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2019 Genesis Open pre-tournament notes

Dates: February 11-17, 2019
Where: Pacific Palisades, California
Course: The Riviera Country Club
Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,322
Field: 144
Defending champion: Bubba Watson
Purse: \$7,400,000/\$1,332,000 (winner also receives Genesis G70)
FedExCup points: 500 to the winner
Format: 72-hole stroke play
Website: GenesisOpen.com
Twitter: @GenesisOpen
Facebook: [Facebook.com/GenesisOpen](https://www.facebook.com/GenesisOpen)
Instagram: @GenesisOpen

Genesis Open

The Genesis Open was first played in 1926 and stands as the seventh-oldest active tournament on the PGA TOUR behind The Open Championship (1860), U.S. Open (1895), BMW Championship (1899), RBC Canadian Open (1904), PGA Championship (1916) and Valero Texas Open (1922).

The Genesis Open and the FedExCup

- The Genesis Open is the 15th 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.
- Nine of the 12 winners of the Genesis Open in the FedExCup era have advanced to the season-ending TOUR Championship: Charles Howell III (2007), Phil Mickelson (2008 and 2009), Steve Stricker (2010), Aaron Baddeley (2011), Bubba Watson (2014, 2016, 2018) and Dustin Johnson (2017).
- Seven of the top 10 in the FedExCup standings are scheduled to compete at the Genesis Open: Xander Schauffele/1, Matt Kuchar/2, Marc Leishman/4, Charles Howell III/5, Bryson DeChambeau/8, Kevin Tway/9, Cameron Champ/10
- Seven FedExCup champions at the Genesis Open: Tiger Woods (2007/2009), Vijay Singh (2008), Jim Furyk (2010), Bill Haas (2011), Jordan Spieth (2015), Rory McIlroy (2016) and Justin Thomas (2017)

About Riviera Country Club

The Riviera Country Club is recognized as one of the best courses on the PGA TOUR. The annual site of the Genesis Open, designed by George C. Thomas, opened for play in 1927. Riviera has hosted many of golf's greatest events, including the U.S. Open, PGA Championship, U.S. Senior Open and U.S. Amateur Championship. The roster of past champions at Riviera Country Club includes Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Byron Nelson, Tom Watson, Ernie Els, Fred Couples and Phil Mickelson.

A look back at the 2018 Genesis Open

After beginning the final round with a one-stroke lead over Patrick Cantlay, Bubba Watson carded a 2-under 69 to finish at 12-under 272, good for a two-stroke win over Kevin Na and Tony Finau. Watson's 10th PGA TOUR victory, his first since winning the 2016 Genesis Open, came in his 279th start at the age of 39 years, 3 months, 13 days. The victory was his third

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at the Genesis Open (2014, 2016, 2018), joining Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer as three-time winners. Only MacDonald Smith and Lloyd Mangrum, with four wins each, have more.

2018 Genesis Open Leaderboard

Bubba Watson	68-70-65-69—272 (-12)
Kevin Na	68-70-67-69—274 (-10)
Tony Finau	66-71-68-69—274 (-10)
Scott Stallings	71-68-68-68—275 (-9)
Patrick Cantlay	66-69-69-71—275 (-9)

More on Bubba Watson

- 2018 victory was his third at Genesis Open (2014, 2016, 2018), joining Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer as three-time winners. Only MacDonald Smith and Lloyd Mangrum, with four wins each, have more
- Seeks to become the first back-to-back winner of the Genesis Open since Phil Mickelson in 2008 and 2009
- Ranked No. 117 in OWGR at time of 2018 victory. Has been ranked as high as No. 2 (most recent: after 2015 Valspar Championship. Currently sits No. 16 in the OWGR
- 2018 Genesis Open win came one week after Ted Potter, Jr.'s victory at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, marking two different left-handed winners in consecutive weeks on TOUR for the first time since 2000 (Phil Mickelson and Mike Weir won the TOUR Championship and World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship)

Multiple Winners of the Genesis Open

Bubba Watson is hoping to join MacDonald Smith, Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Paul Harney, Corey Pavin, Mike Weir and Phil Mickelson as back-to-back winners of the Genesis Open. Here's a look at multiple winners of the event:

- **Four-time winners:** MacDonald Smith (1928, 1929, 1932, 1934), Lloyd Mangrum (1949, 1951, 1953, 1956)
- **Three-time winners:** Ben Hogan (1942, 1947, 1948), Arnold Palmer (1963, 1966, 1967), Bubba Watson (2014, 2016, 2018)
- **Two-time winners:** Harry Cooper (1926, 1937), Sam Snead (1945, 1950), Paul Harney (1964, 1965), Billy Casper (1968, 1970), Gil Morgan (1978, 1983), Lanny Wadkins (1979, 1985), Tom Watson (1980, 1982), Fred Couples (1990, 1992), Corey Pavin (1994, 1995), Mike Weir (2003, 2004), Phil Mickelson (2008, 2009)

A closer look at the field

- Seven of the current top-10 in the FedExCup standings are scheduled to compete at the Genesis Open: Matt Kuchar/1, Xander Schauffele/2, Marc Leishman/4, Charles Howell III/5, Phil Mickelson/6, Bryson DeChambeau/9, Kevin Tway/10
- Six of the top 10 in the Official World Golf Ranking: Dustin Johnson (3), Justin Thomas (4), Bryson DeChambeau (5), Jon Rahm (6), Xander Schauffele (7), Rory McIlroy (9)
- 2018-19 tournament winners, including multiple winners Xander Schauffele and Matt Kuchar: Kevin Tway (Safeway Open), Marc Leishman (CIMB Classic), Cameron Champ (Sanderson Farms Championship), Xander Schauffele (WGC-HSBC Champions, Sentry Tournament of Champions), Bryson DeChambeau (Shriners Hospitals for Children Open), Matt Kuchar (Mayakoba Golf Classic, Sony Open in Hawaii), Charles Howell III (The RSM Classic), Adam Long (Desert Classic), Phil Mickelson (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am)
- Six players in the field with 19 or more PGA TOUR wins: Tiger Woods (80), Phil Mickelson (44), Vijay Singh (34), Davis Love III (21), Ernie Els (19), Dustin Johnson (19)
- Past champions: Fred Couples (1990, 1992), Ernie Els (1999), Adam Scott (2005/unofficial win), Charles Howell III (2007), Phil Mickelson (2008, 2009), Bill Haas (2012), Bubba Watson (2014, 2016, 2018), James Hahn (2015) and Dustin Johnson (2017)
- 21 major championship winners are in the field, led by Tiger Woods (14)

Additional Player Notes

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Tiger Woods

- Won 80th PGA TOUR title at 2018 TOUR Championship, finishing No. 2 in the FedExCup
- In 12 starts at the Genesis Open, Woods owns four top-10 results, highlighted by runner-up results in 1998 (solo-second) and 1999 (T2)
- The tournament is the only one to date where Woods has made double-digit appearances and failed to collect a victory
- Owns a scoring average of 70.29 for 34 rounds in the Genesis Open at The Riviera Country Club (played at Valencia Country Club in 1998)
- Missed cut at 2018 Genesis Open was 25th in his career; in 17 TOUR starts since (through 2019 Farmers Insurance Open), lone missed cut came at 2018 U.S. Open
- Finished T20 at the Farmers Insurance Open in his first start of the 2018-19 season

Dustin Johnson

- 2017 victory at the Genesis Open is among his seven top-10 finishes in 11 starts at the event
- 19 career PGA TOUR victories at age 34; in the last 50 years, only four players have reached 20 wins before age 35: Tom Watson, Johnny Miller, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson
- Since 2008, no player has more rounds of 67 or better at The Riviera Country Club than Johnson. In 40 rounds, he has 14 at 67 or better. Next best are Kevin Na and J.B. Holmes with nine each.

Matt Kuchar

- Two-time winner this season now has nine career PGA TOUR titles and sits No. 1 in the FedExCup
- Four rounds of 64 or better this season. Opened with 64-64 en route to Mayakoba Golf Classic victory and started Sony Open in Hawaii with a pair of 63s before going on to win
- Has made 11 cuts in 12 appearances at Genesis Open with T8 in 2016 his lone top-10 – the one time he posted four sub-70 rounds at the event

Xander Schauffele

- Two-time winner this season (WGC-HSBC Champions, Sentry Tournament of Champions) sits No. 2 in the FedExCup
- Finished T9 in 2018 Genesis Open – his only previous start at Riviera
- In most recent start, earned a T10 at the Waste Management Phoenix Open

Bryson DeChambeau

- Finished No. 3 in the 2017-18 FedExCup standings after three victories, including back-to-back FedExCup Playoffs wins (THE NORTHERN TRUST, Dell Technologies Championship) and a victory at the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide
- Three top-10s in three starts on PGA TOUR in 2018-19, including his fifth PGA TOUR title (Won/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, 7th/Sentry Tournament of Champions, T10/Sony Open in Hawaii)
- Making his third appearance at the Genesis Open (T41/2018, WD/2017)

Phil Mickelson

- Making his 599th official PGA TOUR start; made 500th career cut at last week's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, going on to win in a Monday finish. 14th victory in the state of California ties Tiger Woods for most wins by a PGA TOUR player in California since 1983
- Oldest winner this season at age 48 years, 7 months, 26 days
- Opening-round 60 (-12) en route to a T2 at 2019 Desert Classic, one of four starts this season
- Two wins (2008, 2009; most recent repeat-winner) and two runner-up results (2nd/2007, T2/2012) in 17 appearances at Genesis Open. Finished T6 at Riviera in 2018

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Justin Thomas

- 2017 FedExCup champion seeks first victory of 2018-19 PGA TOUR Season and 10th of career
- Owns four career starts at the Genesis Open with a T9 in 2018 his best result (T9/2018, T39/2017, T54/2016, T41/2015)
- Has finished third twice in 2018-19: Sentry Tournament of Champions, Waste Management Phoenix Open

Jordan Spieth

- A T4 in 2015 represents best finish in six starts at the Genesis Open (MC/2012, T12/2014, T4/2015, MC/2016, T22/2017, T9/2018).
- The 2015 FedExCup champion and three-time major winner with 11 PGA TOUR titles missed the season-ending TOUR Championship for the first time in his career in 2017-18
- As a member of the University of Texas men's golf team, helped the Longhorns to the NCAA championship in 2012 at Riviera

Jon Rahm

- World No. 6 is making first appearance at Genesis Open
- Posted top-10 results in last four PGA TOUR starts (T10/Waste Management Phoenix Open, T5/Farmers Insurance Open, 6th/Desert Classic, T8/Sentry Tournament of Champions)
- Zero over-par rounds on PGA TOUR in 2019 (16 rounds through WMPO/58-under-par in this stretch)

Rory McIlroy

- Finished T20 in both appearances at Genesis Open (2016, 2018).
- In 2016 appearance, shot 75 in the final round after sitting T5 and two back of eventual winner Bubba Watson through 54 holes.

Cameron Champ

- Recipient of the Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption into the 2018 Genesis Open (MC) will make his second Genesis Open appearance
- PGA TOUR rookie claimed first win at 2018 Sanderson Farms Championship
- Sacramento, California native made two starts on the PGA TOUR as an amateur: 2017 U.S. Open (T32) and 2017 Safeway Open (MC). First TOUR start as a professional was 2017 Mayakoba Golf Classic.
- Was a member of the winning U.S. team at the 2017 Walker Cup played at Los Angeles Country Club

Tim O'Neal earns Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption

- 46-year-old from Savannah, Georgia currently competes on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, where he owns three victories (2013 Arturo Calle Colombian Open, 2013 Abierto de Chile, 2016 Casa de Campo Dominican Republic Open)
- Prior to turning professional, had a distinguished amateur career, winning 16 college tournaments during his time at Jackson State University. He also won the Georgia Amateur Championship in 1997
- Primarily played mini-tour events early in his professional career
- Missed earning a PGA TOUR card by a single stroke twice (2000, 2004) at Qualifying School
- In 2011, was asked to take over the Jackson State golf program, but declined
- Played 151 Web.com Tour events with nine top-10 finishes, including a runner-up (to Greg Kraft) at the 2005 Northeast Pennsylvania Classic (Bubba Watson, defending Genesis Open champion, finished third, one stroke behind O'Neal in this event)
- After losing Web.com Tour status in 2014, played multiple mini-tours around the world

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- At age 42, contested his sixth and most recent PGA TOUR event after qualifying for the 2015 U.S. Open, where he missed the cut
- On the 50th anniversary of Charlie Sifford's win at the Los Angeles Open, this exemption has been awarded since 2009 and is focused on "representing the advancement of diversity in the game of golf." Past recipients include Harold Varner III (2014), Carlos Sainz, Jr. (2015), J.J. Spaun (2016), Kevin Hall (2017) and Cameron Champ (2018)

Miscellaneous Notes

- **Tony Finau** held the 18-hole co-lead with Patrick Cantlay at 2018 Genesis Open before finishing T2. The runner-up was Finau's best result in his fourth start at the Genesis Open (T56/2015, MC/2016, MC/2017, T2/2018)
- **Patrick Cantlay**, who missed the cut in two previous appearances at the Genesis Open (2012, 2013), shot 66-69-69-71—275 (-9) to finish T4 in 2018 after sharing the 18- and 36-hole leads
- **Fred Couples** makes his 616th PGA TOUR start and second of the season (Safeway Open/T41). In 34 appearances at the Genesis Open the World Golf Hall of Fame member counts two wins (1990, 1992) and three runner-up results among his 14 top-10 finishes. Other over-50s in the field include **Davis Love III** and **Vijay Singh**
- In his only previous PGA TOUR start, **Tae Hee Lee** finished T55 at the 2018 CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES when he was one of five KPGA professionals awarded spots in the field. Lee is playing on a sponsor exemption at the Genesis Open

Hole-in-One

The player with the first hole-in-one each round on holes 14 or 16 will win a Genesis G70.

- Most recent player to make an ace at the Genesis Open – **Haotong Li** (No. 6 in 2018).
- No aces were recorded in the 2017 event.
- Two players scored aces at No. 16 in 2016 – **Ryan Moore** and **Tyrone Van Aswegen**.
- The last player to hole-in-one at No. 14 was **Rich Beem** in 2007.

Fan Experience

- The inaugural Celebrity Cup, hosted by Tiger Woods, will be played over the back nine at Riviera on Monday, February 11. Two teams of six celebrities, Team Eldrick, captained by Woods and Team Frederick, captained by Fred Couples will square off for the Cup.
- The TGR Learning Lab hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities will be available Thursday-Sunday. Young fans can swing by and test their STEM and golf skills. Located in Family Village near the 14th hole at Riviera, the TGR Learning Lab powered by CDW & Samsung offers visitors a variety of interactive, family-friendly STEM challenges that are free, such as Light it Up, Buoyancy Challenge, Mission to Mars, Tower Challenge, Student-Created Gaming Station, Robotic Golf and the United Airlines Putting Course.
- Multiple food and beverage options are available at the Genesis Open (see link for Dining Guide):
http://138fai3apmye2f71ee2ny9ks-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2019/02/GO_2019_DiningGuide_FINAL.pdf

Impact on Community

The Genesis Open makes a significant impact each year in the Southern California community. Thousands of youth benefit annually through access to the game of golf during Genesis Open week, in addition to numerous impactful education and college access programs through the TGR Foundation, which supports various STEM education and college-access programs. Currently, there are 111 Earl Woods Scholars from Southern California, 10,000 students per year attending the TGR Learning Lab in Anaheim, and 3,400 teachers reached through TGR EDU: Create in SoCal

Collegiate Showcase to kick off Genesis Open tournament week

The 2019 Genesis Open kicked off Monday, Feb. 11 with the Collegiate Showcase, which teams PGA TOUR professionals playing in the Genesis Open with current collegiate stars. The Collegiate Showcase features an individual stroke-play competition for the

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collegiate entries, with the low collegiate golfer earning a spot in the Genesis Open. Lukas Euler, from the University of Kentucky, was the winner with a 4-under 67, three strokes ahead of Oklahoma State's Hayden Wood.

2019 marks the fifth time the tournament has hosted the Collegiate Showcase. Past winners of the event who went on to play in the Genesis Open are Texas's Scottie Scheffler (2018), Pepperdine's Sahith Theegala (2017), Illinois' Charlie Danielson (2016) and Wake Forest's Will Zalatoris (2015).

Aon Risk Reward Challenge

- The season-long Aon Risk Reward Challenge allows players to tackle the most strategically challenging holes across both the PGA TOUR and LPGA. The PGA TOUR and LPGA player on top of the Aon leaderboard at the end of the regular season will each receive a \$1 million prize. The Aon Risk Reward Challenge hole at the Genesis Open is the 315-yard, par-4 10th hole.
- Since 2014, 61% of players who have decided to go for the green off the tee, making birdie or better 30% of the time
- Since 2014, the winners of the Genesis Open have a combined 60% going for green percentage and have found the green once (2015/James Hahn/R2). The winners are 1-under when electing to go for the green compared to 2-over par when laying up.

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.

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