



2019 Rocket Mortgage Classic pre-tournament notes

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Dates: June 24-30, 2019

Where: Detroit, Michigan

Course: Detroit Golf Club (36-36—72/7,340 yards)

Field size: 156

Purse: \$7,300,000 (\$1,314,000/winner)

FedExCup: 500 points to the winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Things to know about the 2019 Rocket Mortgage Classic

1. **The 313:** The Rocket Mortgage Classic will make history in 2019 as the first PGA TOUR event to be held within the city limits of Detroit, and the first TOUR event in Michigan since the 2009 Buick Open in Grand Blanc.
2. **Donald Ross:** Detroit Golf Club, founded in 1899, with two current Donald Ross designed courses opening in 1916. The tournament will be held on the tree-lined fairways of the North Course, with one hole utilized from the South Course. The course was renovated with several new tees that lengthened the layout to 7,309 yards.
3. **Detroit, meet Gary:** Gary Woodland will make his first start since winning his first major championship at the U.S. Open. With the victory, Woodland moved to No. 5 in the FedExCup as he eyes his seventh trip to the TOUR Championship in the last nine years. Additional stars in the field include Rocket Mortgage ambassador Rickie Fowler, Dustin Johnson and Bubba Watson.
4. **Motor City showing support:** The entire city of Detroit has rallied around the Rocket Mortgage Classic, with a significant number of local celebrities showing support including Mike Tirico, Kid Rock, Draymond Green, Justin Abdelkader, Jerome Bettis, John Beilein and Tom Izzo.
5. **New Schedule:** The Rocket Mortgage Classic is the first of two new PGA TOUR events on the 2018-19 schedule, being played in consecutive weeks (followed by 3M Open). The two events are part of the re-configured 2018-19 schedule that included the move of THE PLAYERS to March, the Championship to May, the RBC Canadian Open to June and the three FedExCup Playoffs events contested during the month of August.

Newest PGA TOUR events

The following events currently on the 2018-19 PGA TOUR schedule made their debut since 2000:

Tournament	First season	First winner
Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship	2017-18	Brice Garnett
THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES	2017-18	Justin Thomas
Barbasol Championship	2014-15	Scott Piercy
CIMB Classic*	2010	Ben Crane
The RSM Classic	2010	Heath Slocum
World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions*	2009	Phil Mickelson
Puerto Rico Open	2008	Greg Kraft
Safeway Open	2007	Mike Weir
Mayakoba Golf Classic	2007	Fred Funk
Wells Fargo Championship	2003	David Toms
Valspar Championship	2000	John Huston

*became official in 2013-14

The Rocket Mortgage Classic and the FedExCup

- Only six weeks (eight events) remain in the PGA TOUR Regular Season.
- Three of the top 10 in the FedExCup standings are scheduled to compete at the Rocket Mortgage Classic, led by No. 5 Gary Woodland.

- TOUR Championship regulars outside the top 30 in the FedExCup standings looking to improve their standing this week include Bubba Watson (No. 71), Patrick Reed (No. 73), Hideki Matsuyama (No. 34), Brandt Snedeker (No. 36) and Billy Horschel (No. 54).

Current FedExCup standings

The top 10 in the FedExCup at the conclusion of the PGA TOUR Regular Season will share a \$10 million bonus pool through the Wyndham Rewards Top 10 program. Updated standings are below:

Position	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Points Behind	Starts	Projected Bonus
1	Matt Kuchar	2,287	2	8		17	\$2 million
2	Brooks Koepka	2,198	2	6	89	15	\$1.5 million
3	Rory McIlroy	2,195	2	11	92	14	\$1.2 million
4	Xander Schauffele	1,817	2	5	470	16	\$1.1 million
5	Gary Woodland	1,789	1	8	498	18	\$1.0 million
6	Patrick Cantlay	1,658	1	8	629	16	\$850,000
7	Dustin Johnson	1,631	1	7	656	13	\$700,000
8	Paul Casey	1,541	1	6	746	17	\$600,000
9	Justin Rose	1,308	1	6	979	12	\$550,000
10	Rickie Fowler	1,285	1	5	1,002	15	\$500,000

Spotlight on Michigan native Joey Garber

Hometown: Petoskey, Michigan

Age: 27

Current residence: St. Simons Island, Georgia

Of note: Michigan native throwing out the first pitch at the Detroit Tigers baseball game on Wednesday, June 26.

High School:

- Made the cut at the 2007 Michigan Open as a 15-year-old, the youngest player in history to do so in the state's most prestigious golf tournament
- In 2010, won both the Michigan Amateur and the Michigan Junior Amateur titles, the first player ever to win both state amateur titles in the same year
- Named Mr. Golf twice in the state of Michigan during high school at Petoskey High School

College: University of Georgia (2014)

- Spent freshman year playing for University of Michigan
- Transferred to Georgia for sophomore year and was named a captain as a senior and was nominated for the Ben Hogan Award, spent time as No. 1 collegiate (Golfstat and Golfweek) and earned All-SEC and All-America honors

Professional career:

- Played 2018 on the Korn Ferry Tour (formerly Web.com Tour) and won the Rex Hospital Open to earn maiden PGA TOUR card
- Made seven cuts in 16 starts in 2018-19 on the PGA TOUR with one top-10 finish at the Puerto Rico Open

Top player notes

Gary Woodland

- Making first start since earning first major championship title at the U.S. Open
- Has a career-high eight top-10s during the 2018-19 season (top finishes: Win/U.S. Open, 2nd/THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, 2nd/Sentry Tournament of Champions)
- Has advanced to the season-ending TOUR Championship in five of the last six seasons and enters the week No. 5 in the FedExCup standings
- Holds wins in consecutive seasons for the first time in his career (2018 Waste Management Phoenix Open, 2019 U.S. Open)

Dustin Johnson

- With next win, will tie Davis Love III, Willie Macfarlane, Lanny Wadkins and Craig Wood for 30th all-time on the PGA TOUR wins list (21)
- Won at least three titles in each season from 2015-16 to 2017-18 and has one in 2018-19 (World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship)
- Has seven top-10s on the season including the win in Mexico and finished runner-up at each of the first two major championships (T2/Masters Tournament, 2nd/PGA Championship)
- Ranks third in Scoring Average (69.205); has led the TOUR in that category in two of the last three seasons (2015-16, 2017-18)

Rickie Fowler

- Has four top-fives in 15 starts during the 2018-19 season, including his fifth career PGA TOUR win (Waste Management Phoenix Open)
- No. 10 in the FedExCup; has advanced to the season-ending TOUR Championship in four of the last five seasons
- Rocket Mortgage ambassador

Bubba Watson

- 12-time winner on the PGA TOUR, most recently winning three times during the 2018-19 season (Genesis Open, World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play, Travelers Championship)
- In search of third top-10 and first since the Valspar Championship (T4); has not had fewer than three in a season since 2009
- Finished T54 in his title defense at last week's Travelers Championship

Notable exemptions

- After making their professional debuts at the Travelers Championship, former top amateurs Viktor Hovland (T54) and Matthew Wolff (T80) will play on sponsor exemptions; Hovland was the low amateur at the Masters and the U.S. Open while Wolff won the individual title at the 2019 NCAA Championships.
- Non-member Chip McDaniel aka "Mr. Monday" was awarded a sponsor exemption for the Rocket Mortgage Classic. McDaniel has successfully Monday qualified three times this season, the latest came last week at the Travelers Championship after catching a red-eye after the final round of the U.S. Open. Of note – McDaniel's real name is Tyler but has always been known as Chip as his mother's favorite baseball player was former Atlanta Braves third baseman Chipper Jones.

The Open Qualifying Series

- Rocket Mortgage Classic is part of The Open Qualifying Series (TOQS)
- The top two players not otherwise exempt who finish inside the top eight and ties will receive invitations to the 2019 Open Championship at Royal Portrush
- John Deere Classic (July 11-14) is the only other remaining PGA TOUR event that is part of TOQS
- The following players have received exemptions through TOQS during the 2018-19 season:

Tournament	Player	Finish
Arnold Palmer Invitational/Mastercard	Sungjae Im	T3
	Sung Kang	T6
	Keith Mitchell	T6
RBC Canadian Open	Adam Hadwin	6
	Graeme McDowell	T8

Significant changes for PGA TOUR in 2018-19

The PGA TOUR has introduced several changes for the 2018-19 PGA TOUR Season to allow fans to better follow and engage in the TOUR all season:

- 1) A season with a better flow from start to finish; a return of THE PLAYERS Championship to March, which kicks off a cadence of significant events over five months; and a season that concludes with the FedExCup Playoffs.
- 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 stroke 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.