



Classic



CHAMPIONS

Mitsubishi Electric Classic

TPC Sugarloaf | Duluth, Georgia | April 13-15, 2018

Media Contacts

Jackie Servais, jackieservais@pgatourhq.com, 303-249-6439

Maureen Radzavicz, maureenradzavicz@pgatourhq.com, 607-273-3301

Chris Richards, chrisrichards@pgatourhq.com, 678-644-4258

Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** TPC Sugarloaf (Par 72, 7,259 yards)
- **Designed by:** Greg Norman (1997)
- **Purse:** \$1,800,000 (Winner: \$270,000)
- **Golf Channel Coverage (all times ET):** Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 3-6 p.m.
- **Social Media:** Twitter (@MEClassicGolf), Instagram (@Mitsubishielectricclassic), [Facebook](#)

Field Overview (as of 4/10/18)

PGA TOUR Champions continues its southern swing for the sixth consecutive year at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, held at TPC Sugarloaf. The 78-player field includes all five past champions, 31 of the top 36 players in the current Charles Schwab Cup standings and 10 members from the World Golf Hall of Fame, including inaugural Mitsubishi Electric Classic winner Bernhard Langer. The seventh tournament of the year will include four 2018 champions: Jerry Kelly, Mark Calcavecchia, Joe Durant and Vijay Singh.

- 31 of the top 36 players in the current Charles Schwab Cup standings
- 10 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
- 52 PGA TOUR winners with 341 total career victories
- 45 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 219 total career victories
- 17 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 18 with a PGA TOUR major

2017 Recap: Ames Finds First PGA TOUR Champions Victory

Stephen Ames claimed his first PGA TOUR Champions title and became the third Canadian to win on Tour with a four-stroke victory over Bernhard Langer. Leading after 36 holes, Ames protected his one-stroke lead by birdieing the first hole, following with birdies on Nos. 3 and 6, and with a chip-in on No. 7 moved to 13-under, two strokes better than any other player at any point on Sunday. He went on to card a final-round 66 for an 11-under-par 211 total. The victory came in his 49th start on Tour and at the time made him the 11th player to have wins on the Web.com Tour, PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions.

Tournament Storylines

Seven Travel from Augusta

Seven PGA TOUR Champions players – Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Larry Mize, Mark O’Meara, Jose Maria Olazabal, Vijay Singh and Ian Woosnam – will travel west from Augusta to compete in Duluth at the 2018 Mitsubishi Electric Classic.

Entering the weekend at the Masters, three players remained in the running for the Green Jacket, led by **Vijay Singh** at T23. Singh opened his 25th start at the Masters with a 1-under-par 71 including birdies at Nos. 1, 4 and 11. The 2000 Masters Champion led for most of the front nine and was only one shot off the pace before a three-putt bogey from the back fringe at No. 18. This marked his best score at Augusta National since a 71 in the final round in 2015. Singh finished with a 7-over-par 295 for 49th place. **Bernhard Langer** (74-74-71-72) and **Fred Couples** (72-74-73-72) shared a similar week at Augusta National, and after being paired together in the final round, finished 3-over-par in a tie for 38th place. This weekend marked Couples’ 30th cut made at the Masters and Langer’s 25th.

Ames Aiming for a Repeat

Of his three appearances made at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, **Stephen Ames** has found a finish in the top five twice, with his most notable coming with his first win on PGA TOUR Champions last season. Over his last eight rounds at TPC Sugarloaf, he owns a 69.38 scoring average with one eagle and 36 birdies.

This year, Ames has posted three top-20 finishes over five events, with his highest coming at the Toshiba Classic where he carded a 5-under-par 208 for a tie for 12th. He is currently ranked No. 37 on the Charles Schwab Cup money list.

Watson Wants the Mitsubishi Electric Classic

Last week, 68-year-old **Tom Watson** became the oldest player in Masters history to win the Par 3 Contest after posting a six-under 21. On Wednesday, he became just the third Green Jacket owner to win the Par 3 Contest twice, joining PGA TOUR Champions players Sandy Lyle and Sam Snead.

The Mitsubishi Electric Classic will mark Watson’s 200th start on PGA TOUR Champions and his third of the year. Watson has shot his age or better on PGA TOUR Champions eight times with two coming in his two appearances (Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai and Toshiba Classic) made this season. Over his Champions Tour career, Watson has recorded 14 victories, 23 runner-up finishes and 99 top-10s.

Hot’Lanta

The PGA TOUR held regular season events in Atlanta from 1966 until 2008, the last year of the AT&T Classic. The field includes 10 players that won PGA TOUR-sanctioned events in Atlanta, though Scott McCarron is the only player to have won an event at the TPC Sugarloaf course (1997-2008).

- Larry Nelson (1980 Atlanta Classic, 1981 PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club, 1988 Georgia-Pacific Atlanta Golf Classic)
- Tom Watson (1981 Atlanta Classic)
- Tom Kite (1984 & 1992 Atlantic Classic)
- Bob Tway (1986 Georgia-Pacific Atlanta Golf Classic)
- John Daly (1994 BellSouth Classic)
- Mark Calcavecchia (1995 BellSouth Classic)
- Scott McCarron (1997 BellSouth Classic, 2001 BellSouth Classic)
- David Toms (2001 PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club)
- Bart Bryant (2001 TOUR Championship at East Lake)
- Vijay Singh (2002 TOUR Championship at East Lake)

Homecoming

Seven players in the field reside in the state of Georgia. It’s a true home game for Duluth resident **Scott Dunlap**, while

Larry Nelson lives in Marietta and **Billy Andrade** lives in Atlanta. The other three Georgians in the field also went to college in the state, as **Gene Sauers** (Savannah) went to Georgia Southern, **Larry Mize** (Columbus) and **Charlie Rymer** (Orlando) went to Georgia Tech, and **Scott Parel** (Augusta) went to Georgia.

Notable Players

- **Bernhard Langer** – In five previous starts at this tournament, Langer has one win (2013), three runner-ups (2014, 2015, 2017) and a tie for 11th (2016). Most recently, Langer rebounded from the two worst finishes of his career to record a final round 6-under 66 to tie for 8th at the Rapiscan Systems Classic.
- **Billy Andrade** – Over six starts this season, Andrade has recorded five rounds in the top 25, with three coming in the top 10. His best finish since the 2016 Principal Charity Classic came most recently at the Rapiscan Systems Classic, where he carded a 3-under 69 in the final round to finish runner-up, three strokes behind winner Steve Stricker.
- **Miguel Angel Jimenez** – In four past appearances at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, Jimenez has finished the top 10 each time. His best came in 2014 where he claimed his first victory on PGA TOUR Champions. This season, he has two top-10 finishes across five events played.
- **Colin Montgomerie** – Over three starts at this tournament, Montgomerie has finished in the top 10 each time, carding at least 5-under-par. He began the 2018 season with a runner-up finish at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai followed by two top-20 finishes.

By the Numbers: TPC Sugarloaf

The field average has been over par in three of five tournaments at TPC Sugarloaf. Last year was just the second time the average has been under par (71.396), but the course still ranked as the fifth-hardest among non-majors in 2017.

- **Easiest Hole (2017):** The 310-yard par-4 13th hole played to a 3.587 average, yielding 3 eagles and 104 birdies.
- **Hardest Hole (2017):** The 453-yard par-4 ninth hole played to a 4.281 average, yielding just 18 birdies. In 2017, it ranked 18th hardest across all holes on Tour.

	R1	R2	R3	Total
2017	71.481	71.436	71.269	71.396
2016	73.272	72.123	72.358	72.583
2015	72.173	71.763	-	71.969
2014	73.747	72.671	71.228	72.549
2013	73.800	73.821	73.533	73.721

Past Champions in the Field

All five past champions will return to this week's field, including 2016 Mitsubishi Electric Classic champion, Woody Austin. He entered the final round tied for 16th and four shots behind 36-hole leader Wes Short Jr. On Sunday, he went on to card a bogey-free 64, tying the tournament record. Short matched his score and the two entered a two-hole playoff before Austin parred for the title.

Year	Champion	Total	To Par
2017	Stephen Ames	201	-11
2016	Woody Austin	205	-11
2015	Olin Browne	132	-12
2014	Miguel Angel Jimenez	202	-14
2013	Bernhard Langer	206	-10

PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Season Overview

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older, including 35 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour's mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. In 2018, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 27 tournaments across the United States, Scotland and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$56 million. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long champion. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air in excess of 190 countries and territories, reaching more than 330 million potential households. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at PGATOUR.com, at facebook.com/PGATOURChampions, on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs

In 2017, Kevin Sutherland became just the third player to win the Charles Schwab Cup Championship and the Charles Schwab Cup in the same season. His breakthrough win at the season-ending event was the first of his PGA TOUR Champions career, and it was enough for him to surpass Bernhard Langer, who had won the Charles Schwab Cup the previous three years.

The third edition of the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will begin with 72 players at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Oct. 15-21). The top 54 will advance to the following week's PowerShares QQQ Championship, and the season will conclude with the top 36 players at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Nov. 5-11).

The 2018 Rookie Class

For players to become eligible to compete for PGA TOUR Champions events they must turn 50 years of age by the first competition round. If a player plays less than six tournaments in his first season of eligibility, he is considered a rookie the following season. Newcomers for 2018 with at least one PGA TOUR win include:

- Brent Geiberger (May 22)
- Robert Gamez (July 21)
- Dudley Hart (August 4)
- Darren Clarke (August 14)
- Chris DiMarco (August 23)

Upcoming rookie classes include:

- 2019 – Retief Goosen (February 3), Angel Cabrera (September 12), Ernie Els (October 17)
- 2020 – Jim Furyk (May 12), Mike Weir (May 12), K.J. Choi (May 19), Phil Mickelson (June 16)

PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Schedule

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Jerry Kelly birdied the 18th hole in the final round to turn a one-shot deficit into a one-shot victory over Colin Montgomerie. Leading by one on No. 18, Montgomerie found the fairway bunker off the tee and missed the green with his approach. After Kelly made his 18-foot birdie putt, Montgomerie had a chance to force a playoff, but his six-foot par putt slid by the hole.
2. **Boca Raton Championship:** Mark Calcavecchia captured his fourth PGA TOUR Champions title in wire-to-wire fashion, finishing two shots better than Bernhard Langer. Langer, who trailed by as many as four on Sunday, evened the score at 16-under with two holes to play, but he bogeyed the last two holes and finished second. The win was Calcavecchia's first since the 2015 Principal Charity Classic.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Over the last six holes at the Chubb Classic, Joe Durant and Steve Stricker traded two two-shot swings and one three-shot swing. In the end, it was Durant's birdie-birdie finish that produced a 19-under total and four-shot victory, the third of his PGA TOUR Champions career and first since the 2016 3M Championship.
4. **ColoGuard Classic:** One year after bogeying No. 18 and finishing runner-up in his PGA TOUR Champions debut, Steve Stricker parred the closing hole en route to a 14-under total and two-stroke victory. It was his first win in his eighth start on Tour, and it was his first victory since the 2012 Sentry Tournament of Champions.
5. **Toshiba Classic:** As many as six players shared the lead Sunday, and Vijay Singh was the last man standing as his five back-nine birdies helped him post an 11-under total and a one-shot victory. It was his first individual win since the Dell Technologies Championship on September 1, 2008, and he had played 237 individual tournaments since that triumph. Singh is the first FedExCup champion (2008) to win on PGA TOUR Champions.
6. **Rapiscan Systems Classic:** For the first time, Steve Stricker claimed consecutive titles on PGA TOUR Champions with his 11-under-par effort at the Rapiscan Systems Classic. Stricker held a one-stroke lead through the front nine on Sunday before making four back-nine birdies to secure the title. His 4-under 68 on Sunday was his 25th consecutive round of par or better (the longest active streak on Tour) and kept his stat of never carding a round over par on PGA TOUR Champions intact.
7. Mitsubishi Electric Classic
8. Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge
9. Insperity Invitational
10. Regions Tradition
11. KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship
12. Principal Charity Classic
13. American Family Insurance Championship
14. U.S. Senior Open
15. Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship
16. The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex
17. 3M Championship
18. DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
19. Boeing Classic
20. Shaw Charity Classic
21. Ally Challenge
22. The Sanford International
23. PURE Insurance Championship
24. SAS Championship
25. Dominion Energy Charity Classic
26. PowerShares QQQ Championship
27. Charles Schwab Cup Championship