

2018 Safeway Open Broadcast Window & Pre-Tournament Notes



ShotLink Keys to Victory for Brendan Steele

Brendan Steele earned 500 points to take the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season initial lead in the FedExCup standings with his third career PGA TOUR victory at the 2017 Safeway Open. Nine of the 12 week #1 FedExCup leaders have all qualified for the TOUR Championship. Steele began the final round two shots back of 54-hole leader Tyler Duncan and with his victory becomes the first repeat winner of the Safeway Open.

Strokes Gained Statistics vs. The Field

	Rank	Average
Off-the-Tee	1st	+1.541
Approach-the-Green	3rd	+1.592
Around-the-Green	49 th	-0.073
Putting	29 th	+0.560
Total	1st	+3.620

86.5% of Brendan's total strokes gained for the week were a result of both his off the tee and approach the green performances at Silverado Resort & Spa (North Course).

Brendan Steele ranked inside the top 10 in several Off the Tee categories. Brendan led the field in SG: Off-the-Tee and in Driving Distance (measured drives), outperforming the field +1.541 strokes per round and by 28.4 yards off the tee.

Off the Tee vs. The Field 2017 Safeway Open

	Rank	Value	Field
SG: Off-the-Tee	1st	+1.541	--
Driving Distance	1st	327.8	299.4
Driving Accuracy Percentage	T3	67.86%	50.25%
Driving Pct. 300+ (Measured)	T1	100.0%	50.92%
Driving Pct. 320+ (All Drives)	T6	26.79%	11.29%

Most Combined Total Strokes Gained in SG: Off-the-Tee & Approach-the-Green PGA TOUR Career

Year-Event	Off-the-Tee	Approach	Total
2017-Safeway Open	+6.16	+6.37	+12.53
2015-Wells Fargo Championship	+7.15	+4.16	+11.31
2014-Travelers Championship	+2.93	+6.35	+9.28
2015-PGA Championship	+2.54	+6.09	+8.64
2011-Safeway Open	+5.77	+2.37	+8.14

Brendan Steele gained +12.53 strokes off the tee (+6.16) and on approach shots (+6.37), marking his career most combined total strokes gained in these two categories.

Importance of Playing Fall Events Since 2013-14 PGA TOUR Season

Last season all eight of the winners from the first eight PGA TOUR events of the season qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs. Four of the eight players qualified for the TOUR Championship.

First Eight Winners 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season

Event	Winner	FEC Finish
Safeway Open	Brendan Steele	56 th
CIMB Classic	Pat Perez	39 th
THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES	Justin Thomas	7th
WGC-HSBC Champions	Justin Rose	WON
Sanderson Farms Championship	Ryan Armour	49 th
Shriners Hospitals for Children Open	Patrick Cantlay	20th
Mayakoba Golf Classic	Patton Kizzire	30th
The RSM Classic	Austin Cook	38 th

2013-14 Wrap-Around: 186 players earned FedExCup points before the start of the new calendar year in the 2013-14 PGA TOUR season. Of those 186 players, 115 made the 2014 FedExCup Playoffs, 92 made it to the Dell Technologies Championship, 63 made it to the BMW Championship and 26 made it to the TOUR Championship.

2014-15 Wrap-Around: 206 players earned FedExCup points before the start of the new calendar year in the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season. Of those 206 players, 118 made the 2015 FedExCup Playoffs, 94 made it to the Dell Technologies Championship, 64 made it to the BMW Championship and 25 made it to the TOUR Championship.

2015-16 Wrap-Around: 209 players earned FedExCup points before the start of the new calendar year in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR season. Of those 209 players, 116 made the 2016 FedExCup Playoffs, 92 made it to the Dell Technologies Championship, 65 made it to the BMW Championship and 27 made it to the TOUR Championship.

2016-17 Wrap-Around: 213 players earned FedExCup points before the start of the new calendar year in the 2016-17 PGA TOUR season. Of those 213 players, 117 made the 2017 FedExCup Playoffs, 93 made it to the Dell Technologies Championship, 63 made it to the BMW Championship and 24 made it to the TOUR Championship.

2017-18 Wrap-Around: 206 players earned FedExCup points before the start of the new calendar year in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season. Of those 206 players, 115 (55.8%) made the 2018 FedExCup Playoffs, 92 (44.7%) made it to the Dell Technologies Championship, 64 (31.1%) made it to the BMW Championship and 27 (13.1%) made it to the TOUR Championship.

Players who Earned at Least 1 FedExCup Point During the Wrap-Around Season (Last 5 Seasons)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Earned FEC Points before Calendar Year	186	206	209	213	206
Qualified for FedExCup Playoffs	115	118	116	117	115
Qualified for BMW Championship	63	64	65	63	64
Qualified for TOUR Championship	26	25	27	24	27

Total FedExCup Season Points Earned During Opening Events Since 2013-14

Season	Total Points	# of Events
Last Season	21,603	8
2016-17	18,539	7
2015-16	21,499	7
2014-15	21,627	7
2013-14	19,346	6
Total Since 2013-14	102,614	35

Since 2013-14, there have been 102,614 total FedExCup points earned during the season opening events (35 total events). From the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season to the 2016-17 season, the average total FEC points earned during the season opening events was 20,555. Last season, there were 21,603 total FedExCup points earned by 206 players.

Course & Hole Stats Silverado Resort & Spa North

Toughest Fairways to Hit PGA TOUR Last Season (Single Course Events)

	PCT.
Firestone CC (South)	50.0
Silverado Resort and Spa North	50.3
Riviera CC	52.2
Quail Hollow Club	52.3
Glen Abbey GC	53.0

50.3%: Last season, players hit 50.3% of the fairways off the tee at the Silverado Resort and Spa North course, marking the second toughest fairways to hit on TOUR of single course events.

Last season, David Hearn and Chez Reavie led the field in Driving Accuracy, hitting their mark 69.64% of the time (39 of 56).

Two-time Safeway Open champion Brendan Steele ranked T3 hitting 67.86% of the fairways en route to victory at Silverado Resort and Spa North.

Driving Accuracy Leaders 2017 Safeway Open

	PCT.
David Hearn	69.64
Chez Reavie	69.64
Bud Cauley	67.86
Brendan Steele	67.86

Scoring Average & Green in Regulation Percentage Par 3s Silverado Resort & Spa North Since 2014

	Scoring Average	Green in Reg.
2nd	3.15	55.83
7th	3.15	49.68
11 th	3.02	74.38
15 th	3.04	65.02

49.68%: Since 2014, players have hit the Green in regulation 49.68% of the time on the par 3, seventh hole (865 of 1,741). Last season, the 212-yard par 3 played as the 22nd toughest par 3 on TOUR (204 total par 3s played).

Broadcast Window Notes

2018 Safeway Open *(featured groups)*

Phil Mickelson

Last season, Phil Mickelson finished 21st in the final FedExCup standings and is set to make his fourth appearance at the Safeway Open.

Phil Mickelson Career FedExCup Performance

	# of Weeks	Rank
Ranked Inside Top 125	425	6 th Most
Ranked Inside Top 70	380	2 nd Most
Ranked Inside Top 30	294	2nd Most

Since 2007, Phil Mickelson has spent 294 total weeks ranked inside the top 30 in the standings, marking the second most total weeks of any player. Mickelson's 2009 2nd place finish in the final FedExCup standings is his best finish in the FedExCup.

**Best FedExCup Finish: 2nd (2009)*

Last season, Phil Mickelson ranked inside the top 10 in several Putting statistics. Mickelson ranked 10th in SG: Putting and ranked second on the PGA TOUR in Putting Average (1.693), Putts Per Round (27.88), Putting from 10-15 Feet (38.89%) and Birdie or Better Conversion (36.6%).

On the Greens vs. PGA TOUR Average Last Season

	Rank	Value	TOUR Avg.
SG: Putting	10 th	+0.580	- - -
Putting Average	2 nd	1.693	1.774
One-Putt Percentage	10 th	42.02	37.59
Putts Per Round	2 nd	27.88	29.18
Putting from - 10-15'	2 nd	38.89	30.09
Average Distance of Putts made	9 th	80' 4"	73' 1"
Birdie or Better Conversion PCT.	2 nd	36.60	29.50

Sangmoon Bae

2014 Safeway Open Champion Sangmoon Bae is set to make his third appearance at this event. Bae finished 202nd in the final FedExCup standings and finished second in the Web.com Tour Finals Money List.

Holes 1-14 vs Holes 15-18 Silverado Resort & Spa North Scoring Comparison with Tournament Finish

	Holes 1-14	Holes 15-18	Evt. Finish
2014 Sangmoon Bae	-6	-9	WON
2015 Tyrone Van Aswegen	-6	-8	T3
2016 Derek Fathauer	-4	-8	T15
2017 Chesson Hadley	-4	-8	T3
2014 Charlie Beljan	3	-8	T31
2015 Chad Collins	6	-8	T64
2017 Kevin Tway	6	-8	T52

In 2014, Sangmoon Bae played the final four holes at Silverado Resort & Spa North a combined nine-under par en route to victory. Bae's nine-under par cumulative total on these four holes is the best of any player at the Safeway Open since 2014.

Since 2013, three of the five Safeway Open champions have qualified for the TOUR Championship.

Safeway Open Champions FedExCup Finishes Since 2013

Year	Past Champion	FEC Finish
2017	Brendan Steele	56 th
2016	Brendan Steele	33 rd
2015	Emiliano Grillo	11 th
2014	Sangmoon Bae	26th
2013	Jimmy Walker	7 th

Brendan Steele

2016 & 2017 Safeway Open champion Brendan Steele is set to make his eighth start at this event. The last player to win the same PGA TOUR in three consecutive seasons was Steve Stricker (2009-2011 John Deere).

Best Score to Par Silverado Resort & Spa North Since 2014

Score to Par	
Brendan Steele	-50
Tony Finau	-39
Martin Laird	-35
Kevin Na	-34
Emiliano Grillo	-30
Chez Reavie	-30

50-Under Par: Since the 2014 Safeway Open, Brendan Steele is a combined 50-under par at Silverado Resort & Spa North, marking the best score to par of any player at this course.

In this timeframe, Steele is one of three players that have played **15 of 16** rounds par or better at Silverado Resort & Spa North (T. Finau & C. Reavie).

Since 2014, Brendan Steele has gained +24.95 total strokes from tee-to-green at Silverado Resort & Spa North, marking the most of any player. On the greens, Steele has outperformed the field by +14.07 total strokes, marking the third best SG: Putting of any player at this course.

Total Strokes Gained Silverado Resort & Spa North Since 2014

	Total	Rank
Tee-to-Green	+24.95	1st
Putting	+14.07	3rd

Total Strokes Gained: Tee-to-Green Leaders Silverado Resort & Spa North Since 2014

	Total
Brendan Steele	+24.95
Kevin Na	+23.88
Tony Finau	+22.21

Total Strokes Gained: Putting Leaders Silverado Resort & Spa North Since 2014

	Total
Hunter Mahan	+17.81
Peter Malnati	+14.20
Brendan Steele	+14.07

Over the last two seasons, Brendan Steele has a stroke average of 69.34 in PGA TOUR events from October to February, two strokes better than the rest of the season (71.52).

Season Comparison

October - February vs. March - September Last 2 Seasons on TOUR

	Oct - Feb	Mar - Sept.
Wins	2	0
Top 10s	5	2
Scoring Average	69.34	71.52
Avg. FedExCup Rank	4.5	44.5

In this stretch, Steele's average FedExCup rank is 4.5 before the beginning of March.

Since 2007, eight of the 11 (10 players) Safeway Open champions have come from one or more strokes back entering the final round to win this event. Brendan Steele (2016) came from four strokes back entering the final round, marking the largest come back entering the final round to win this event.

Safeway Open Champions Strokes Back Entering Final Round Since 2007

Strokes Back	# of Times
4	1
3	3
2	3
1	1
Leads/Co-Leads	3
Total	11

Jason Dufner

Jason Dufner is set to make his third start at the Safeway Open and 310th career start on TOUR. Dufner is one of 23 players who have qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs in 11 or more seasons and has qualified for the TOUR Championship in two of the last three seasons.

Career FedExCup Finish

FEC Finish	
Last Season	100 th
2016-17	30 th
2015-16	19 th
2014-15	88 th
2013-14	90 th
2013	19 th
2012	14 th
2011	25 th
2010	65 th
2009	11 th
2008	---
2007	127 th

Approach the Green Ranks 2016-17 vs. PGA TOUR Last Season

	2016-17	Last Season
SG: Approach-the-Green	15 th	142 nd
Greens in Regulation PCT.	46 th	145 th
Proximity to Hole	18 th	T121
Approaches from 50-125 yards	T18	T132
Approaches from 125-150 yards	T31	T146

Last season, Jason Dufner ranked outside the top 120 in several Approach the Green categories compared to ranking inside the top 50 on TOUR in the 2016-17 season. Dufner ranked 142nd on TOUR in SG: Approach-the-Green compared to 15th in 2016-17.

Wesley Bryan

Wesley Bryan is set to make his second start at the Safeway Open and 56th career start on TOUR.

Putts Per Round - 1st Rd Average PGA TOUR Last Season

	Avg
Daniel Summerhays	27.24
Wesley Bryan	27.36
Peter Malnati	27.50
Tiger Woods	27.71
Brian Gay	27.93

Last season, Wesley Bryan ranked second in Putts Per Round - Round 1, averaging 27.36 putts per round in the first round. Bryan needed 27 or fewer putts in 50% of his opening rounds (11 of 22).

Rounds With 27 or Fewer Putts PGA TOUR Last Season

Round	# of Rds
1 st	11
2 nd	8
3 rd	5
Final	3
Total	27

Scoring by Round PGA TOUR Last Season

Round	Score to Par
1 st	-11
2 nd	+10
3 rd	-9
Final	+10

Last season, Wesley Bryan was a combined 11-under par in the opening round on TOUR, 21 shots better than his cumulative 10-over par total in the second round.

Hudson Swafford

Hudson Swafford is set to make his fifth appearance at the Safeway Open. In his last three PGA TOUR starts, Hudson Swafford has recorded two top-15 finishes and has finished inside the top 15 of the leaderboard in seven of 12 rounds (includes Reno-Tahoe). Swafford's T11 place finish at the 2018 Reno-Tahoe Tournament marked his best finish last season.

First 19 Starts vs. Last 3 Starts PGA TOUR Last Season

	First 19 Starts	Last 3 Starts
Top 15 Finishes	0	2
Average Leaderboard Position	51 st	22nd
Inside Top 15 of Leaderboard After Any Round	6	7
Best Finish	T27 Sentry TOC	T11 Reno-Tahoe

**includes Zurich Classic & Reno-Tahoe*

Fred Couples

Fred Couples is set to make his second start at the Safeway Open. His only other appearance at this event was in 2009 where he finished T66. Fred Couples last PGA TOUR event was at the 2018 Masters Tournament where he finished T38.

Career on PGA TOUR

	Value	PCT.
Starts	614	---
Wins	15	2.4
Top 5's	88	14.3
Top 10's	162	26.4
Top 25's	299	48.7
Cuts Made	491	80.0

Fred Couples currently ranks 52nd in the Charles Schwab Cup Money list on the PGA TOUR Champions. His best finish on the PGA TOUR Champions this season came in June where he finished T3 at the American Family Insurance Championship. Couples ranks 21st on the all-time PGA TOUR Champions Career Money List.

Patrick Cantlay

Patrick Cantlay is coming off his best season in the FedExCup finishing 20th in the 2017-18 FedExCup standings. Cantlay finished 29th as a Rookie in the 2016-17 PGA TOUR season in the FedExCup and was one of two Rookies (Xander Schauffele 3rd) to make the TOUR Championship.

2017-18 PGA TOUR Season

	Rank	Finish
Justin Rose	6 th	WON
Dustin Johnson	25 th	4 th
Tony Finau	9 th	6 th
Justin Thomas	7 th	7 th
Keegan Bradley	15 th	8 th
Brooks Koepka	25 th	9 th
Cameron Smith	17 th	12 th
Rickie Fowler	16 th	17 th
Patrick Cantlay	5th	20th
Phil Mickelson	28 th	21 st
Marc Leishman	13 th	29 th
Patton Kizzire	1 st	30 th

Patrick Cantlay won the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season becoming one of the 12 players who ranked inside of the top 30 in the FedExCup standings after the season opening events and finished the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season inside of the top 30.

Tee to Green Stats PGA TOUR Last Season

	Rank	Average
SG: Tee-to-Green	9th	+1.297
SG: Off-the-Tee	10 th	+0.637
Driving Dist. (All)	17 th	303.6
Greens in Reg.	8 th	71.1%
Going for the Green	4 th	74.8%

Patrick Cantlay ranked inside of the top 20 in several tee to green categories last season, including SG: Tee-to-Green outperforming the TOUR by +1.297 strokes per round.

Patrick Cantlay is one of five players who have ranked inside the top 15 in Greens in Regulation Percentage in each of the last two PGA TOUR seasons.

Ranked Inside Top 15 in Greens in Regulation PGA TOUR Last 2 Seasons

	2016-17	Last Season
Kyle Stanley	2 nd	4 th
Patrick Cantlay	13th	8th
Gary Woodland	12 th	10 th
Jordan Spieth	4 th	13 th
Dustin Johnson	9 th	14 th

Active Consecutive Cuts Made Streak on TOUR

	# of Events
Chris Kirk*	12
Gary Woodland	11
Patrick Cantlay*	10
Tony Finau	10
Tommy Fleetwood	10

Patrick Cantlay is one of five players with an active consecutive cuts made streak of 10 or more events.

Chris Kirk and Patrick Cantlay are the only two players of these five players in the field this week.

*In the Field This Week

Brandt Snedeker

2012 FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker is set to make his third Safeway Open appearance. Snedeker finished the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season 40th in the final FedExCup standings. He is one of 10 players who have qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs in every season of the FedExCup.

Players Making FedExCup Playoffs Every Season in FEC Era

	2017-18 FEC Finish	Playoffs All Years
Justin Rose	Won	12
Bubba Watson	10 th	12
Phil Mickelson	21 st	12
Brandt Snedeker	40th	12
Adam Scott	51 st	12
Charles Howell III	53 rd	12
Zach Johnson	58 th	12
Ryan Moore	71 st	12
Matt Kuchar	76 th	12
Charley Hoffman	79 th	12

Rookies to Qualify for the TOUR Championship in FedExCup Era (since 2007)

Year		FedExCup Finish
2018	Aaron Wise	24 th
2017	Xander Schauffele & Patrick Cantlay	3 rd & 29 th
2016	Emiliano Grillo & Si Woo Kim	11 th & 17 th
2015	Daniel Berger	11 th
2013	Jordan Spieth	7 th
2012	John Huh	29 th
2011	Keegan Bradley	20 th
2009	Marc Leishman	20 th
2008	Andres Romero	28 th
2007	Brandt Snedeker	20th

Brandt Snedeker was the first Rookie in the FedExCup era to qualify for the TOUR Championship finishing 20th in the final FEC standings in 2007.

Last season, Aaron Wise was the only Rookie to qualify for the TOUR Championship and finished 24th. Wise was the 12th Rookie to qualify for the TOUR Championship in the FedExCup era.

Andrew Landry

Andrew Landry is set to make his 47th career PGA TOUR start and second at the Safeway Open. Landry recorded his first PGA TOUR victory at the 2018 Valero Texas Open.

Ranks Entering Valero Texas Open vs. Valero Texas Open

	Entering Valero	Valero
SG: Tee-to-Green	91 st	1st
SG: Approach-the-Green	84 th	1st
Greens in Regulation	98 th	1st
Scrambling	T68	2nd
SG: Putting	T111	8th

Andrew Landry was 90 positions better in SG: Approach-the-Green at the 2018 Valero Texas Open compared to his season rank before the Valero Texas Open where he ranked 91st. Landry ranked t-111th for SG: Putting entering the Valero Texas Open compared to ranking 8th for the week en route to his victory.

Andrew Landry recorded one of his five top-10 finishes of the 2018 PGA TOUR season at the Safeway Open finishing T7.

Last season, Andrew Landry led the field at the Safeway Open outperforming the field by +1.779 strokes per round on the greens. His putting performance at the Safeway Open was his career best putting performance in a four-round stroke play event where lasers were ShotLink lasers were used.

Key Stats 2017-18 Safeway Open

	Rank	Average
Driving Distance (All)	9 th	297.8
GFG – Hit Green Percentage	3 rd	40.0%
SG: Putting	1 st	+1.779
One-Putt Percentage	4 th	48.6%
Average Dist. Of Putts Made	7 th	88' 10"

Jhonattan Vegas

After finishing inside of the top 30 in both the 2015-16 & 2016-17 FedExCup, Jhonattan Vegas failed to qualify for the TOUR Championship last season finishing 95th in the final standings. Jhonattan Vegas is set to make his sixth start at the Safeway Open. Jhonattan has played his last five out of six rounds at this event under par. His best finish at the Safeway Open came in the 2015-16 season where he finished T10.

Speed & Accuracy PGA TOUR Last Season

	Club Speed	Driving Accuracy
Gary Woodland	122.68	63.17
Adam Scott	120.85	62.46
Tiger Woods	120.24	58.98
Keith Mitchell	124.83	58.59
Dustin Johnson	121.38	58.27
Bubba Watson	121.29	57.83
Adam Schenk	120.59	57.67
Jhonattan Vegas	121.87	57.19
J.B. Holmes	120.83	57.13

Jhonattan Vegas is one of nine players who have a Club Head Speed of over 120 mph and hit over 57% of their fairways on TOUR last season.

Last season, Jhonattan Vegas had the sixth highest Club Head Speed on TOUR at 121.87 mph and hit an average of 57.19% of his fairways.

Michael Kim

Michael Kim recorded his first PGA TOUR victory at the 2018 John Deere Classic. Kim finished a career best 81st in the final 2018 FedExCup standings. Michael has improved his FedExCup ranking every season that he has been on TOUR.

FedExCup Ranks by Season

Year	Events	Final FEC Rank
Last Season	27	81st
2016-17	28	100 th
2015-16	29	118 th

27-under par: Michael Kim became the first player since Justin Thomas (2017 Sony Open) to win on the PGA TOUR at 27-under par. Michael's 27-under par (257) set a new 72-hole tournament scoring record at the 2018 John Deere Classic.

30 Total Birdies: Michael Kim made 30 total birdies (1st) en route to his eight-stroke victory at the 2018 John Deere Classic becoming the first player since Jason Dufner (2016 CareerBuilder) to make 30 birdies or better in a PGA TOUR event

Total Birdie Leaders 2018 John Deere Classic

	Total
Michael Kim	30
Francesco Molinari	26
Johnson Wagner	24
Keith Mitchell	24

18-Under par on par 4s: Michael Kim recorded the second-best Par 4 Performance in official four-round stroke play events on the PGA TOUR since 1983 (Armour III, -19/2003 Valero Texas Open). For the week, Michael Kim lead the field in Par 4 Performance, playing the par 4s 18-under par, 88 strokes better than his season total entering the John Deere Classic (+70).

Par 4 Performance Entering Week vs. This Week

Entering JDC	JDC
+70 (T192)	-18 (1st)

Best Par 4 Performance PGA TOUR Since 1983

Year	Event		RTP
2003	Valero Texas Open	Tommy Armour III	-19
2018	John Deere Classic	Michael Kim	-18
2013	Sony Open in Hawaii	Russell Henley	-17
2006	AT&T Classic	Phil Mickelson	-17
1988	Children's Miracle	Bob Lohr	-17

**Official 4-Rd Stroke-Play Events*