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2019 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship - Tournament Notes

Dates: March 25-31, 2019

Where: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Course: Puntacana Resort & Club (Corales Course)

Par/Yards: 72/7,668

Designer: Tom Fazio/2010

Field: 132 players

2018 champion: Brice Garnett

Purse: \$3,000,000 (\$540,000/winner)

FedExCup: 300 points to the winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play competition with 36-hole cut.

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Glance at the Field

- Five major champions: (David Duval, Trevor Immelman, Davis Love III, Graeme McDowell, Charl Schwartzel)
- Players in the field with the most PGA TOUR wins; Davis Love III (21), David Duval (13), Hunter Mahan (6), Rory Sabbatini (6), Jonathan Byrd (5), Ben Crane (5)
- 55 PGA TOUR winners with a combined 149 TOUR titles
- 38 players who have won on foreign Tours, led by Charl Schwartzel (13 wins)
- With the top 64 players decided a week ago for the World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play, the highest-ranked player in the Official World Golf Ranking scheduled to compete in Punta Cana is Sungjae Im, who moved from No. 72 to No. 59 after his T4 finish at last week's Valspar Championship

A look back at 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship

- After opening with a 9-under 63, Brice Garnett went wire-to-wire to claim his first career PGA TOUR victory. Garnett's maiden win came in his 88th start at the age of 34 years, 6 months, 19 days. En route to victory, Garnett played the front nine in 14-under and the back nine in 5-under. He led the field in birdies with 23.

| Position | Player | Results |
|----------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Brice Garnett | 63-68-69-70—270 (-18) |
| 2 | Keith Mitchell | 66-66-75-67—274 (-14) |
| 3 | Kelly Kraft | 68-69-71-67—275 (-13) |
| 4 | Denny McCarthy | 66-69-71-70—276 (-12) |

More on Brice Garnett

- Making 120th career start on PGA TOUR in his fifth full season
- Finished No. 61 in FedExCup following his win in Punta Cana, his best season on TOUR
- Brandt Snedeker (Wyndham Championship) joined him as only wire-to-wire winners last season
- Best results since victory are T4 at 2018 Zurich Classic of New Orleans (teamed with Chesson Hadley) and fifth at 2018 Mayakoba Golf Classic

The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship and the FedExCup

- The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship is the 23rd event in the PGA TOUR's 2018-19 Season with 46 official events. Players vie to become the FedExCup champion and, new in 2018-19, the winner of the Wyndham Rewards Top 10, which honors the top-10 players in the FedExCup standings at the end of the Regular Season.
- Of the last 12 winners of 'additional week' events that offer 300 FedExCup points to the champion, 11 have advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs. Greg Chalmers finished No. 142 in the FedExCup after his 2016 Reno-Tahoe Tournament win and failed to advance to the FedExCup Playoffs that season.

| Player | Tournament Win | FedExCup Finish |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| Peter Malnati | 2015 Sanderson Farms Championship | No. 104 |
| Tony Finau | 2016 Puerto Rico Open | No. 45 |
| Greg Chalmers | 2016 Reno-Tahoe Tournament | No. 142 |
| Aaron Baddeley | 2016 Barbasol Championship | No. 69 |
| Cody Gribble | 2016 Sanderson Farms Championship | No. 87 |
| D.A. Points | 2017 Puerto Rico Open | No. 104 |
| Grayson Murray | 2017 Barbasol Championship | No. 66 |
| Chris Stroud | 2017 Reno-Tahoe Tournament | No. 84 |
| Ryan Armour | 2017 Sanderson Farms Championship | No. 49 |
| Brice Garnett | 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Chp. | No. 61 |
| Troy Merritt | 2018 Barbasol Championship | No. 91 |
| Andrew Putnam | 2018 Reno-Tahoe Tournament | No. 33 |
| Cameron Champ | 2018 Sanderson Farms Championship | current season/No. 21 |
| Martin Trainer | 2019 Puerto Rico Open | current season/No. 61 |

Wyndham Rewards Top 10

| Rank | Player | Points | # of Wins | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | Rory McIlroy | 1,348 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | Xander Schauffele | 1,298 | 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | Matt Kuchar | 1,275 | 2 | | | | | | |
| 4 | Paul Casey | 1,193 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 5 | Charles Howell III | 1,031 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 6 | Gary Woodland | 1,026 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 7 | Dustin Johnson | 972 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 8 | Justin Thomas | 969 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 9 | Marc Leishman | 966 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 10 | Rickie Fowler | 957 | 1 | | | | | | |

Tournament Note

- There were three aces last year, each at No. 17. Argentina's Augusto Núñez used an 8-iron in the opening round. Shawn Stefani made his in the second round with a 7-iron. A few hours after Stefani's ace, Harris English also used a 7-iron to ace No. 17, marking his first ace on TOUR.

Select Player Notes

Jhonattan Vegas

- Only player from Venezuela on PGA TOUR makes first appearance at Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
- Three-time TOUR winner has advanced to FedExCup Playoffs five times in seven full seasons and reached the season-finales TOUR Championship twice (29th/2016, 23rd/2017)
- Comes in off a T3 finish at THE PLAYERS Championship where he holed a 69' 7" birdie putt on No. 17 in the final round, the longest putt recorded on the famous island-green hole (in the ShotLink era). Other top-10 result this season is T10 at Waste Management Phoenix Open
- Following a first-round 76 at The Open in 2018, recorded par-or-better in 17 consecutive opening rounds (first-round scoring average in 11 starts this season is 68.91)

Graeme McDowell

- Northern Irishman claimed 2010 U.S. Open, one of three PGA TOUR titles (2013 RBC Heritage, 2015 Mayakoba Golf Classic). Also owns 10 European Tour titles
- Makes 215th PGA TOUR start and owns 33 top-10 finishes
- Advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs five times but failed to advance the last two seasons

- Missed cut in Puntacana last year (70-76). Only cut he's missed in nine starts this season is Mayakoba Golf Classic

Sungjae Im

- South Korean is highest-ranked player in the field in the FedExCup (No. 17) and OWGR (No. 59)
- Posted T4 result at last week's Valspar Championship
- 45 of 55 rounds this season have been par-or-better
- T3 finish at last month's Arnold Palmer Invitational is his best on TOUR and earned him an exemption into The Open Championship in July
- Finished T4 at this season's Safeway Open as he sought to win his first PGA TOUR start as a full member, with his only previous PGA TOUR starts coming at the 2018 U.S. Open (MC) and 2018 PGA Championship (T42)
- Won his first start on the Web.com Tour (2018 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay) and went on to lead the money list wire-to-wire for the entire year – first person in Web.com Tour history to achieve the feat

Charl Schwartzel

- South African's two PGA TOUR titles include 2011 Masters Tournament and 2016 Valspar Championship
- Seeks to make his 150th PGA TOUR cut in his 191st career start this week in the Dominican Republic
- Lone top-10 in nine starts this season is T6 at Puerto Rico Open

Davis Love III and Dru Love

- 54-year-old Davis Love, a PGA TOUR Life Member and World Golf Hall of Fame member with 21 TOUR victories, will play his 765th PGA TOUR event at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
- Since turning 50, Davis' PGA TOUR Champions career includes five top-10s in 13 starts
- In six PGA TOUR starts this season, Davis has made five cuts with best result (7th) coming at the Sony Open in Hawaii
- Dru's 1-under 71 in the opening round of the 2017 Sanderson Farms Championship bettered the score of his father by a stroke, marking the first time that the younger Love had posted a score lower than his father when competing in the same event
- Dru will tee up in his 16th TOUR event. This week marks the 15th time the pair have competed in the same PGA TOUR event (2017 U.S. Open/Dru played while Davis didn't)
- In 15 previous starts on TOUR, Dru has made three cuts with a T30 at the 2017 Sanderson Farms Championship his best result
- Davis (71-72-72-75) finished T70 in Punta Cana last year while Dru (73-72) missed the cut

David Duval

- Former No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking, one of 23 players to hold that position
- 47-year-old won 13 PGA TOUR titles, including The Open Championship in 2001
- Full-time TV analyst and part-time player made last cut 14 starts ago at The Open in 2015 (T49)

Trevor Immelman

- 39-year-old South African won 2008 Masters Tournament two years after claiming Arnold Palmer Award as 2006 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year
- Recently named as one of Ernie Els assistant captains for 2019 Presidents Cup International Team
- Finished T59 at Puerto Rico Open in his lone start this season
- Last top-10 finish (of 22 career top-10s) on TOUR was T10 at 2014 Farmers Insurance Open (59 starts since)

David Lipsky

- 30-year-old became the first Asian Tour member to win the Omega European Masters in Switzerland after defeating Graeme Storm on the first play-off hole in 2014. Was crowned 2014 Asian Tour Order of Merit champion later that year
- Played mainly on the Web.Com Tour in 2013 before returning to Asia towards the end of the season and signed up for the Asian Tour Qualifying School
- Studied at Northwestern University in Chicago and credits former world number one Luke Donald for giving him encouragement when he won the Qualifying School
- Won second European Tour title at 2018 Alfred Dunhill Championship
- Finished T13 at last week's Maybank Championship
- Best result in 11 PGA TOUR starts is T10 at 2019 WGC-Mexico Championship

Thomas Detry

- 26-year-old was a standout at the University of Illinois with fellow Belgian Thomas Pieters
- Teamed with Pieters to win the 2018 ISPS Handa World Cup of Golf in Australia

- Made the cut in his first 10 professional events (on Challenge Tour), culminating in his win at the 2016 Bridgestone Challenge where he equaled the record for lowest under-par finish (-29), and set a record for largest margin of victory (12 strokes)
- Best result in 52 European Tour starts is T2 at 2017 BMW International Open (last two worldwide starts – T11/Qatar Masters, T55/Maybank Championship)
- Makes PGA TOUR debut at Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship

Seungsu Han

- Former UNLV Rebel golfer is also a black belt in tae kwan do. Although born in South Korea, represents the U.S.A.
- Won the 2017 Casio World Open on the Japan Golf Tour, one of seven top-five finishes that saw him finish No. 4 on the Japan Golf Tour money list
- Made five TOUR starts. First appearance resulted in a missed cut at the 2003 Travelers Championship as a 16-year-old amateur. In 2010, he finished T39 in the Barracuda Championship in Reno-Tahoe. Since his T5 at 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship to earn a spot in the Houston Open (T52) field the following week, has posted six top-10 results worldwide. Also finished T50 at 2018 PGA Championship
- Sits at No. 180 in the Official World Golf Ranking

Tony Romo

- Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and current lead analyst for the NFL ON CBS, returns to compete in the tournament as a sponsor exemption. At last year's event, shot-77-82—159 (+15) to miss the cut.
- The 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship was the first official PGA TOUR event in which he competed as an individual against PGA TOUR professionals in the same competition.
- Won the 2018 Racine Tri-Course Amateur Championship at Meadowbrook CC in Wisconsin by nine strokes with rounds of 68-71-69, the third player in the event's 57-year history to shoot three sub-par rounds
- Won the 2018 American Century Championship in his eighth appearance in the event (2007-12, 2017) after finishing runner-up three times in a row (2009-11).
- In 2010, advanced to the sectional stage of qualifying for the U.S. Open, but was forced to withdraw due to his practice schedule with the Cowboys. In 2017, he participated in the prestigious Western Amateur, where he was unable to advance to match play.
- Signed as an undrafted free agent with the Cowboys in 2003 after playing collegiately at Eastern Illinois University. Beginning his career as a holder, became the Cowboys' starting quarterback during the 2006 season. Serving as the team's primary starter from 2006 to 2015, guided the Cowboys to four postseason appearances and was named to the Pro Bowl four times. Retired after the 2016 season and immediately was hired by CBS Sports to become the lead analyst for the NFL ON CBS, teaming with Jim Nantz in the broadcast booth.
- Holds several Cowboys team records, including passing touchdowns, passing yards, most games with at least 300 passing yards and games with three or more touchdown passes.

Local Players

Juan Cayro Delgado

- Played in the Dominican Republic Open on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica as an amateur in 2016, 2017 and 2018, missing the cut each time

Julio Santos

- Only player from the Dominican Republic to make the 36-hole cut last year, posted scores of 70-72-74-76— 292 (+4) to finish T73
- 46-year-old made history in Dominican golf by participating in the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open in 2010 (MC) He's posted one top-10 in 32 career starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica

George Riley

- Started playing golf at the age of seven and was introduced to the game by his father George Riley Sr. At age 12, he qualified for the first time to play in the Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Championship, a feat that continued for the next five years
- In 2010, qualified to play in the Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships and kept doing so through 2014
- First amateur and second Dominican to play a PGA TOUR event (2011 Puerto Rico Open/MC)
- Missed cut in Puntacana last year

Hiram Silfa

- As a tennis player, won 14 Davis Cup matches, was Dominican Republic national champion three times in a row and ranked 527 in the world rankings in 1995

- As a baseball player, he was chosen best torpedo of the Sun Belt division in 1999, wearing the colors of the International University of Florida (FIU) between 1996-2000
- Ranked third in the all-time list at FIU in bases reached (338), fifth in hits (226) and the fourth in turns (749)
- Is currently the Golf Director for Puntacana Resort & Club
- Missed the cut in both PGA TOUR starts (2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, 2019 Puerto Rico Open)

Radhames Pena

- As one of the best golfers in the Dominican Republic, received an invitation to compete as an amateur in the 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, where he shot 71-82 in his PGA TOUR debut

Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship History

The Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship is the first PGA TOUR event to be held in the Dominican Republic, with Brice Garnett claiming victory in its inaugural year. Prior to 2018, the tournament had a two-year stint on the Web.com Tour schedule where the winners were Dominic Bozzelli in 2016 and Nate Lashley in 2017. Grupo Puntacana, which owns and operates Puntacana Resort & Club, serves as the host organization and the Corales course is the tournament course.

Puntacana Resort & Club Championship (Corales Course)

Puntacana Resort & Club has 45 holes of golf, including the Tom Fazio-designed Corales course, which opened in 2010. The course plays along the cliffs, bays and coves of the Caribbean Sea, with six oceanside holes, and the inland holes dotted with lakes and coralina quarries. The course features ever-changing elevations, strategic bunkering and massive, elevated greens. The last three holes play toward or along the Bay of Corales and are called the Devil's Elbow. Last year, the par-4 16th registered the third-most double bogeys or higher, the 214-yard par-3 17th relinquished three aces and the 501-yard 18th, which wraps around the water enticing players to bite off as much of a carry as they dare on the tee shot, ranked as the toughest hole.

Charity Benefit

Proceeds from the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship benefit the Grupo Puntacana Foundation, which supports programs that improve the health and wellbeing of the local communities of Punta Cana in basic areas of human development, environmental programs that protect and preserve the natural resources of the region while contributing to sustainable development and a junior golf program.

More on Grupo Puntacana

Grupo Puntacana dates to 1969 when Dominican businessman Frank R. Rainieri and Theodore W. Kheel, the late prominent New York attorney and labor mediator, created a partnership to construct a resort and real estate community that respects the natural habitat of Punta Cana while offering a world-class vacation experience. Maintaining a dedication to sustainable tourism, Puntacana Resort & Club has since grown to encompass over 26 square miles and now includes luxury boutique hotel Tortuga Bay; The Westin Puntacana Resort & Club; the Four Points by Sheraton Puntacana Village; the Six Senses Spa; newly inaugurated Oscar de la Renta Tennis Center; Puntacana Ecological Foundation; The Puntacana Foundation; five residential communities (Corales, Hacienda, Marina, Arrecife, and Tortuga); a full-service marina; eight restaurants; a shopping village; 45 holes of championship golf over two golf courses and Punta Cana International Airport, a modern facility that incorporates innovative and eco-friendly design. In 1997, Julio Iglesias and Oscar de la Renta joined the Group as co-investors and have made Puntacana Resort & Club their home. Currently, Punta Cana is the most highly visited Caribbean destination and is easily accessible from all over the globe. For more information on Puntacana Resort & Club, visit www.puntacana.com.

Golf in the Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic, a two-hour flight from Miami, is an easily accessible beach and golf paradise. For a country its size, it has an amazing number of great golf courses. There are 25 golf courses in stunning settings fashioned by top-notch designers like Jack Nicklaus, Pete Dye, Tom Fazio, Nick Price and Gary Player. On the eastern tip of the island, Punta Cana, an expansive resort complex with its own international airport and access to eight golf courses, is home to Corales Golf Club, a Tom Fazio stunner with six seaside holes. The Punta Cana International Airport provides easy access from all over the globe handling over 7.5 million passengers last year, from 28 countries and over 100 cities.

Significant changes for PGA TOUR in 2018-19

1. The new schedule – with an improved flow, from start-to-finish, will allow fans to better follow and engage in the PGA TOUR all season long. THE PLAYERS move to March and the PGA Championship move to May has created a “Season of Championships” -- with six straight months of significant events starting with THE PLAYERS, bookended by the FedExCup Playoffs in August.

2. The FedExCup Playoffs – which have been reduced from four to three events beginning this season and will conclude before Labor Day, allowing the TOUR to compete to own the August sports calendar – will feature fields of 125 for THE NORTHERN TRUST, 70 for the BMW Championship and 30 for the TOUR Championship, where the FedExCup Champion will be determined.
3. A simplified, strokes-based scoring system at the TOUR Championship that crowns a singular champion. Instead of a points reset at the TOUR Championship, the TOUR is instituting a strokes-based system related to the FedExCup standings through the BMW Championship. The scoring system virtually replicates the win probabilities of the current system but uses strokes instead of points – which is much easier for golf fans, and the casual sports fan, to understand. The leader through the first two FedExCup Playoffs events will begin the TOUR Championship at 10-under par. The next four players will start at -8 through -5, respectively. The next five will begin at -4, regressing by one stroke per five players until players 26-30 start at even par. With the implementation of this change, the player with the lowest total score including FedExCup Starting Strokes will be the FedExCup champion and be credited with an official victory in the TOUR Championship. Two constants will the drama and the crowning of a deserving champion seen over the first 12 years of the FedExCup. Using next year's scoring at the 2018 TOUR Championship, Justin Rose – thanks to a birdie on the 72nd hole -- would have captured the FedExCup by a single shot over Tiger Woods, Billy Horschel and Dustin Johnson.
4. A \$10 million Wyndham Rewards-sponsored bonus – the Wyndham Rewards Top 10 -- where players will be rewarded for their outstanding play during the Regular Season, prior to the start of the FedExCup Playoffs. The top Regular Season finisher in FedExCup points through the Wyndham Championship will earn \$2 million, followed by \$1.5 million for the runner-up with the 10th-place finisher earning \$500,000. Dustin Johnson led last year's FedExCup standings through the Wyndham Championship, just 83 points ahead of Justin Thomas.
5. Including the Wyndham Rewards Top 10, there will be a doubling of FedExCup total bonus money available to players, from \$35 million to \$70 million.