



**2019 THE NORTHERN TRUST**

*(The first of three events in the FedExCup Playoffs)*

**Jersey City, New Jersey**  
**Liberty National Golf Club**

**August 8-11, 2019**  
**Par/Yards: 71/7,370**

**FedExCup Points: 2,000 (winner)**  
**Purse: \$9,250,000**

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, August 8, 2019**

*Weather: Partly cloudy, with a high of 87. Wind WSW 10-18 mph*

*Note: On Wednesday, the course received 1.5 inches of rain. Overnight storms caused damage to some structures on the course. Although play started on schedule at 7:10 a.m., spectators were not allowed on course until 10 a.m.*

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Troy Merritt	62 (-9)
Dustin Johnson	63 (-8)
Kevin Kisner	64 (-7)
Jon Rahm	64 (-7)

**Things To Know**

- 121 of the top 125 in the FedExCup standings began THE NORTHERN TRUST: Sam Burns (ankle injury), Rafa Cabrera Bello (expecting birth of first child), Paul Casey (chose not to play) and Henrik Stenson (chose not to play)
- After THE NORTHERN TRUST, the top 70 players in the FedExCup standings advance to next week’s BMW Championship
- Troy Merritt’s 62 ties the low round at Liberty National in FedExCup Playoffs
- Dustin Johnson looks to join Vijay Singh as only players with three or more wins at THE NORTHERN TRUST
- Of the top five in the FedExCup standings, only Rory McIlroy posts a sub-70 score in the opening round
- Defending champion Bryson DeChambeau records 68 to sit T33

**First-Round Lead Notes**

- 9 of 51 First-round leaders/co-leaders at THE NORTHERN TRUST to go on and win (most recent: Dennis Paulson, 2000)
- 7 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on PGA TOUR in 2018-19 (most recent: Nate Lashley/Rocket Mortgage Classic)

**Troy Merritt (entering the week)**

Troy Merritt	
Age	33 (October 25, 1985)
Country	USA
FedExCup	72
OWGR	118
PGA TOUR starts	201
PGA TOUR wins	2
PGA TOUR top-10s	14
Starts in 2018-19	19
Wins in 2018-19	0
Top-10s in 2018-19	4

**Troy Merritt (1<sup>st</sup>/62)**

- Made nine birdies, his most in any round this season, to post his low score this season, but one shy of his career low (most recent: 61/R3/2015 Quicken Loans National)
- Ties Kevin Chappell (2013) for low round at Liberty National in FedExCup Playoffs
- Entered week No. 72 in FedExCup and projected to move to No. 4
- Marks his third first-round lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR, going on to win his most recent (2018 Barbasol Championship). Finished T20 at 2010 Sony Open in Hawaii after sharing first-round lead

- Four previous starts at THE NORTHERN TRUST (2018/MC, 2016/MC, 2015/T53, 2014/T46)
- Seeks third PGA TOUR title in his 202<sup>nd</sup> start (2015 Quicken Loans National, 2018 Barbasol Championship)
- Owns four top-10s this season, the most in a single season of eight seasons on TOUR (T4/Safeway Open, T10/RBC Heritage, T7/3M Open, 2<sup>nd</sup>/Barracuda Championship)
- Held 54-hole lead at last month's Barracuda Championship before finishing runner-up behind Collin Morikawa
- Diagnosed with thoracic outlet syndrome last year and had surgery to remove the top rib on his left side in January this year causing him to miss West Coast swing and most of Florida swing

#### Dustin Johnson (2<sup>nd</sup>/63)

- Hit 12/14 fairways, 13/18 greens and took 23 putts while going bogey-free with four birdies on each nine to mark his lowest round this season
- 63 ties low opening round of his PGA TOUR career: 2012 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (finished T5)
- Ties his low round at THE NORTHERN TRUST: 63/R2/2011 at Plainfield CC
- Seeks third victory at THE NORTHERN TRUST having won in 2011 and 2017. Only player to have won this event more than twice is Vijay Singh (1993, 1995, 2006, 2008)
- Victory this week would mark his fifth FedExCup Playoffs title. Currently tied for most with Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy
- Entered the week No. 7 in FedExCup and projected to move to No. 2. Seeking to advance to the TOUR Championship for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive season. Highest FedExCup finish is No. 2 (2016)

#### Miscellaneous Player Notes

- **Kevin Kisner** (T3/64) included an eagle 2 at No. 3, where he holed out from 108 yards, in a bogey-free 64. After missing the cut in his first appearance at THE NORTHERN TRUST (2014/R1-73), Kisner has posted five consecutive under-par opening rounds but has finished inside the top-20 just once (T20/2015, T48/2016, T54/2017, T73/2018)
- **Jon Rahm** (T3/64) recorded seven birdies, including five in a row (Nos. 16-2). Rahm holed 150' 1" of putts while ranking No. 2 in Strokes Gained: Putting (4.469)
- **Tony Finau** (T5/65), runner-up to Bryson DeChambeau at Ridgewood CC in THE 2018 NORTHERN TRUST, made five birdies in a row on Nos. 3-7
- **Webb Simpson** celebrated his 34<sup>th</sup> birthday with 65 to sit T5. Simpson, No. 26 in the FedExCup before runner-up finishes in his previous two starts (World Golf Championships-FedEx St. Jude Invitational, Wyndham Championship) ahead of this week, is now projected No. 7 in the FedExCup. Also currently projected No. 5 in Presidents Cup U.S. Team standings
- Despite a bogey at his opening hole, 2016 FedExCup champion **Rory McIlroy** (T5/65) tied his low round at this event (R2/2013/Liberty National, R2/2014/Ridgewood) while ranking No. 1 in Strokes Gained: Off The Tee (2.546). McIlroy's best finish in six previous starts at this event is T19/2013 at Liberty National
- 2018 FedExCup champion **Justin Rose** (T5/65) birdied four of his final six holes. Along with a victory at the 2011 BMW Championship, Rose has finished runner-up at least once in each FedExCup Playoffs tournament (THE NORTHERN TRUST – T2/2013; Dell Technologies Championship – 2<sup>nd</sup>/2018; BMW Championship – 2<sup>nd</sup>/2018, T2/2017, 1<sup>st</sup>/2011; TOUR Championship – T2/2015, 2<sup>nd</sup>/2012)
- Following his first PGA TOUR win at the 2019 Valero Texas Open after Monday qualifying, Canada's **Corey Connors** (T9/66) seeks to make a move in the International Team Presidents Cup standings. Currently No. 17, Connors is the leading Canadian in the standings. Connors is one of 19 players making their first appearance in the FedExCup Playoffs
- 2015 FedExCup champion **Jordan Spieth** (T18/67) was one of 10 players with a bogey-free round on Thursday
- Here's a look at the top five players in the FedExCup standings: 1/**Brooks Koepka** (T65/70), 2/**Rory McIlroy** (T5/65), 3/**Matt Kuchar** (T65/70), 4/**Xander Schauffele** (T65/70), 5/**Gary Woodland** (T100/73)
- **Tiger Woods** (T116/75) posted his second-highest career round in any FedExCup Playoffs event. Since the inception of the FedExCup Playoffs, Woods' high score is 76 (R4/THE 2012 NORTHERN TRUST/at Bethpage)
- Last week's winner at the Wyndham Championship **J.T. Poston** (T18/67) played in the same group as Tiger Woods in R1
- **Sepp Straka** (T100/73) made back-to-back eagles, holing a 137-yard shot from the fairway at No. 5 (par-4) and a greenside bunker shot at the par-5 6<sup>th</sup> hole. It marked the second consecutive week a player made back-to-back eagles (Patton Kizzire/Wyndham Championship) and the fifth time the feat has been achieved this season
- **Matthew Wolff** (T51/69) and **Collin Morikawa** (T82/71) earned spots in the FedExCup Playoffs after winning PGA TOUR events (Wolff/3M Open, Morikawa/Barracuda Championship) to become eligible as full members
- **Aaron Baddeley** withdrew after four holes with a back injury. **Chris Stroud** withdrew with a back injury after a first-round 76
- Two events remain for players to move into the top eight in the Presidents Cup standings. After the top eight earn their spots on their respective teams following the BMW Championship on Sunday, August 18, International Team Captain **Ernie Els** and U.S. Team Captain **Tiger Woods** will have the opportunity to each make four additional Captains' selections following the conclusion of the WGC-HSBC Champions in November

#### FedExCup Playoffs Bubble

FEC Pos.	Player	Projected FEC Pos	R1 Position
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65	Sergio Garcia	76	T100
66	Danny Lee	77	T65
67	Abraham Ancer	57	T18
68	Kevin Streelman	80	T116
69	Jordan Spieth	61	T18
70	Matthew Wolff	79	T51
71	Bubba Watson	85	T100
72	Troy Merritt	4	1
73	Charley Hoffman	88	T112
74	Joaquin Niemann	83	T65
75	Matt Every	89	T92
76	Kiradech Aphibarnrat	67	T18

If the tournament ended today, seven players would move from outside the top 70 and into the field for next week's BMW Championship

FEC Pos.	Player	R1 Position	Projected FEC Position
72	Troy Merritt	1	4
78	Brian Stuard	T9	54
82	Chesson Hadley	T9	55
106	Russell Knox	T9	66
76	Kiradech Aphibarnrat	T18	67
79	Cameron Smith	T18	69
110	Danny Willett	T9	70

#### Course Statistics

##### **Toughest Hole**

R1: Par-4 9<sup>th</sup> (4.242)

##### **Easiest Hole**

Par-5 6<sup>th</sup> (4.292)

##### **Scoring Averages**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
R1:	35.375	34.017	69.392	---

	<b>Early</b>	<b>Late</b>
R1:	69.10	69.82

##### **Bogey-free rounds**

R1 (10): Troy Merritt (62), Dustin Johnson (63), Kevin Kisner (64), Jon Rahm (64), Justin Rose (65), Patrick Reed (66), Danny Willett (66), Adam Schenk (67), Jordan Spieth (67), Justin Thomas (67)