



## PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES 2023 VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP



### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

March 13-19 • 21st of 44 FedExCup Regular Season events  
Palm Harbor, Florida  
Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead) • Par 71 • 7,340 yds.  
**Purse** \$8.1 million • **Winner** \$1,458,000 + 500 FedExCup pts.  
144 players • 72-hole stroke-play  
**Defending champion** Sam Burns

### BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

	ESPN+	GOLF	NBC
<b>R1</b>	7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
<b>R2</b>	7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
<b>R3</b>	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.
<b>R4</b>	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	1-2 p.m.	2-6 p.m.

### CONTACT

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### 2022-23 PGA TOUR SEASON

#### FedExCup Playoffs

TOUR Championship .....  
BMW Championship .....  
FedEx St. Jude Championship .....

#### FedExCup Regular Season

Wyndham Championship .....  
3M Open .....  
Barracuda Championship .....  
The Open Championship .....  
Barbasol Championship .....  
Genesis Scottish Open .....  
John Deere Classic .....  
Rocket Mortgage Classic .....  
Travelers Championship .....  
U.S. Open .....  
RBC Canadian Open .....  
the Memorial Tournament .....  
Charles Schwab Challenge .....  
PGA Championship .....  
AT&T Byron Nelson .....  
Wells Fargo Championship .....  
Mexico Open at Vidanta .....  
Zurich Classic of New Orleans .....  
RBC Heritage .....  
Masters Tournament .....  
Valero Texas Open .....  
Corales Puntacana Championship .....  
WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play .....  
Valspar Championship .....  
THE PLAYERS Championship ..... Scottie Scheffler (2)  
Puerto Rico Open ..... Nico Echavarria  
Arnold Palmer Invitational ..... Kurt Kitayama  
The Honda Classic ..... Chris Kirk  
The Genesis Invitational ..... Jon Rahm (3)  
WM Phoenix Open ..... Scottie Scheffler  
AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am ..... Justin Rose  
Farmers Insurance Open ..... Max Homa (2)  
The American Express ..... Jon Rahm (2)  
Sony Open in Hawaii ..... Si Woo Kim  
Sentry Tournament of Champions ..... Jon Rahm  
The RSM Classic ..... Adam Svensson  
Cadence Bank Houston Open ..... Tony Finau  
World Wide Technology Championship .. Russell Henley  
Butterfield Bermuda Championship .. Seamus Power  
THE CJ CUP in South Carolina ..... Rory McIlroy  
ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP ..... Keegan Bradley  
Shriners Children's Open ..... Tom Kim  
Sanderson Farms Championship .. Mackenzie Hughes  
Fortinet Championship ..... Max Homa

*Italics* First-time PGA TOUR winners

### TOP STORYLINES

**Sam Burns**, who earned his first career victory at the 2021 Valspar Championship, defeated Davis Riley in a playoff to successfully defend his title in 2022. The last player to win the same PGA TOUR event three years in a row is Steve Stricker at the John Deere Classic from 2009-11. Burns has accumulated a Scoring Average of 68.63 at the Valspar Championship, the lowest in tournament history (min. 12 rounds). Burns advanced to the TOUR Championship after winning the Valspar Championship in 2021 and 2022 and is one of three players that has earned bonus money via the Comcast Business TOUR TOP 10 in each of the last two seasons, along with Patrick Cantlay and Justin Thomas. Burns won three times on TOUR in 2021-22, with his other victories coming at the Sanderson Farms Championship and Charles Schwab Challenge. He was one of five players to win three or more times in 2021-22 and one of five to successfully defend a title last season.

#### Players to win the same PGA TOUR event at least three years in a row in the last 40 years

Player	Tournament	Years
Steve Stricker	John Deere Classic	2009, 2010, 2011
Tiger Woods	Farmers Insurance Open	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Tiger Woods	WGC-Bridgestone Invitational	2005, 2006, 2007
Tiger Woods	WGC-CA Championship	2005, 2006, 2007
Stuart Appleby	Sentry Tournament of Champions	2004, 2005, 2006
Tiger Woods	Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
Tiger Woods	WGC-NEC Invitational	1999, 2000, 2001
Tiger Woods	the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday	1999, 2000, 2001

#### Lowest Scoring Average in Valspar Championship history (min. 12 rounds)

68.63	Sam Burns
69.67	Justin Thomas
70.00	Wesley Bryan
70.02	Jim Furyk
70.08	Denny McCarthy

**Justin Thomas** is the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 10 in the Official World Golf Ranking and has won 15 times on the PGA TOUR, the most of any player in the field. Thomas is making his third consecutive start and sixth total at the Valspar Championship, where he finished T3 in 2022 and has finished worse than T18 once (MC/2017).

2015 Valspar Championship winner **Jordan Spieth** is making his sixth start at the event and first since 2018 (MC). Spieth's win at the Valspar Championship was the second of his career and first of five during the 2014-15 season en route to the FedExCup title. Spieth is a past champion of four tournaments in the next five weeks (Valspar Championship, Valero Texas Open, Masters Tournament, RBC Heritage).

**Keegan Bradley** enters the week No. 4 in the FedExCup standings, the highest position of any player in the field. Bradley, who won the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP in the fall portion of the season, trails only the three multiple winners in the FedExCup (No. 1 Jon Rahm/3 wins, No. 2 Max Homa/2 wins, No. 3 Scottie Scheffler/2 wins). Bradley finished runner-up at the 2021 Valspar Championship, his lone top-10 in seven starts at the event, and has four top-10s on TOUR this season.

21-year-old **Akshay Bhatia** is making his first start since becoming eligible to join the PGA TOUR as a Special Temporary Member. Bhatia finished runner-up at the Puerto Rico Open and via the top-10 finish, qualified for the Valspar Championship, site of his PGA TOUR debut as a 17-year-old amateur in 2019 (MC). Bhatia became eligible for STM by earning more FedExCup points than No. 150 on last season's final FedExCup Playoffs and Eligibility Points List (175.228/Dylan Wu) and can now accept unlimited sponsor exemptions for the remainder of the season as he seeks his PGA TOUR card for the 2024 season (needs as many or more points as No. 125 in the final 2022-23 FedExCup Playoffs and Eligibility Points List, which runs through the fall 2023 portion of the season).

## WINNERS

Year	Player
2022	<b>Sam Burns</b>
2021	<b>Sam Burns</b>
2020	Canceled
2019	Paul Casey
2018	Paul Casey
2017	<b>Adam Hadwin</b>
2016	Charl Schwartzel
2015	<b>Jordan Spieth</b>
2014	John Senden
2013	<b>Kevin Streelman</b>
2012	<b>Luke Donald</b>
2011	<b>Gary Woodland</b>
2010	Jim Furyk
2009	Retief Goosen
2008	Sean O'Hair
2007	Mark Calcavecchia
2006	K. J. Choi
2005	Carl Pettersson
2004	Vijay Singh
2003	Retief Goosen
2002	K. J. Choi
2001	Canceled
2000	John Huston

bold in field

## ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

Six-time PGA TOUR winner **Rory Sabbatini** is making his 600th career start on the PGA TOUR, becoming the 70th player to reach the milestone and first since Charles Howell III at the 2022 WM Phoenix Open. Sabbatini, who won the silver medal in the men's golf competition at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo representing Slovakia, is making his 16th start at the Valspar Championship, where he has one top-10 (T5/2018). His most recent top-10 on TOUR came at the 2021 Shriners Children's Open (T3).

85 players in the 144-player field competed at last week's PLAYERS Championship, including three that finished in the top 10 (all T6): **David Lingmerth**, **Justin Rose** and **Justin Suh**. Lingmerth, who did not record a top-10 on TOUR in 74 starts from the 2017-18 season through the 2021-22 season, has four top-10s, two fewer than TOUR leaders Jon Rahm and Scottie Scheffler (six each).

Four players in the field are eligible via a top-10 at the Puerto Rico Open: Bhatia, **Wesley Bryan**, **Cody Gribble** and **John VanDerLaan**.

Korn Ferry Tour member **Ryan Gerard** is competing on a sponsor exemption. A timeline of Gerard's recent results:  
 Sunday, February 12 Finishes T3 at the Astara Golf Championship on the Korn Ferry Tour  
 Monday, February 20 Shoots 66 in the Open Qualifier for The Honda Classic  
 Tuesday, February 21 Advances from 5-for-3 playoff at the Open Qualifier to earn a spot in The Honda Classic  
 Sunday, February 26 Finishes solo-fourth at The Honda Classic, qualifies for the Puerto Rico Open (via top-10)  
 Sunday, March 5 Finishes T11 at the Puerto Rico Open

With his solo-fourth at The Honda Classic, Gerard became the first Open Qualifier to finish in the top five of a PGA TOUR event since Doc Redman (2nd) at the 2019 Rocket Mortgage Classic. **Harry Hall** made birdie at the 72nd hole of the Puerto Rico Open, bumping Gerard from T10 to T11; he would have earned a spot in the Valspar Championship with the top-10 finish but was later granted a sponsor exemption. Gerard has earned 169 non-member FedExCup points this season and needs a two-way T54 to qualify for Special Temporary Membership for the rest of the season.

At the end of the 2023 DP World Tour season, the top-10 players in the DP World Tour Rankings not otherwise exempt for the 2024 PGA TOUR Season will earn TOUR cards. **Victor Perez**, who is currently No. 1 in the DP World Tour Rankings, is competing on a sponsor exemption. Perez is making his 25th career start on the PGA TOUR and first of the season, and he has three top-10s: 4th/2021 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, T4/2019 WGC-HSBC Champions, T9/2021 PLAYERS Championship. He enters the week No. 63 in the Official World Golf Ranking and is eligible to compete at next week's WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play.

Youngest player in the field: 21-year-old Akshay Bhatia  
 Oldest player in the field: 49-year-old Stewart Cink

## 2022 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Sam Burns	64	67	67	69	267 (-17)
2	Davis Riley	65	68	62	72	267 (-17)
T3	Matthew NeSmith	67	61	69	71	268 (-16)
T3	Justin Thomas	66	66	66	70	268 (-16)
T5	Matt Fitzpatrick	67	68	67	68	270 (-14)
T5	Brian Harman	67	67	68	68	270 (-14)
T7	Five players					272 (-12)

## STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

<b>Top 10 FedExCup</b> .....	1.....	Keegan Bradley (4)
<b>Top 30 FedExCup</b> .....	4.....	
<b>Top 10 OWGR</b> .....	1.....	Justin Thomas (10)
<b>Top 50 OWGR</b> .....	10.....	
<b>PGA TOUR winners</b> .....	64.....	Justin Thomas (15)
<b>Past champions</b> .....	6.....	Defending: Sam Burns
<b>FedExCup Champions</b> ...	3.....	Most recent: Justin Rose (2018)
<b>PLAYERS winners</b> .....	2.....	Most recent: Justin Thomas (2021)
<b>Major winners</b> .....	12.....	Jordan Spieth (3)

## TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Category	Value	Player	Year
<b>Low 18-hole score</b>	61	2 players; most recent: Matthew NeSmith	2022 (R2)
<b>Low 36-hole score</b>	128	Matthew NeSmith	2022
<b>Low 54-hole score</b>	195	Davis Riley	2022
<b>Low 72-hole score</b>	266	Vijay Singh	2004
<b>Holes-in-one</b>	11	Most recent: Jason Kokrak	2019 (No. 15, R3)
<b>Largest 18-hole lead</b>	3	Padraig Harrington	2012
<b>Largest 36-hole lead</b>	3	Robert Garrigus	2014
<b>Largest 54-hole lead</b>	5	K.J. Choi	2002
<b>Best come-from-behind win</b>	5	2 players; most recent: Paul Casey	2018
<b>Largest margin of victory</b>	7	K.J. Choi	2002
<b>Playoffs</b>	4	Most recent: Sam Burns def. Davis Riley	2022
<b>Wire-to-wire winners</b>	1	K.J. Choi	2002