



## 2023 Hero World Challenge pre-tournament notes

### PGA TOUR Challenge Season event (unofficial)

Albany, Bahamas

November 27-December 3, 2023

Purse: \$4.5 million

Albany

Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,449

Winner: \$1 million

### Tournament host Tiger Woods

- Making first worldwide start since withdrawing from the 2023 Masters Tournament
- Masters WD details: withdrew Sunday morning due to plantar fasciitis before resuming the third round, which was delayed due to weather; had completed seven holes in the third round at the time of suspension Saturday
- Thursday's first round of the Hero World Challenge comes 236 days after his last competitive round
- Limited to two starts on the PGA TOUR during the 2022-23 season (T45/The Genesis Invitational, WD/Masters Tournament)
- 18<sup>th</sup> Hero World Challenge start and first since 2019 (four prior starts at Albany; best result: 4<sup>th</sup>/2019)
- Five-time Hero World Challenge champion (2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2011)

### Two-time defending champion Viktor Hovland

- Looks to become the first player to win the Hero World Challenge three years in a row; the only other player to successfully defend a title, Tiger Woods, did not participate in the event the following year (Won/2006, Won/2007, DNP/2008)
- Won the 2023 FedExCup title following a three-win season (the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, BMW Championship, TOUR Championship)
- Third worldwide start since the TOUR Championship (prior two on the DP World Tour: 5<sup>th</sup>/BMW PGA Championship, T2/DP World Tour Championship); did not compete during the FedExCup Fall

### World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler

- Solo-second in each of the last two years at the Hero World Challenge; making third start at the event
- Making first worldwide start since the TOUR Championship
- Set the PGA TOUR record for Official Money earned in a single season in 2022-23 at \$21,014,342
- Finished the season with 13 top-fives, the most by any player in a single season since Vijay Singh and Tiger Woods had 13 in 2005
- Finished the season with 17 top-10s, the most by any player in a single season since Vijay Singh had 18 in 2005

### Will Zalatoris

- Making first worldwide start since going 0-3-0 at the 2023 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play
- Thursday's first round of the Hero World Challenge comes 251 days after he was eliminated from the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play
- Entered that event No. 8 in the Official World Golf Ranking and has since fallen to No. 33
- Making tournament debut at the Hero World Challenge

### Miscellaneous notes

- Eight of the 20 players in the field made at least one start during the FedExCup Fall (Keegan Bradley, Rickie Fowler, Lucas Glover, Brian Harman, Max Homa, Collin Morikawa, Justin Thomas, Cameron Young); Morikawa was the only player who won on TOUR in that span (ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP)
- 13 of the 20 players in the field competed in the 2023 Ryder Cup; nine for the United States (Sam Burns, Wyndham Clark, Rickie Fowler, Brian Harman, Max Homa, Collin Morikawa, Scottie Scheffler, Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas) and four for Europe (Matt Fitzpatrick, Viktor Hovland, Justin Rose, Sepp Straka)
- Five past FedExCup Champions are in the field (Tiger Woods/2007 and 2009, Jordan Spieth/2015, Justin Thomas/2017, Justin Rose/2018, Viktor Hovland/2023)
- Five PLAYERS Championship winners are in the field (Tiger Woods/2001 and 2013, Rickie Fowler/2015, Jason Day/2016, Justin Thomas/2021, Scottie Scheffler/2023)
- 12 of the 20 players in the field have won a major, including four players who have won two or more (Tiger Woods/15, Jordan Spieth/3, Collin Morikawa/2, Justin Thomas/2)