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**2019 Puerto Rico Open pre-tournament notes**

**Dates:** February 18-24, 2019

**Where:** Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

**Course:** Coco Beach Golf & Country Club

36-36—par 72/7,506 yards

**Field size:** 132

**Defending Champion:** D.A. Points

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

**FedExCup:** 300 points to the winner

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

**Things to know about the Puerto Rico Open**

- The 2019 Puerto Rico Open is the 11<sup>th</sup> playing of the event
- The tournament will be played at Coco Beach Golf & Country Club for a third time
- D.A. Points returns to defend his title
- Puerto Rico's Rafa Campos will make his 11<sup>th</sup> start in the Puerto Rico Open on the heels of his Web.com Tour victory at the Bahamas Great Abaco Classic in January
- The winner of the Puerto Rico Open receives 300 FedExCup points, a two-year exemption on the PGA TOUR and an invitational to THE PLAYERS Championship (if not previously eligible) and other select events

**Puerto Rico Open and the FedExCup**

- Nine of the 10 winners of the Puerto Rico Open have advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs the year of their win. Michael Bradley (2009 and 2011) finished No. 139 in 2009

**How D.A. Points won the 2017 Puerto Rico Open**

- Trailing by one at the start of the final round, D.A. Points birdied his first five holes and built a two-stroke lead over 54-hole leader Chris Stroud
- Followed five straight birdies with bogeys on Nos. 6, 8 and 10, but birdied four of his last six holes (Nos. 13, 14, 16 and 18) en route to a final-round 66, a 20-under-par total and a two-stroke victory
- Led the field in Greens in Regulation for the week, hitting 64 of 72 (88.89%) and tied for first in fairways hit, finding 47 of 56 (83.93%)

**Field Highlights**

- Three past Puerto Rico Open champions: D.A. Points (2017), Scott Brown (2013) and George McNeill (2012)
- Seven major championship winners (9 titles): Angel Cabrera (2007 U.S. Open, 2009 Masters), Retief Goosen (2001, 2004 U.S. Open), David Duval (2001 Open Championship), Todd Hamilton (2004 Open Championship), Trevor Immelman (2008 Masters), Graeme McDowell (2010 U.S. Open) and Charl Schwartzel (2011 Masters)
- Five players with at least five PGA TOUR titles: David Duval (13), Stuart Appleby (9), Retief Goosen (7), Jonathan Byrd (5) and Ben Crane (5).

## Players of Note

### D.A. Points

- The 2017 Puerto Rico Open winner is in search of his first top-10 of the season
- Is making his seventh start of the season

### Rafa Campos

- Puerto Rico native will make his 16<sup>th</sup> start on the PGA TOUR and first of the 2018-19 season
- Best finish on the PGA TOUR is solo-seventh at the 2017 Houston Open (which he got into after finishing T10 at the Puerto Rico Open the week before)
- Has competed in all 10 Puerto Rico Opens, with top-10s in his last two starts (T10/2017, T8/2016)
- Became the first Puerto Rican to win on the Web.com Tour in January at the Bahamas Great Abaco Classic
- Is currently No. 3 in "The 25" on the Web.com Tour. The top-25 finishers in the Web.com Tour Regular Season will automatically earn a PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season

### Daniel Berger

- Will make his tournament debut at the Puerto Rico Open
- Winner of two PGA TOUR events (2016 and 2017 FedEx St. Jude Classic)
- Is making his fourth start of the season with missed cuts in his last two starts (Farmers Insurance Open, Waste Management Phoenix Open)
- Advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs for a fourth time in as many attempts in 2017-18

### Boo Weekley

- Will make his eighth start in the Puerto Rico Open where he owns three top-10 finishes (T3/2012, T8/2013, T6/2015)
- Will make first start on the PGA TOUR since the 2017 RBC Canadian Open (MC)
- Winner of 2007, 2008 RBC Heritage and 2013 Charles Schwab Challenge
- Playing out of the Past Champion category

### Notable Sponsor Invitations

#### Jerónimo Esteve

- Puerto Rico native making his second start on the PGA TOUR (MC/2015 Puerto Rico Open/amateur)
- Battled Stage 1 Hodgkin Lymphoma; now in remission
- Married (Mari) with two young sons (Jero and Nicolas)

#### Edward Figueroa

- 25-year-old Puerto Rico native poised to make his sixth start on the PGA TOUR and fourth as a professional
- All TOUR starts came at the Puerto Rico Open (2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017)
- Has made 21 starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, with a top-10 finish coming at the 2016 Lexus Panama Classic (T9)
- Won the 2012 AJGA Puerto Rico Junior Open, which earned him a spot into his first Puerto Rico Open

### Nick Heinen and Kristoffer Ventura

- Only two players in 2018 to advance from pre-qualifying to the Final Stage for the Web.com Tour
- Close friends, the two attended Oklahoma State University together. After **Heinen** wrapped up his time at OSU early, **Ventura**, a Mexico native, helped lead OSU to the 2018 NCAA Championship
- **Ventura** underwent surgery for appendicitis last November, prior to Final Stage
- **Heinen** and **Ventura** finished T115 and T129, respectively, in Final Stage
- **Ventura** will make his third start on the PGA TOUR (missed both cuts), **Heinen** will be making his PGA TOUR debut

## Puerto Rico Open Notes

Since the tournament's inception in 2008, the Puerto Rico Open has helped elevate the careers of future PGA TOUR stars, including the likes of Bryson DeChambeau, Jordan Spieth, Brooks Koepka and Chesson Hadley.

- Hadley, winner of the 2014 Puerto Rico Open, was voted PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year that season
- Past sponsor exemptions Spieth (2013) and Koepka (2014) used strong performances at the Puerto Rico Open as springboards to future PGA TOUR stardom
- Since finishing second via a playoff at the 2017 Puerto Rico Open, Bryson DeChambeau has gone on to win five times on the PGA TOUR

Four of the last five winners of the Puerto Rico Open made the crown their first on the PGA TOUR; Scott Brown (2013), Chesson Hadley (2014), Alex Cejka (2015) and Tony Finau (2016). 2017 winner D.A. Points had already won the 2011 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and 2013 Houston Open. Since its 2008 inception, there have been a total of six first-time winners in the event. Greg Kraft (2008) and Derek Lamely (2010) complete that list.

#### **Puerto Rico Open Tournament Records**

Best 18-hole score:	63, Derek Lamely (2010), Chris Tidland (2011), James Driscoll (2011), Scott Brown (2013).
Best opening 36 holes:	130, Andres Romero (2013)
Best 54 holes:	198, Scott Brown (2013), Fabian Gomez (2013)
Best 72 holes:	267, Chesson Hadley (2014)
Best come-from-behind win:	4, Derek Lamely (2010), Michael Bradley (2011)
Largest margin of victory:	2, Derek Lamely (2010), George McNeill (2012), Chesson Daley (2014)
Playoffs:	2, Michael Bradley over Troy Matteson (2011), Alex Cejka over Sam Saunders, Emiliano Grillo, Jon Curran and Tim Petrovic (2015).