



PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES

2024 COGNIZANT CLASSIC IN THE PALM BEACHES



TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

February 26-March 3 • 9th of 36 FedExCup Regular Season events
 Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
 PGA National (The Champion) • Par 71 • 7,147 yds.
Purse \$9 million • Winner \$1.62 million + 500 FedExCup pts.
 144 players • 72-hole stroke play
Defending champion Chris Kirk

BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

	ESPN+	GOLF	NBC
R1	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
R2	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
R3	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.
R4	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.

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2024 PGA TOUR SEASON

FedExCup Playoffs

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

FedExCup Regular Season

Wyndham Championship.....
Olympic Men's Golf Competition.....
 3M Open.....
 Barracuda Championship.....
 The Open Championship.....
 Genesis Scottish Open.....
 John Deere Classic.....
 Rocket Mortgage Classic.....
 Travelers Championship.....
 U.S. Open.....
 the Memorial Tournament.....
 RBC Canadian Open.....
 Charles Schwab Challenge.....
 PGA Championship.....
 Myrtle Beach Classic.....
 Wells Fargo Championship.....
 THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson.....
 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.....
 Corales Puntacana Championship.....
 RBC Heritage.....
 Masters Tournament.....
 Valero Texas Open.....
 Texas Children's Houston Open.....
 Valspar Championship.....
 THE PLAYERS Championship.....
 Puerto Rico Open.....
 Arnold Palmer Invitational.....
 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches.....

Mexico Open at Vidanta..... *Jake Knapp*
 The Genesis Invitational..... Hideki Matsuyama
 WM Phoenix Open..... Nick Taylor
 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am..... Wyndham Clark
 Farmers Insurance Open..... *Matthieu Pavon*
 The American Express..... *Nick Dunlap*
 Sony Open in Hawaii..... Grayson Murray
 The Sentry..... Chris Kirk

Italics First-time PGA TOUR winners

TOP STORYLINES

The Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches is the second of two Full-Field Events leading up to the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard. The Aon Next 10 for the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard will be filled with the top 10 players in the FedExCup standings through the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches that did not finish in the top 50 of the 2022-23 FedExCup Playoffs and Eligibility Points List, while the Aon Swing 5 will be made up of the next five players earning the most points in the Mexico Open at Vidanta and the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches.

Chris Kirk won the 2023 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches in a playoff over **Eric Cole**, earning his fifth PGA TOUR title and first since the 2015 Charles Schwab Challenge (snapped a winless drought of 7 years, 9 months, 13 days). Kirk, who won The Sentry to open the 2024 season, enters the week No. 4 in the FedExCup standings. Kirk is one of 10 past champions in the field.

Following his runner-up at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, Cole became the only rookie to advance to the 2023 BMW Championship and went on to win the Arnold Palmer Award as the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year. He comes into the week a career-high 36th in the Official World Golf Ranking, 294 spots higher than in 2023 (moved from No. 330 to No. 179 with the runner-up in 2023).

2012 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches champion **Rory McIlroy** is making his 10th start in the event and first since 2018 (T59). McIlroy is making his third start of the season and first in a Full-Field Event following a T66 at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and T24 at The Genesis Invitational. McIlroy, a 24-time PGA TOUR winner, has won six different TOUR events multiple times.

PGA TOUR events Rory McIlroy has won multiple times

3	TOUR Championship	2016, 2019, 2022
3	Wells Fargo Championship	2010, 2015, 2021
2	RBC Canadian Open	2019, 2022
2	THE CJ CUP	2021, 2022
2	Deutsche Bank Championship	2012, 2016
2	PGA Championship	2012, 2014

2022 U.S. Open winner **Matt Fitzpatrick** is making his third start at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches and first since becoming a PGA TOUR member at the start of the 2019-20 season. Fitzpatrick received sponsor exemptions in 2016 (MC) and 2017 (68th). Fitzpatrick, No. 9, is one of two players in the field in the top 10 of the Official World Golf Ranking, along with McIlroy (No. 2). This is the first time the event has had multiple top-10 players in the field since 2019 (3).

PGA TOUR rookie **Jake Knapp** won last week's Mexico Open at Vidanta, earning his first career title on TOUR. With the victory, Knapp moved to No. 8 in the FedExCup standings and earned a spot in all five remaining Signature Events in 2024. He also received exemptions to THE PLAYERS Championship, Masters Tournament, PGA Championship and 2025 Sentry. Knapp is looking to become the first player to earn his first two wins in consecutive starts since Camilo Villegas in 2008 (BMW Championship, TOUR Championship) and the first player to earn his first two wins in consecutive events on the TOUR schedule since David Duval in 1997 (Michelob Championship at Kingsmill, Walt Disney World/Oldsmobile Classic). Knapp is the third rookie to win on TOUR through eight events this season, matching the total number of rookie winners on TOUR in 54 events during the 2022-23 season.

Rookie winners on TOUR in 2024

Jake Knapp Mexico Open at Vidanta
 Matthieu Pavon Farmers Insurance Open
 Nick Dunlap The American Express

Rookie winners on TOUR in 2022-23

Ludvig Åberg 2023 RSM Classic
 Vincent Norrman 2023 Barbasol Championship
 Nico Echavarria 2023 Puerto Rico Open

WINNERS

Year	Player
2023	Chris Kirk
2022	Sepp Straka
2021	Matt Jones
2020	Sungjae Im
2019	Keith Mitchell
2018	Justin Thomas
2017	Rickie Fowler
2016	Adam Scott
2015	Padraig Harrington
2014	Russell Henley
2013	Michael Thompson
2012	Rory McIlroy
2011	Rory Sabbatini
2010	Camilo Villegas
2009	YE Yang
2008	Ernie Els
2007	Mark Wilson
2006	Luke Donald
2005	Padraig Harrington
2004	Todd Hamilton
2003	Justin Leonard
2002	Matt Kuchar
2001	Jesper Parnevik
2000	Dudley Hart
1999	Vijay Singh
1998	Mark Calcavecchia
1997	Stuart Appleby
1996	Tim Herron
1995	Mark O'Meara
1994	Nick Price
1993	Fred Couples
1992	Corey Pavin
1991	Steve Pate
1990	John Huston
1989	Blaine McCallister
1988	Joey Sindelar
1987	Mark Calcavecchia
1986	Kenny Knox
1985	Curtis Strange
1984	Bruce Lietzke
1983	Johnny Miller
1982	Hale Irwin
1981	Tom Kite
1980	Johnny Miller
1979	Larry Nelson
1978	Jack Nicklaus
1977	Jack Nicklaus
1975	Bob Murphy
1974	Leonard Thompson
1973	Lee Trevino
1972	Tom Weiskopf

ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

Finland's **Sami Valimaki** finished solo-second at last week's Mexico Open at Vidanta, his first career top-10 on the PGA TOUR. With the runner-up, Valimaki moved to No. 1 in the Aon Swing 5 standings, securing a spot in next week's Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard (will be his first start in a Signature Event). Valimaki, a PGA TOUR rookie, earned his TOUR card through the DP World Tour Top 10.

Four-time PGA TOUR winner **Ryan Palmer** is making his 500th career start on the PGA TOUR, becoming the first player to reach the milestone since Lucas Glover at the 2023 Valero Texas Open. He is making his 17th start at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, highlighted by a runner-up in 2014 (lost in a four-man playoff won by Russell Henley; other runners-up: Russell Knox, Rory McIlroy). With the exception of the 2019-20 season, which was shortened due to COVID-19, Palmer is the only player on TOUR that has played in at least 20 events in each season since he joined the PGA TOUR in 2004.

First start: 1998 U.S. Open (MC) as an amateur

First start as a professional: 2002 Valero Texas Open (MC) as an Open Qualifier

First start as a TOUR member: 2004 Sony Open in Hawaii (T64)

Shane Lowry has finished in the top five at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches in each of the last two years (2nd/2022, T5/2023), representing half of his top-five finishes on TOUR since the start of the 2021-22 season (others: T3/2022 Masters Tournament, T3/2022 RBC Heritage).

Stephan Jaeger finished T3 at last week's Mexico Open at Vidanta, his second T3 in his last three starts (Farmers Insurance Open). Jaeger did not record a top-three finish on TOUR in 128 prior starts. Jaeger has made four prior starts at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches (best result: T14/2023).

Justin Lower finished T3 at last week's Mexico Open, his career-high finish on the PGA TOUR. Lower finished T64 at the 2022 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, his only prior start at the event.

Rookie and 2023 Korn Ferry Tour graduate **Parker Coody** is competing on a sponsor exemption, joining his twin brother, Pierceson, in the field. Parker and Pierceson made their professional debuts at the 2023 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, with Pierceson receiving a sponsor exemption (T63) and Parker getting in as an Open Qualifier (MC).

The 10th hole at PGA National (The Champion) has been converted from a 508-yard par 4 in 2023 to a 530-yard par 5 in 2024. During the 2022-23 season, the 14-hole stretch from No. 4 through No. 17 at PGA National was the longest on the PGA TOUR without a par 5.

2023 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Chris Kirk	69	62	66	69	266 (-14)
2	Eric Cole	67	66	66	67	266 (-14)
3	Tyler Duncan	67	67	68	66	268 (-12)
4	Ryan Gerard	69	63	71	67	270 (-10)
T5	Five players					271 (-9)

STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

Top 10 FedExCup	5	Matthieu Pavon (1)
Top 30 FedExCup	11	
Top 10 OWGR	2	Rory McIlroy (2)
Top 50 OWGR	19	
PGA TOUR winners	64	Rory McIlroy (24)
Past champions	10	Defending: Chris Kirk
FedExCup Champions	4	Most recent: Rory McIlroy (2022)
PLAYERS winners	3	Most recent: Rory McIlroy (2019)
Major winners	9	Rory McIlroy (4)

TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Category	Value	Player	Year
Low 18-hole score	61	2 players; most recent: Matt Jones	2021 (R1)
Low 36-hole score	128	2 players; most recent: Aaron Wise	2021
Low 54-hole score	196	Davis Love III	2003
Low 72-hole score	264	Justin Leonard	2003
Holes-in-one (1983-present)	14	14 players; most recent: Grayson Murray	2020 (R3, No. 17)
Largest 18-hole lead	4	Mike Sullivan	1987
Largest 36-hole lead	6	Tim Herron	1996
Largest 54-hole lead	5	2 players; most recent: Rory Sabbatini	2011
Largest margin of victory	5	3 players; most recent: Matt Jones	2021
Best come from behind win	7	Padraig Harrington	2005
Playoffs	10	Most recent: Chris Kirk def. Eric Cole	2023
Wire-to-wire winners	1	Tim Herron	1996