



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

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, October 29, 2017

Weather: Partly sunny with a high of 71 degrees Fahrenheit /22 degrees Celsius. Winds NNE at 5-10 mph/8-16 kph.

Third-round leaders

Dustin Johnson	68-63-68 (-17)
Brooks Koepka	64-68-73 (-11)
Henrik Stenson	68-69-69 (-10)
Brian Harman	68-69-70 (-9)
Justin Rose	67-68-72 (-9)

Dustin Johnson

Holding an overnight one-shot lead, World No. 1 Dustin Johnson extended his advantage to a tournament record of six shots after shooting a four-under 68 in the third round of the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions on Saturday.

The 33-year-old bogeyed his opening hole but bounced back with birdies on 2, 4, 7 and 8 to turn in 33 and lead by four shots. With Brooks Koepka, who had led briefly with three opening birdies, unable to keep pace, Johnson sank three more birdies against a double bogey on 10 to secure his career largest 54-hole lead on the PGA TOUR. His previous best was a five-shot advantage at the Genesis Open earlier this year in which he went on to win the tournament.

Johnson's 17-under 199 three-day aggregate eclipsed the previous tournament best 54-hole margin of three shots held jointly by Hideki Matsuyama and himself. Johnson has led or co-lead into the final round on 12 previous occasions on TOUR and converted into seven wins. When Johnson won the 2013 HSBC Champions, he also led into the final round by three shots.

He is also bidding to become the first player to win three World Golf Championships tournaments in a calendar year and the second player after Phil Mickelson to win two HSBC Champions titles. Johnson, who has five career WGC victories, triumphed at the Mexico Championship and Dell Technologies Match Play earlier this year. Tiger Woods has won two WGCs in each calendar year in 2013, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2003 and 1999.

During the 2016-17 season, 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'.

His 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).

A win for Johnson 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. He holds a career 16 PGA TOUR wins.

Johnson Quotes

Today was a tough day with the wind. Felt like I played really, really well. You know, had a double-bogey on 10 but I actually hit a really good drive right down the right side of the fairway and landed on the cart path and went straight right into the bushes. But other than that, it was a really solid day. I hit a lot of good drives and a lot of good iron shots. And tomorrow going in, I'm not going to change anything. Same game plan. You know, play the golf course just how I've been playing it. These are big events, some of our biggest events we have on TOUR. Obviously the best players in the world are here. It's golf tournaments that I obviously always want to put myself in position to win, which I'm in a good position going into tomorrow. But I'm still going to have to go out and play a really solid round if I want to get it done.

When we're on the golf course, I'm not worried about what anyone else is doing. I've got enough to worry about with just myself. So it is kind of tough to worry about what anyone else is doing. But yeah, tomorrow, I'm not going to change my game plan playing no matter what Brooks does, Henrik, whoever is out there playing. I'm going to stick to it and hopefully execute.

Brooks Koepka

Brooks Koepka started the third round in fine fashion, shooting three opening birdies to seize the lead momentarily from Johnson before his day unraveled on the par five 8th hole when he lost his ball to run up a triple bogey eight. Three more bogeys against two birdies on his homeward stretch saw him sign for a disappointing 73 and a 11-under- total.

Koepka is chasing his third PGA TOUR title where his first two wins have been come-from-behind victories. In the 2015 Waste Management Phoenix Open, he trailed by three shots before closing with a 5-under 66 to win his first PGA TOUR title. In June, Koepka claimed his first major title at the U.S. Open by coming from one shot back in the final round to win after a final day 5-under 67.

In the history of the WGC-HSBC Champions, the biggest comeback was achieved by Germany's Martin Kaymer, who overcame a five-shot deficit, with a superb final round 63 to win by three shots. Ian Poulter also won by coming from four back in 2012 following a closing 65.

Koepka Quotes

Yeah, I felt like I didn't make any putts. I felt like they were good putts but they just didn't go in. There were five holes that were just a disaster there from 8 to 12. 9 was all right. But 10, even 10, to put that wedge shot in the bunker was pretty poor, especially when you've got so much room, and then 11, I missed a putt there. Gave up a lot of shots. The start was really good. The first seven holes I thought was pretty solid and the rest of it, very up-and-down. Yeah, just play good tomorrow. Make a few putts. Get off to a good start again. I'm getting off to a good start. It's just kind of the middle stretch where I kind of stalled a little bit. Just got to correct that.

Henrik Stenson

Henrik Stenson shot a 69 which included four birdies on his back nine to lie in 3rd position on 10-under, some seven shots behind leader Johnson. In what his seventh appearance in the HSBC Champions, the Swede is bidding to improve on his T2 finish at the HSBC Champions which he recorded last year. He holds one WGC win at the 2007 Dell Technologies Match Play, which was his maiden PGA TOUR triumph.

The World No. 9 is making his first appearance in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season after enjoying a one-month break after concluding his 2016-17 campaign in 32nd position in the final FedExCup standings. When Stenson won the 2009 PLAYERS Championship, he came from five shots back to win the TOUR's flagship tournament.

Stenson Quotes

It was tough out there. It was blowing pretty hard. I think the forecast is for possibly stronger winds tomorrow. It was a good rehearsal for tomorrow's task then. Hit a lot of good shots out there. Got some things both technically and mentally that I'm working on and I think I did that very well today. You know, yeah, I hit some really good ones, and when I didn't, I kept it in play and saved myself. It was nice to make that par putt up the last there and not finish with a bogey. We're in pretty good shape, even though it seems we're playing for second place.

My game plan is going to be the same. I've got a game plan how to play my best or what I think is my best on this golf course and I'm going to stick to that. It's been working pretty good so far. But if Dustin keeps on playing the way that he's done this week, I think it's going to be a one-man show tomorrow. But you never know, tough winds, and this golf course has a couple of holes where you certainly can have a number. It's never over until it's over.

Miscellaneous Notes

Brian Harman shot a 70 which included three birdies against a lone bogey for T4, eight shots back of the leader. The left-hander bogeyed the opening hole but made birdies on 2, 7 and 16 for a 9-under total. The 30-year-old Harman is chasing a third PGA TOUR victory where his previous wins came at the 2014 John Deere Classic and 2017 Wells Fargo Championship which helped him finish a career best 25th in the FedExCup standings in the recent 2016/17 season.

England's Justin Rose, the Olympic Games gold medal winner, returned a level par 72 playing in the final group with Johnson and Koepka. Rose made three birdies against as many bogeys for a 9-under total and will enter the last day eight shots back in T4. Rose is playing in the HSBC Champions for the fifth time in his career with a T5 in 2013 his best finish.

Poom Saksansin of Thailand produced the only bogey free card of 68 during the third round to move up to T15 position on 5-under. Countryman Kiradech Aphibarnrat, playing in the penultimate group, shot a disappointing 75 to slip to T12 position on 6-under to be the best placed Asian golfer after the third round.

Shugo Imahira of Japan was disqualified from the third round after he did not show up for his tee time of 10.35am. He had mistakenly seen a wrong starting time but will still earn last place prize money of USD43,000 although it will not count as official earnings.

Chinese players scores

Ashun Wu	(-4) T21
Wenchong Liang	(-1) T33
XInjun Zhang	(+3) T52
Haotong Li	(+3) T52
Yanwei Liu	(+6) T68
Zecheng Dou	(+6) T68
Yi Cao	(+20) 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)

Rd 3: Poom Saksansin (68)

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	
Rd 3	36.93	35.79	72.72	71.90

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).