 4 Hideki Matsuyama carded a 74 for T67 position after carding three birdies, two bogeys and one triple bogey on the third hole. He came into the week after finishing T5 in the CIMB Classic in Malaysia two weeks ago.

Austrian Bernd Wiesberger shot the tournament's first hole-in-one on the par-3 fourth hole with a seven iron en route to a first round 71. It was unfortunately at the wrong hole as a Mercedes Benz GLC Coupe is on offer to the first golfer who hits an ace at the par three 17th hole. Wiesberger's ace is the third hole-in-one in the PGA TOUR's 2017-18 season following similar efforts by Jason Schmuhl (No. 15/second round/Silverado Resort and Spa North, Safeway Open) and Whee Kim (No. 15/third round/TPC Kuala Lumpur, CIMB Classic). It is also the third hole-in-one in the history of the WGC-HSBC Champions, emulating the efforts by K.T. Kim at the 17th hole in 2015 and Matt Kuchar also on 17 in 2016.

Chinese players scores

Ashun Wu	67 (-5)
Zecheng Dou	71 (-1)
XInjun Zhang	71 (-1)
Haotong Li	72 (-E)
Wenchong Liang	72 (E)
Yanwei Liu	72 (E)
Yi Cao	74 (+2)

Bogey-free rounds

Rd 1: Gavin Green (65), Patrick Reed (66), Wu Ashun (67), Matt Kuchar (67)

Scoring Averages at Sheshan International GC

	Front 9	Back 9	Total
Rd 1	35.43	35.30	70.74

FedExCup

The 2017-18 season marks the 12th year of the FedExCup, the season-long points competition highlighted by four FedExCup Playoff events, with the FedExCup champion being crowned at the completion of the TOUR Championship. The World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions is one in a series of four World Golf Championships events including the Mexico Championship (Mexico City, Mexico), the Dell Technologies Match Play (Austin, Texas) and the Bridgestone Invitational (Akron, Ohio).

These high-profile events offer 550 FedExCup points to the winner. All but one of the winners of the last 16 World Golf Championships events have qualified for the TOUR Championship with the lone exception being Shane Lowry, who won the 2015 Bridgestone Invitational as a non-member. Of the last 13 World Golf Championships winners, 11 have finished in the top 10 of the FedExCup 10 times with only Rory McIlroy, finishing 15th, and Shane Lowry finishing outside the top 10.

World Golf Championships winners

Player	Tournament	Final FedExCup standing
Hideki Matsuyama	2017 Bridgestone Invitational	8 th
Dustin Johnson	2017 Dell Technologies Match Play	4 th
Dustin Johnson	2017 Mexico Championship	4 th
Hideki Matsuyama	2016 HSBC Champions	8 th
Dustin Johnson	2016 Bridgestone Invitational	2 nd
Jason Day	2016 Dell Technologies Match Play	6 th
Adam Scott	2016 Mexico Championship	4 th
Russell Knox	2015 HSBC Champions	10 th
Shane Lowry	2015 Bridgestone Invitational	N/A
Rory McIlroy	2015 Dell Technologies Match Play	15 th
Dustin Johnson	2015 Mexico Championship	7 th
Bubba Watson	2014 HSBC Champions	5 th
Rory McIlroy	2014 Bridgestone Invitational	3 rd
Patrick Reed	2014 Mexico Championship	21 st
Jason Day	2014 Dell Technologies Match Play	10 th
Dustin Johnson	2013 HSBC Champions	30 th

This shows how every week on the PGA TOUR is significant in the race for the FedExCup – three of the seven winners from the fall calendar of 2016 (Justin Thomas, Hideki Matsuyama and Pat Perez) qualified for the TOUR

Championship. The other four winners advanced through at least the second of four Playoffs events (Brendan Steele, Cody Gribble, Rod Pampling and Mackenzie Hughes).