



REX Hospital Open

The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation | Raleigh, North Carolina | May 30 – June 2, 2019

Web.com Tour Media Contact

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Quick Facts

Golf Course: The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation (Par 71, 7,257 yards)

Course Designer: Hale Irwin (2000)

Purse: \$650,000 (Winner: \$117,000 / 500 points)

Field Overview (as of May 28)

- 54 Web.com Tour winners with 77 victories
- 10 PGA TOUR winners with 15 victories
- [Power Rankings](#)
- [Inside the Field](#)
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Tournament History

This year will mark the 26th playing of the REX Hospital Open and the 19th consecutive year at The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation. Skip Kendall took home the inaugural title in 1994, holding off 2001 Open Championship winner David Duval. Many notable Web.com Tour alumni have competed in Raleigh including Bubba Watson, Jason Dufner, Matt Kuchar, Brandt Snedeker, Lucas Glover and Stewart Cink. In 2013, Raleigh native Chesson Hadley took home the title against a field that included current PGA TOUR members Kevin Kisner, Danny Lee, Hudson Swafford, Sung Kang, Sam Saunders and Jamie Lovemark. In 2017, Hadley finished solo-second in Raleigh and secured his return to the PGA TOUR. Last season, Joey Garber took home his first Web.com Tour title with an 18-under 266 total. Over 25 seasons, the event has been decided by a playoff seven times.

Past Champions

Many players who have won the REX Hospital Open have gone on to experience success on the PGA TOUR. Five of the 25 winners have claimed PGA TOUR titles. James Hahn (2012) leads the way with two PGA TOUR wins, while Chesson Hadley (2013), Eric Axley (2005), Mark Hensby (2000) and Brian Bateman (1998) have all earned one victory on TOUR. Each of the past three seasons, the winner of the REX Hospital Open has gone on to secure their PGA TOUR card. Kyle Thompson, who won the event in 2007, 2011 and 2015, is the only player to win in Raleigh multiple times. Although Thompson has retired from professional golf, he'll make his first start of the year this week in search of a fourth title. Last year, Joey Garber overcame a three-stroke deficit to top current PGA TOUR members Hank Lebioda and Scott Langley. Garber went on to earn his PGA TOUR card and finished T10 at the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open earlier this year.

Year	Champion	Scores	To Par	Margin
2018	Joey Garber	66-65-69-66 – 266	-18	1
2017	Conrad Shindler*	68-69-65-67 – 269	-15	Playoff
2016	Trey Mullinax	68-67-67-68 – 270	-14	2

2015	Kyle Thompson*	63-68-69-67 – 267	-17	Playoff
2014	Byron Smith	70-69-63-66 – 268	-16	4
2013	Chesson Hadley	63-69-69-64 – 265	-19	2
2012	James Hahn*	67-68-69-67 – 271	-13	Playoff
2011	Kyle Thompson	68-66-68-68 – 270	-14	1
2010	John Riegger	66-64-63 – 193	-20	5
2009	Kevin Johnson*	65-69-65-67 – 266	-18	Playoff
2008	Scott Gutschewski	67-69-68-66 – 270	-14	2
2007	Kyle Thompson	64-65-69-70 – 268	-16	2
2006	Brenden Pappas	66-68-65-69 – 268	-16	1
2005	Eric Axley	69-67-67-67 – 270	-14	2
2004	Chris Anderson*	67-70-66-68 – 271	-13	Playoff
2003	David Morland IV	66-68-66-68 – 268	-16	1
2002	Zoran Zorkic	70-67-66-71 – 274	-10	1
2001	John Maginnes	68-65-66-70 – 269	-15	2
2000	Mark Hensby*	64-68-68-66 – 266	-18	Playoff
1999	Vance Veazey	68-67-67-67 – 269	-15	1
1998	Brian Bateman	68-66-67-65 – 266	-18	1
1997	Ahmad Bateman	70-69-75-70 – 284	-4	1
1996	Glen Hnatiuk*	71-70-64 – 205	-11	Playoff
1995	Michael Christie	68-66-66-66 – 266	-22	2
1994	Skip Kendall	65-72-70-69 – 276	-12	2

*Playoff Victory

Local Players in the Field

Several players with North Carolina ties are in the field this week. Raleigh natives Albin Choi and Cameron Percy will each compete in their hometown event. Joining them will be North Carolina residents Trevor Cone (Concord), Brad Fritsch (Holly Springs), Ben Kohles (Cary), Andrew Novak (Mt. Pleasant) and Kyle Reifers (Charlotte). Local college standouts Stephen Franken and Ben Griffin will be in the field this week after being awarded sponsor exemptions. Franken, who grew up in Raleigh, was a star at North Carolina State University and earned ACC Player of the Year honors as a junior. The REX Hospital Open will mark Franken's Web.com Tour debut. Former University of North Carolina standout Ben Griffin, who grew up down the road in Chapel Hill, earned his first professional victory last season at the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada's Staal Foundation Open presented by tbaytel. So far this season, Griffin has made two Web.com Tour starts at the LECOM Suncoast Classic and Knoxville Open. Raleigh native Grayson Murray will also be competing this week. Murray, who has played on the PGA TOUR since 2016, will make his fourth appearance at The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation. The Arizona State University product finished T10 in Raleigh during the 2016 season en route to earning his PGA TOUR card.

Course History

Since moving to The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation in 2001, winning scores have ranged from 10-under (2002) to 20-under (2010). The course typically varies in difficulty year-over-year, and in 2018, the par-71 layout ranked as the 21st most difficult course on the Web.com Tour with a scoring average of 69.706. In 2002 and 2016, the course ranked as the fourth hardest track on Tour. The 7,257-yard design features fairways framed by towering pine trees and numerous creeks that add to the course's strategic diversity.

By the Numbers: The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation

Hardest hole (2018): No. 17 (par 4, 480 yards) – 4.176 average, 89 bogeys, 24 double bogeys or worse

Easiest hole (2018): No. 4 (par 5, 587 yards) – 4.413 average, 15 eagles, 270 birdies

Tournament Record (18 holes): 60 (-11), 1998 – Jimmy Green – First Round

Tournament Record (72 holes): 265 (-19), 2013 – Chesson Hadley

Top Five to Watch

- **Scottie Scheffler** – The Web.com Tour rookie claimed his first win last week at the inaugural Evans Scholars Invitational. Scheffler is now No. 2 in The 25 and has seven top-10s this season.
- **Luke Guthrie** – The University of Illinois product earned his best result of the season with a T4 at the Evans Scholars Invitational and has two top-10s in his last three starts.
- **Lanto Griffin** – Griffin enters the week ranked No. 4 in The 25 and has not finished outside the top-25 since his win in at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship.
- **Jimmy Stanger** – Stanger rallied on Sunday to earn a T6 finish at the Evans Scholars Invitational. The former University of Virginia star is now ranked No. 17 in The 25.
- **Doug Ghim** – Ghim returns to action after missing the cut at the PGA TOUR’s Charles Schwab Challenge last week. The former University of Texas star is looking for a good week as he is currently ranked No. 53 in The 25.

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 points 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.	Robby Shelton	1,558
2.	Scottie Scheffler	1,515
3.	Xinjun Zhang	1,375
4.	Lanto Griffin	982
5.	Mark Anderson	931

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 opened 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 year 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 outlasted 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.
12. *Knoxville Open* – For the second time in three weeks, Robby Shelton came out on top in the state of Tennessee, as the 23-year-old posted a final-round 71 to claim the Knoxville Open title with a 15-under total. Shelton edged out Mark Anderson who finished in solo-second at 14-under.
13. *Evans Scholars Invitational* – Scottie Scheffler rallied from a six-shot deficit to claim his first Web.com Tour title at the Evans Scholars Invitational. Scheffler posted a final-round 9-under 63 to force a playoff and drained a 15-foot birdie putt on the second extra hole to capture his first professional win.

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).