



2023 RSM Classic
(7th of 7 FedExCup Fall Events)

St. Simons Island, Georgia
Sea Island Golf Club (Seaside)
Sea Island Golf Club (Plantation)

November 16-19, 2023
Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,005
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,060

FedExCup points: 500 (winner)
Purse: \$8.4 million (\$1,512,000 winner)

Second-Round Notes – Friday, November 17, 2023

Weather: Moderate showers. High of 65. Wind NNE 10-15 mph.

36-hole cut: 78 professionals at 4-under 138 from a field of 154 professionals and two amateurs

Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	Course	R1	R2	Total
1	Ludvig Åberg	PL-SS	67	64	131 (-11)
T2	Denny McCarthy	PL-SS	65	67	132 (-10)
T2	Sam Ryder	SS-PL	67	65	132 (-10)
T2	Eric Cole	PL-SS	66	66	132 (-10)
T5	<i>Five Players Tied</i>				133 (-9)

Ludvig Åberg (1st/-11) – PL-SS

- Makes 20-foot, 1-inch birdie putt at par-4 18th to cap bogey-free 6-under 64 on Seaside Course and take a one-stroke lead at 11-under 131, marking his first 36-hole lead/co-lead and lowest opening 36-hole score in what is his 11th start on TOUR as a professional
- One of four players in the field without a bogey through 36 holes (Peter Kuest, Brendon Todd, Cameron Young)
- Previous career-low opening 36-hole score on TOUR was 132 (four times, most recent: 2023 Wyndham Championship)
- Entered the week at No. 96 in the FedExCup Fall standings (currently projects to finish No. 55 with a win) with nine made cuts and seven top-25s – including three top-10s – in 10 PGA TOUR starts as a professional; also won the 2023 Omega European Masters on the DP World Tour
- Making second start at The RSM Classic and first appearance as a professional (MC/2021)
- Turned professional following the NCAA Championship in May and became the first player to join the TOUR directly out of college by finishing No. 1 in the PGA TOUR University Ranking
- The RSM Classic is the final event of consideration for the Arnold Palmer Award, given annually to the PGA TOUR’s Rookie of the Year

Eric Cole (T2/-10) – PL-SS

- Caps second-round 4-under 66 on Seaside Course with field-leading 15th birdie; entered the week as the TOUR’s 2022-23 season leader in Total Birdies (526 – 50 more than the next-closest player, Stephan Jaeger), and ranked No. 8 on TOUR this season in Birdie Average (4.31 – 526 total birdies in 122 rounds)
- Began his second round on No. 10 of Seaside Course and made five consecutive birdies on Nos. 14-18 for his best birdie streak on TOUR (four, four times, most recent: 2023 3M Open/R3)
- Also made one of the two double bogeys on record this week at the par-5 seventh (David Lingmerth/R1)
- Establishes career-high 36-hole position at T2 (previous: 4th/T4, four times)
- Only rookie in the 2022-23 class who qualified for the BMW Championship, finishing No. 43 in the FedExCup standings

FedExCup Fall Notes

- The top 125 in the FedExCup Fall standings thru The RSM Classic will be exempt into all Full-Field events and THE PLAYERS Championship next season
- Nos. 51-60 in the standings at the conclusion of The RSM Classic will qualify for two Signature Events in 2024 via The Next 10 (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, The Genesis Invitational)
- Player(s) currently projected to move into the top 125: **Maverick McNealy** (No. 127 to No. 121)
- Player(s) currently projected to move out of the top 125: **Troy Merritt** (No. 123 to No. 126)
- Player(s) currently projected to move into The Next 10: **Ludvig Åberg** (No. 96 to No. 55)
- Player(s) currently projected to move out of The Next 10: **J.J. Spaun** (No. 59 to No. 62)

- Four players ranked between No. 120 and No. 126 in the FedExCup Fall standings entering the week missed the cut: No. 120 **Matti Schmid**, No. 121 **Doug Ghim**, No. 123 **Troy Merritt**, No. 126 **Henrik Norlander**

Additional Player Notes

- 18-hole co-leader **Denny McCarthy** (T2/-10/SS), who finished a career-best No. 33 in the FedExCup this season, cards bogey-free 3-under 67 on Seaside Course, stands T2 or better through 36 holes for fourth time in what is his 165th career start on TOUR (T1/2023 Travelers Championship/finished T7; 2nd/2022 John Deere Classic/T6; T2/2022 the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday/T5)
- **Sam Ryder** (T2/-10/PL) plays final five holes in 5-under (birdie-par-birdie-birdie-eagle) for 7-under 65 on the Plantation Course; entered week No. 60 in the FedExCup Fall standings, currently projects to remain in The Next 10 and finish No. 53
- Ryder and 2019 RSM Classic winner **Tyler Duncan** (T5/-9/PL) both post second-round 7-under 65s to tie the week's lowest score on Plantation Course
- Rookie and Special Temporary Member **Peter Kuest** (T5/-9/SS) follows bogey-free 5-under 67 on Plantation Course with bogey-free 4-under 66 on Seaside Course and is one of four players in the field without a bogey through 36 holes (**Ludvig Åberg, Brendon Todd, Cameron Young**)
- Sponsor exemption **Ben Kohles** (T5/-9/PL), a four-time Korn Ferry Tour winner who finished No. 1 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List last month and earned exemptions for the 2024 PLAYERS Championship and 2024 U.S. Open, cards second-round 5-under 67 on Plantation Course, highlighted by an eagle-3 at the par-5 18th
- Defending champion **Adam Svensson** (T10/-8/PL) cards second-round 6-under 66 on Plantation Course and is 10-under par in his last 30 holes (nine birdies, one eagle, one bogey) after two bogeys and zero birdies in his first six holes of the tournament; bidding to join Tom Kim as the second player to win the same event twice in a season since Byron Nelson won the San Francisco Open in January and December 1944; also bidding to become first player to successfully defend their title at The RSM Classic, and the fifth player to successfully defend a PGA TOUR title this season
- **Matt NeSmith** (T10/-8/SS) makes seven birdies en route to bogey-free 7-under 63 for the low round on Seaside this week
- **Harry Higgs** (T61/-4/SS), who entered the week No. 145 in the FedExCup Fall standings, birdies two of final three holes (par-4 16th and 18th) to post second-round even-par 70 on Seaside Course and make the cut on the number
- **Mark Hubbard** (MC/-3/SS) misses the cut in his 39th start of the season; Hubbard's 39 starts are the most of any player in a single season on record (1983-present)
- **Davis Love III** (MC/+1/SS), host of The RSM Classic, cards 1-over 71 on Seaside Course and misses the cut in his 790th start on TOUR; Love's 790 starts rank third all-time behind Mark Brooks (803) and Jay Haas (799)