



2018 World Golf Championships–Mexico Championship
(The 17th of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Mexico City, Mexico
Club de Golf Chapultepec

March 1 - 4, 2018

Purse: \$10,000,000
Par/Yards: 71/7,345

First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 01, 2018

Weather: Partly cloudy, with a high of 79. Wind NE at 6-12 mph, gusting to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Play was suspended at 5:19 p.m. (local time) due to lightning and resumed at 5:50 p.m., a delay of 33 minutes.

Note: Elevation is a factor at Club de Golf Chapultepec. According to ShotLink mapping data, the lowest part of the course is 7,603 feet above sea level and the highest part of the course is 7,835 feet above sea level.

First-Round Leaderboard

Louis Oosthuizen	64 (-7)
Chris Paisley	65 (-6)
Xander Schauffele	65 (-6)
Shubhankar Sharma	65 (-6)
Rafa Cabrera Bello	66 (-5)
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	66 (-5)

Louis Oosthuizen

Louis Oosthuizen fired a flawless 7-under 64 which included five birdies and an eagle at the par-5 15th hole where he holed a putt from just under five feet after reaching the green in two. Oosthuizen hit 15 of 18 greens in regulation, 9 of 14 fairways and required 27 putts.

This marks the first time in 137 PGA TOUR starts that Oosthuizen has held the 18-hole lead/co-lead. Only once on the PGA TOUR has Oosthuizen shot a round below 64 (63/R3/2012 Dell Technologies Championship).

A sixth-place finish in 2015 is Oosthuizen's best showing in 11 previous appearances in the WGC-Mexico Championship. It is his only top-10 result in this event.

Oosthuizen is making his 34th appearance in a World Golf Championships event where his best result is a loss to Jason Day (5 and 4) in the Championship Match of the 2016 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play. His best effort in a WGC strokeplay event was fourth at the 2012 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, one of five top-10 finishes in WGC strokeplay events.

After recovering from a finger injury, last week's T24 at The Honda Classic marked Oosthuizen's only previous PGA TOUR start this season.

Last season, Oosthuizen advanced through the first three FedExCup Playoffs events, before ending his season ranked 31st in the FedExCup standings. With a T63 at the BMW Championship, the third

of four Playoffs events, Oosthuizen finished one point below Jason Dufner (No. 30) to narrowly miss the season-finale TOUR Championship

With his T2 finish at the 2017 PGA Championship, the 2010 Open Championship winner recorded runner-up finishes at all four major championships (2017 PGA Championship, 2015 Open Championship, 2015 U.S. Open, 2012 Masters Tournament). He also posted a T2 result at THE PLAYERS Championship last season.

Oosthuizen seeks his second PGA TOUR title to match The Open Championship victory he claimed in 2010.

Oosthuizen posted a 2-2-1 record, the best of any player on the International Team, at the 2017 Presidents Cup at Liberty National.

Oosthuizen has notched 12 international victories, most recently the 2016 ISPS HANDA Perth International, a co-sanctioned European Tour event.

First-Round Leader Stats

Last year, six players shared the first-round lead at 4-under 67, the most after the first round of the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship. Previously, five were tied after 18 holes in 2015.

Last year's 4-under 67 was the highest first-round score in relation to par in the history of the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship, matching Patrick Reed's opening score of 4-under 68 in 2014.

Since 1999, the 18-hole leader/co-leader has converted the victory at the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship six times: Tiger Woods (2002, 2006, 2013), Geoff Ogilvy (2008), Phil Mickelson (2009) and Patrick Reed (2014).

Through 16 events on the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, five players have managed to parlay that position into a win. Most recently, Jon Rahm did so at the CareerBuilder Challenge.

Chris Paisley

England's Chris Paisley fired a seven birdie, one bogey 6-under 65 to sit T2. Paisley, 31, is one of six players in the field making his first appearance in a World Golf Championships event. This week also marks his first appearance in a PGA TOUR event.

Paisley played college golf at the University of Tennessee where he won two events. Before turning professional in late 2009, he represented his country in the Walker Cup and the Palmer Cup that same year.

Paisley's performance on the Challenge Tour in 2012, including a win in the English Challenge, earned him a European Tour card for the first time in 2013.

Earlier this year, Paisley won his first European Tour title at the BMW SA Open. The following week he finished fifth in the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship and currently sits No. 6 in the Race to Dubai and No. 83 in the Official World Golf Ranking.

Xander Schauffele

Last season's PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year Xander Schauffele is the lone American in the leading seven players on the leaderboard at T2 after an opening-round 6-under 65.

Schauffele finished third in the FedExCup last season, helped by victories at The Greenbrier Classic and the season-finale TOUR Championship.

This marks Schauffele's debut in the WGC-Mexico Championship, but it's his third start in a WGC event (T13/2017 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, T46/2018 WGC-HSBC Champions).

In eight previous starts this season, Schauffele has two top-10s (T3/CIMB Classic, T9/Genesis Open) and one missed cut (Farmers Insurance Open).

Rafa Cabrera Bello

Rafa Cabrera Bello went bogey-free in the opening round to post a 5-under 66 and sit T5. Cabrera Bello is making his fifth start in the WGC-Mexico Championship (T38/2017, T11/2016, T63/2013, 65th/2012). In 16 previous rounds at this event, he'd posted just two rounds in the 60s (69/R2/2017, 67/R3/2016) before Thursday's 66.

In 13 previous World Golf Championship appearances, Cabrera Bello owns two top-five results. He finished T5 at the WGC-HSBC Champions earlier this season, however, his best result was third at the 2016 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play when he defeated Rory McIlroy 3 and 2 in the Consolation Match at Austin CC.

In six PGA TOUR starts this season, Cabrera Bello has finished inside the top-30 in each start.

Cabrera Bello owns three European Tour titles, his most recent at the 2017 Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open. He seeks his first PGA TOUR win in his 57th career start.

Kiradech Aphibarnrat

Kiradech Aphibarnrat sits T5 after a first-round 66. Aphibarnrat owns four wins on the European Tour, his most recent at the 2018 ISPS HANDA Super 6 in Perth, Australia. With that victory, the 28-year-old became only the second player from Thailand, after Thongchai Jaidee, to record multiple European Tour wins.

Aphibarnrat's 66 is one shy of his best round on the PGA TOUR (65/three times).

The WGC-Mexico Championship marks his 30th PGA TOUR start where his best showing is T3 at the 2013 CIMB Classic.

Shubhankar Sharma

Shubhankar Sharma fired a bogey-free 6-under 65 with four birdies and an eagle at No. 1 (his 10th hole) when he chipped in from 30 feet away after his tee shot traveled 306 yards.

This week marks Sharma's first appearance in a World Golf Championships event and his first PGA TOUR start.

Sharma turned professional in 2013 and played primarily on the Asian Tour. The 21-year-old from India shot a second-round 61 at the 2018 Joburg Open, followed by a 65, giving him a five-stroke lead through 54 holes. The final round was delayed by bad weather but Sharma finished with a 69 for a three-stroke win over Erik van Rooyen. The event was part of the Open Qualifying Series and the win earned him an entry to The Open Championship later this year.

Sharma shot a final-round 62 to win the 2018 Maybank Championship, an event co-sanctioned with the Asian Tour and the European Tour, two ahead of Jorge Campillo. The win lifted him into the world top-100 for the first time. He currently sits No. 75 in the Official World Golf Ranking and leads the European Tour's Race to Dubai.

Jon Rahm

World No. 2 Jon Rahm, playing with World No. 1 Dustin Johnson (69) and World No. 3 Justin Thomas (72), fired the best score of the trio with a 4-under 67.

At this event last year, Jon Rahm reached 14-under and owned the solo lead for a short time after beginning the back nine par-eagle-par-par-birdie-birdie. Rahm eventually finished T3 in his first World Golf Championships event and went one better in his next WGC start, losing the final of the Dell Technologies Match Play to Dustin Johnson. Rahm makes his fifth WGC start this week.

Rahm is making his 42nd PGA TOUR start and owns 17 top-10 finishes, including two wins (2018 CareerBuilder Challenge, 2017 Farmers Insurance Open) and four runner-up results. Rahm has also claimed two titles on the European Tour (2017 Dubai Duty Free Irish Open, 2017 DP World Tour Championship).

Following major earthquakes that hit Mexico City, Rahm has pledged to donate US\$1,000 for every birdie and US\$3,000 for every eagle he makes during the WGC-Mexico Championship. The funds will be distributed to the Mexican Red Cross to assist with earthquake relief for people in need. In the opening round, Rahm's six birdies will help contribute US\$6,000 to the fund.

Dustin Johnson

Defending champion Dustin Johnson posted a 2-under 69 to sit T13.

Johnson is a five-time World Golf Championships winner with victories at the HSBC Champions (2013), the Mexico Championship (2015, 2017), the Dell Technologies Match Play (2017) and the Bridgestone Invitational (2016). When he defeated Jon Rahm in the Match Play final at Austin CC, Johnson became the first player to win all four different WGC events.

Johnson joins Tiger Woods (18) as the only two players with five or more World Golf Championships victories.

Johnson has four top-10 finishes in WGC-Mexico Championship tournament history – 2nd/2011, T4/2014, 1st/2015, 1st/2017.

Johnson leads the PGA TOUR Scoring Average this season with 68.891, ahead of Alex Noren (69.058).

Miscellaneous Notes

Reigning Masters champion Sergio Garcia (T8), with 10 PGA TOUR wins and 14 European Tour victories, makes his 54th official start in a World Golf Championships event at the Mexico Championship. Garcia is one of three players to have contested more than 50 World Golf Championships events. Lee Westwood tops the list with 58 appearances while Phil Mickelson is making his 53rd WGC start this week. Garcia remains in search of his first title at any of the four World Golf Championships events. With seven, Garcia has the second-most top-10 finishes in the WGC-Mexico Championship, trailing only Tiger Woods (12).

Pat Perez (T8) celebrated his 42nd birthday with a 3-under 68 in the opening round. Perez's three PGA TOUR titles include the 2017 OHL Classic at Mayakoba in Playa del Carmen.

Mexico's Abraham Ancer was 3-over through seven holes but rallied to card an even-par 71 in the opening round to sit T32. Ancer secured his exemption into the Mexico Championship by finishing as the top-ranked Mexican player in the world (No. 255) as of February 19, 2018.

For his fourth consecutive start on the PGA TOUR, Jordan Spieth (T23) opened with a round in the 70s (70/WGC-Mexico Championship, 71/Genesis Open, 72/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, 72/Waste Management Phoenix Open).

Justin Thomas (T39), the reigning FedExCup champion, opened with a 1-over 72, snapping a streak of 12 consecutive opening rounds of par-or-better on the PGA TOUR. The last time Thomas began a tournament with an over-par round was the 2017 PGA Championship (3-over 73) which he went on to win.

Phil Mickelson (T13), at 47, the oldest player in the field this week, opened with a 2-under 69. Ernie Els, aged 40 years, 4 months, 25 days in 2010, is the oldest winner of the Mexico Championship. This is Phil Mickelson's 16th start in the Mexico Championship, where he owns two other top-five finishes to go along with his victory in 2009.

Bubba Watson (T13) reached 7-under before coming back to the field. Watson came off a win at the 2018 Genesis Open to move from No. 117 to No. 40 in the Official World Golf Ranking to earn a spot

in the field at Chapultepec this week. Watson, making his 280th career start on the PGA TOUR, has 10 PGA TOUR victories, including two Masters Tournament wins (2012, 2014) and the 2014 WGC-HSBC Champions. Watson, runner-up at this event in 2016, owns three second-place finishes in the last six years at the Mexico Championship (2/2016, T2/2014, 2/2012). He shares the tournament record 18-hole score of 62 with Retief Goosen (2002), Sergio Garcia (2002) and J.B. Holmes (2015). Watson recorded a 62 in the 2012 tournament.

Nine players have a chance to overtake the No. 1 position in the FedExCup standings this week. They are Patton Kizzire, Dustin Johnson, Jon Rahm, Brendan Steele, Tony Finau, Chez Reavie, Pat Perez, Gary Woodland and Patrick Cantlay.

Since the FedExCup's 2007 inception, the winner of the WGC-Mexico Championship has made it all the way to the TOUR Championship all but once, with Geoff Ogilvy missing the 30-player event in 2008 after victory at Doral. The WGC-Mexico Championship also has the longest current streak of past champions advancing to the TOUR Championship with nine, tied with the Sentry Tournament of Champions and the Valspar Championship.

There are four past champions of the WGC-Mexico Championship in the field this week:

Player (year won)	R1 Standing
Dustin Johnson (2017, 2015)	T13
Patrick Reed (2014)	T39
Justin Rose (2012)	T32
Phil Mickelson (2009)	T13

Nineteen countries are represented at the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship this week with the United States leading the way with 26 players in the field.

Sixteen of 18 Mexico Championships have been decided by two strokes or less, including the last seven.

There are 21 players making their first start in the WGC-Mexico Championship: Abraham Ancer, Adam Bland, Dean Burmester, Jorge Campillo, Patrick Cantlay, Paul Dunne, Tony Finau, Dylan Frittelli, Gavin Kyle Green, Adam Hadwin, Brian Harman, Chan Kim, Patton Kizzire, Satoshi Kodaira, Haotong Li, Yusaku Miyazato, Wade Ormsby, Chris Paisley, Xander Schauffele, Shubhankar Sharma and Peter Uihlein.

Of the 21 first-timers, six players, each from a different country, are making their World Golf Championships debut this week: Abraham Ancer (Mexico), Jorge Campillo (Spain), Dylan Frittelli (South Africa), Wade Ormsby (Australia), Chris Paisley (England) and Shubhankar Sharma (India).

Seven players have made a World Golf Championships event their first PGA TOUR win:

- Darren Clarke – 2000 Dell Match Play
- Craig Parry – 2002 Bridgestone Invitational
- Kevin Sutherland – 2002 Dell Match Play
- Henrik Stenson – 2007 Dell Match Play
- Ian Poulter – 2010 Dell Match Play
- Shane Lowry – 2015 Bridgestone Invitational
- Russell Knox – 2015 HSBC Champions

The World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship is the second PGA TOUR event staged in Mexico during the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season. Patton Kizzire won the 2017 OHL Classic at Mayakoba in November for his first PGA TOUR victory. Kizzire recorded a second victory this season at the 2018 Sony Open in Hawaii. Kizzire is in the field this week in Mexico City by virtue of being inside the top 10 in the FedExCup standings through last week's The Honda Classic. Kizzire sits T13 after an opening-round 69. Rickie Fowler, who finished runner-up to Patton Kizzire in Playa del Carmen earlier this season, sits T8 following a 3-under 68.

Chan Kim, a former Arizona State collegiate golfer with three wins on the Japan Golf Tour in 2017, withdrew with a wrist injury before the start of the first round. Kim will receive last-place unofficial money

that he must designate to a charity. Brooks Koepka and Hideki Matsuyama – both eligible, but injured and unable to compete, will also receive last-place unofficial money which they must designate to a charity.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Louis Oosthuizen (64), Xander Schauffele (65), Shubhankar Sharma (65), Rafa Cabrera Bello (66).

Scoring Average

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative	
R1	35.203	35.547	70.750	-	-

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