



**2017 WGC-HSBC Champions**  
(4<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **Second-Round Notes – Friday, October 27, 2017**

*Weather: Partly sunny with a high of 74 degrees Fahrenheit / 21 degrees Celsius. Winds NE at 4-8 mph/6-13 kph.*

#### **Second-round leaders**

Dustin Johnson	68-63—131 (-13)
Brooks Koepka	64-68—132 (-12)
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	65-70—135 (-9)
Justin Rose	67-68—135 (-9)
Patrick Reed	66-70—136 (-8)

#### **Dustin Johnson**

World No. 1 Dustin Johnson followed his opening-round 68 with the low round of the day shooting a 9-under-par 63 to move to 13-under overall to take a one-stroke lead over Brooks Koepka. Johnson birdied the last four holes for a back-nine 29 at the same course where he won in 2013 by shooting the four-day aggregate record of 24-under-par, 264. Johnson also shot a second-round 63 that year as part of his victory. The 63 matches the lowest second round in the history of the HSBC Champions.

Johnson, who now has shot a tournament second-round best 63 on two occasions (2013, 2017) joins Louis Oosthuizen (2011, 2012) and Ernie Els (2012) as players to shoot second-round 63s at the HSBC Champions.

Johnson's two-day total of 131 (-13) is one shot of the tournament 36-hole record of 130 set by Kevin Kisner in 2015.

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> time that Johnson has led or shared the lead through 36 holes on the PGA TOUR. Johnson has gone on to victory in seven of those instances including three of the last four – most recently at THE NORTHERN TRUST earlier this year.

Last season on the PGA TOUR, Johnson won a career best four times, including three tournaments in a row – Genesis Open, WGC-Mexico Championship and WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play Championship. He also won THE NORTHERN TRUST during the FedExCup Playoffs.

Johnson's win at the Dell Technologies Match Play also made him the first player to win each of the four World Golf Championships events, completing the 'WGC Slam'. Johnson's five WGC victories are the HSBC Champions (2013), the Mexico Championship (2015), the Bridgestone Invitational (2016), the Mexico Championship (2017) and Dell Match Play Championship (2017).

Johnson will be paired with good friend Brooks Koepka during the third round at the HSBC Champions. This will be eighth time that the two have been in the same pairing at a PGA TOUR event. In the seven previous instances, Johnson has bettered Koepka's score four times.

Tournament	Round	Dustin Johnson			Brooks Koepka		
		Score	RTP	Trn. Finish	Score	RTP	Trn. Finish
2017 WGC-Bridgestone Inv	2	75	5	T17	69	-1	T17
2017 WGC-Bridgestone Inv	1	68	-2	T17	71	1	T17
2016 FedEx St. Jude Classic	3	73	3	5	69	-1	T2
2015 TOUR Championship	4	64	-6	T5	70	E	T18
2015 The Honda Classic	2	75	5	CUT	64	-6	T51
2015 The Honda Classic	1	77	7	CUT	78	8	T51
2014 U.S. Open	3	70	E	T4	72	2	T4

A win for Johnson, 33, would come in his first start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season and would extend his streak to having at least one event in 11 consecutive seasons, dating back to his rookie season in 2008, the longest active streak on TOUR.

Johnson has seven victories since the start of the 2015-16 season and hasn't missed more than 4 cuts in a season since 2008.

*Dustin Johnson Quotes:*

*Today, obviously I played very well today. But I actually got a putter like about 20 minutes before I teed off, it's a Spider, so it's one that I've used before. I wasn't really pleased with the one I played with yesterday, so the guys here in China made me one. I got it right before I walked to the tee. I hit a few putts on the practice green with it and I was like, oh, this will work pretty well. Went out and holed a lot of putts today, so kind of like it.*

*It's a golf course that I enjoy playing. It suits my eye very well. It's still, though, you've got to drive it well. For me, if I drive it good out here, I feel like I can make a lot of birdies. The par 5s, I can reach all the par 5s if I drive it in the fairway. You know, so those are where I've got to attack those. The rest of the holes, I feel like if I'm in the fairway, I can attack the golf course.*

**On potential pairing with friend Brooks Koepka -**

*Yeah, hopefully. It would be great. He's one of my best buddies. It would be a lot of fun out there playing with him. We live right down the street from each other, so we hang out a bunch. It's good, going to the gym, having somebody to work out with, pushing each other in the gym helps a lot.*

*You know, it's funny, we don't really play much golf, though, at home together. We go to the gym and we hang out but we don't go to the golf course together. I think we played last Saturday; that was the first time we played in, I mean, I couldn't tell you how long. All year, probably.*

**Brooks Koepka**

Making his first start in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season, Brooks Koepka followed an opening-round 64 with a second-round 68 to finish the second round at 12-under-par, one shot behind Dustin Johnson's lead in the HSBC Champions at Sheshan International Golf Club.

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 felt like I played pretty well. I felt like I drove it really well. That's what you've got to do out here to hit fairways. I felt like we were hitting quite a bit.*

*Then, you know, a couple of the putts, we missed some short ones, but to be honest with you, I felt like I hit them where I wanted to. I think I misread maybe two of them, especially the one at the last. It kind of changed at the last second over the ball. But you know, that's going to happen over the course of 72 holes. But feel like I'm playing well and just need to keep hitting fairways out here.*

*To be honest with you, I didn't care what Dustin is doing. I'm kind of focused on what I've got to do. Yeah, it did get kind of boring out there for awhile, 13 straight pars. I felt like I hit some good putts that didn't go in. I had some good opportunities -- too, and just didn't convert them. I wasn't really focused on Dustin. If I take care of business and keep doing what I'm doing, I should be right up at the top, which I am. I just need to play good this weekend.*

***Dustin thinks Saturday might be the first time all year you guys played golf together away from the TOUR?***

*BROOKS KOEPKA: Yeah, it was. Not in a tournament. I think it's the first time, ever, we've actually played golf. He thinks we played a few days at the Floridian, maybe a couple holes with Claude or something like that. But no, that's the first time we've ever actually teed it up.*

***Q. He also says he won, but he always says that?***

*BROOKS KOEPKA: No, that is not true, I can promise you. I can promise you that.*

*I have no problem breaking Dustin's heart. I can promise you that. I'm sure he'd say the same thing if he was sitting up here. (Laughter).*

*We both have a lot of fun off the golf course, but you know, when it comes to golf, I think we both want to kick each other's butts. There's no mercy out there. I don't think anybody wants to go home a loser. When they tee it up, everybody wants to win when they come. When we both show up, I think we're both expecting to win. I hope it comes down to Sunday because there's not been a tournament where we've actually competed against each other. Hopefully I can get the better of him and I'm sure he's thinking the same thing.*

**Kiradech Aphibarnrat**

After opening the HSBC Champions with his lowest round (65) on the PGA TOUR, Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat shot a second-round 70 and is 9-under-par, T3 and four strokes behind the lead. Playing in his 11<sup>th</sup> World Golf Championships event of his career, Aphibarnrat is aiming to improve on his previous best World Golf Championships finish of T18 at the 2016 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play.

Aphibarnrat 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.

Aphibarnrat's best standing through 36 holes at a PGA TOUR event is T3 at the 2013 CIMB Classic in Malaysia. After that, his best standing through two rounds on the PGA TOUR is T8 at the 2016 Masters Tournament.

### *Aphibarnrat Quotes:*

*Well, it's not a bad day. Still pick up 2-under today. Didn't hit the ball good the same as yesterday. My putter doesn't go well as yesterday, especially 3-putt the last hole is quite disappointing. It's not the way to finish the round. I'm playing good this golf course, with the way I'm playing at the moment, I can set the goal a little higher than I used to do. Just focus on ball-striking and I might work a little more on the range after this.*

### **Justin Rose**

England's Justin Rose is 9-under-par through the opening two rounds at the HSBC Champions and will be in the final pairing on Saturday with Koepka and Johnson. The Olympic Gold Medal winner is playing in the HSBC Champions for the fifth time in his career with a T5 in 2013 his best finish.

### *Rose quotes:*

*Played well again. Kept some momentum going. First tournament in a month or so, so to back up a good start with another good round is good, and now I feel like I'm into the weekend which is where you want to be.*

*Obviously I think to win these type of golf tournaments, you need to play well for 72 holes. There's no protecting these days. You have to keep the pedal down.*

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

Patrick Reed is 8-under-par and alone in 5<sup>th</sup> is his fourth appearance in the WGC-HSBC Champions. In the recent 2016-17 season, Reed finished 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

There are five countries represented in the top 10 players on the leader board – USA (5), England (3), Thailand, Sweden, Spain.

### **Chinese players scores**

Ashun Wu	(-5) T12
Wenchong Liang	(-2) T29
Yanwei Liu	(+1) T55
Zecheng Dou	(+3) T63
XInjun Zhang	(+4) T66
Haotong Li	(+4) T66
Yi Cao	(+13) 77

### **Bogey-free rounds**

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

Rd 2: Dustin Johnson (63), Brooks Koepka (68), Charl Schwartzel (70)

### **Scoring Averages at Sheshan International GC**

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
Rd 1	35.43	35.30	70.74	
Rd 2	36.40	35.84	72.25	71.49

### **FedExCup**

The 2017-18 season marks the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>, and Shane Lowry finishing outside the top 10.

#### **World Golf Championships winners**

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

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).