



Knoxville Open

Fox Den Country Club | Knoxville, Tennessee | May 16-19, 2019

Web.com Tour Media Contact

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Quick Facts

Golf Course: Fox Den Country Club (Par 71 / 7,088 yards)

Course Designer: William Byrd (1969)

Purse: \$550,000 (Winner: \$99,000)

2018 Winner: Stephan Jaeger

Field Overview (as of May 14)

- 45 Web.com Tour winners with 63 career victories
- 11 PGA TOUR winners with 21 career victories
- [Power Rankings](#)
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Tournament History

Entering its 30th year, the Knoxville Open is one of the original four tournaments from 1990 that are still on the Web.com Tour schedule. Many famous Web.com Tour alumni have played in Knoxville on their way to the PGA TOUR. In the inaugural event in 1990, future PGA TOUR champion Jeff Maggert won at 11-under against a field that included current Golf Channel analyst Brandel Chamblee (T5), two-time major champion John Daly (T31) and 2006 PLAYERS Champion Stephen Ames (T57). Other notables to compete over the years include 13-time PGA TOUR champion David Toms (1990, 1995), two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson (2005), former U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover (2002, 2003) and former PGA Championship winner Jimmy Walker (2003, 2004, 2007).

Winning scores have fluctuated between 26-under (2016) and 9-under (1994) since moving to Fox Den Country Club in 1999. Last year Stephan Jaeger topped future Web.com Tour Player of the Year Sungjae Im by three strokes at 16-under 268. The 36-hole cut came at 1-under last year but came at 3-under and 5-under in 2017 and 2016, respectively. The par-71 course ranked as the 10th-toughest course on Tour last year with a 70.883 scoring average.

Local Players

Several players with local ties will compete at Fox Den Country Club. Wes Roach, a Knoxville resident and Duke University alum, will return to Fox Den after a T4 finish last year. Another local, East Tennessee State University alum Eric Axley, will compete in his hometown event for the ninth time. Former University of Tennessee star Rick Lamb will also compete for the fourth time. The 28-year-old finished T3 in 2016 on his way to earning his PGA TOUR card.

Past Champions

Throughout the tournament's extensive history, many players have won the Knoxville Open and gone on to reach success at the PGA TOUR level. Twelve of the 29 champions have gone on to win on the PGA TOUR with 29 total victories between them. Jeff Maggert (1990), Heath Slocum (2001) and Chris Kirk (2010) lead the way with four PGA TOUR victories apiece. Darron Stiles (2002, 2012) and Hunter Haas (2004, 2006) are the only two-time champions of the event, while J.J. Spaun (2016) holds the tournament record at 26-under.

Year	Champion	Scores	To Par	Margin
2018	Stephan Jaeger	66-72-64-64 — 268	-16	3
2017	Talor Gooch	66-67-68-65 — 266	-18	1
2016	J.J. Spaun	66-62-63-68 — 258	-26	1
2015	Patton Kizzire	68-68-64-64 — 264	-20	4
2014	Martin Piller	65-67-67-63 — 262	-22	2
2013	Peter Malnati	70-67-66-65 — 268	-16	1
2012	Darron Stiles	67-66-66-67 — 266	-18	1
2011	Kirk Triplett	67-64-68-68 — 267	-21	2
2010	Chris Kirk	68-70-63-67 — 268	-20	2
2009	Kevin Johnson*	67-65-68-68 — 268	-20	Playoff
2008	Jarrold Lyle*	66-67-67-69 — 269	-19	Playoff
2007	Chez Reavie	68-70-65-68 — 271	-17	3
2006	Hunter Haas	67-66-67-69 — 269	-19	5
2005	Kim Felton	71-70-67-69 — 277	-11	1
2004	Hunter Haas*	71-68-67-69 — 275	-13	Playoff
2003	Vaughn Taylor*	68-69-67-64 — 268	-20	Playoff
2002	Darron Stiles	71-69-64-68 — 272	-16	1
2001	Heath Slocum	64-68-65-68 — 265	-23	6
2000	J.J. Henry	67-67-66-73 — 273	-15	1
1999	Jeff Gove	68-66-66-70 — 270	-11	1
1998	Robin Freeman*	73-65-67-69 — 274	-18	Playoff
1997	Dave Rummells	65-70-70-66 — 271	-17	2
1996	Eric Johnson	68-66-69-69 — 272	-16	2
1995	Tom Scherrer*	71-69-68-67 — 275	-13	Playoff
1994	Vic Wilk	70-71-68-66 — 275	-9	1
1993	Tim Conley	65-63-66-67 — 261	-23	7
1992	Brian Henninger	70-67-63 — 200	-13	2
1991	Frank Conner	63-68-67 — 198	-15	1
1990	Jeff Maggert*	70-66-66 — 202	-11	Playoff

*Playoff Victory

By the Numbers: Fox Den Country Club

Hardest hole (2018): No. 1 (par 4, 499 yards) – 4.244 average, 91 bogeys, 28 double bogeys or worse

Easiest hole (2018): No. 10 (par 5, 561 yards) – 4.460 average, 19 eagles, 233 birdies

Tournament Record (72 holes): 258 (-26), 2016 – J.J. Spaun

Top Five to Watch

- **Michael Gellerman** – Gellerman is coming off the first Web.com Tour win of his career and posted back-to-back top-30 finishes before last week's breakthrough. He jumped to eighth in the Web.com Tour points list with 626 points.
- **Doug Ghim** – Despite missing his last two cuts on the Web.com Tour, Ghim finished T12 at the PGA TOUR's AT&T Byron Nelson last week. Ghim has four top-20 finishes this year across the Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR.
- **Henrik Norlander** – Norlander is coming off back-to-back top-five finishes on the Web.com Tour and finished T12 in Knoxville last May.

- **Talor Gooch** – Gooch is coming off a thumb/hand injury that has kept him sidelined since the 2019 PLAYERS Championship, but will make a start at a tournament he is very comfortable with this week. Gooch won the 2017 Knoxville Open at 18-under.
- **Derek Ernst** – Though Ernst has struggled to just three made cuts this season, he returns to Fox Den where he finished T4 last year.

Chase for The 25

A new points system has been put in place to replace the Regular Season money list as the way to earn one of the 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded at the end of the Regular Season in Portland. At the conclusion of the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz, the top-25 point earners will earn their PGA TOUR cards. Additionally, the top-75 players in Web.com Tour points (plus ties) will be eligible to play in the Web.com Tour Finals.

Rank	Name	Points
1.	Xinjun Zhang	1,230
2.	Robby Shelton	1,058
3.	Scottie Scheffler	1,015
4.	Lanto Griffin	899
5.	Tyler McCumber	643

Season Recap

1. *The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay* – Zecheng “Marty” Dou hit a 50-foot birdie putt on the final hole to slam the door on a potential playoff and earn the first title of the 2019 season. It was the 21-year-old’s first win in nearly a year and a half, and second overall, by two strokes over Steve LeBrun and Ben Kohles. Dou was using a caddie he had met six days prior and a different driver after cracking his early in the week.
2. *The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club* – Rafael Campos earned his first career Web.com Tour victory battling windy conditions all week. Campos used a final-round 70 to hold off rookies Vincent Whaley and Paul Imondi who finished in second and third. Players battled the weather all week as gusts of winds hit 38 miles per hour during the final round.
3. *Country Club de Bogotá Championship* – Mark Anderson captured the Country Club de Bogotá Championship for his second-career Web.com Tour victory and first title in nearly six years. Anderson held a two-stroke lead entering the final round and ran away from the field with a Sunday 67 to finish at 17-under. This year marked the first time that both the Fundadores and Pacos y Fabios courses were played in the event.
4. *Panamá Championship* – Canadian Michael Gligic carded a final-round 5-under 65 to come from behind for his first Web.com Tour victory. Gligic began the final round T7 and three strokes off the lead, but three straight birdies on Nos. 9-11 vaulted him up the leaderboard before adding birdies at the 14th and 16th to clinch the one-stroke win at 8-under for the week in windy conditions.
5. *LECOM Suncoast Classic* – Mark Hubbard converted a 54-hole lead to win the LECOM Suncoast Classic by two strokes at 26-under 262. Hubbard carded four rounds in the 60s – including a final-round 67 – to outlast Maverick McNealy. The 29-year-old made five birdies on the front nine to make the turn at 5-under 31 during the final round and open an insurmountable lead.
6. *Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS* – Vince Covello birdied the final hole in regulation and the third playoff hole to earn his first Web.com Tour title at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS. Covello topped 54-hole leader Justin Lower in the playoff with a birdie after both players made pars on the first two holes.
7. *Savannah Golf Championship* – Dan McCarthy, a 33-year-old Le Moyne College graduate, held off a late charge from Scottie Scheffler to win the second-annual Savannah Golf Championship. McCarthy built a three-stroke lead at one point on the back nine, but needed to sink a short par putt at the 18th to win by one.
8. *Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship* – Trailing by a stroke on the 72nd hole of the tournament, Lanto Griffin stuck his approach to five feet before converting a tying birdie and reach a playoff with Robby Shelton at 15-under 273. After both players made pars on the first three holes of the playoff (18-18-9), Griffin stuck it to two feet for a tap-in birdie and his second career Web.com Tour title.

9. *Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch* – Xinjun Zhang dominated the field to earn his first Web.com Tour title at Briggs Ranch Golf by five strokes. The former PGA TOUR member used rounds of 63-64-65-70 to finish 26-under 262 for the week. Zhang led or co-led after every round of the tournament and became the first player of the season to mathematically guarantee a PGA TOUR card next season.
10. *Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation* – Two weeks after falling in a playoff at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship, Robby Shelton won with a birdie in a one-hole playoff over Scottie Scheffler to win his first Web.com Tour title. With the win, Shelton jumped to second in the Web.com Tour points list and earned his first PGA TOUR card for next season.
11. *KC Golf Classic* – Michael Gellerman outlast three final-round weather delays to earn his first Web.com Tour title with an 11-under total at Blue Hills Country Club. Gellerman posted a bogey-free 69 during the final round to top Nelson Ledesma and Harry Higgs by one stroke.

About the Web.com Tour

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Web.com Tour continues to identify those players who are ready to compete and win on golf's biggest stage. Web.com became the Tour's umbrella sponsor on June 27, 2012, with a 10-year agreement in place through 2021. In 2013, the Web.com Tour became The Path to the PGA TOUR with all 50 available PGA TOUR cards coming through the Web.com Tour and the season culminating at the three-event Web.com Tour Finals. This season marks the 30th year of competition on the Web.com Tour. Three out of four PGA TOUR members are Web.com Tour alumni. Tour alumni have won more than 500 PGA TOUR titles, including 23 major championships and eight PLAYERS Championships. To learn more about the PGA TOUR, the Web.com Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit PGATOUR.COM, or follow the Tour on social media via Twitter ([@WebDotComTour](https://twitter.com/WebDotComTour)), Facebook (facebook.com/WebDotComTour) and Instagram (Instagram.com/WebDotComTour).