



2026 PGA Championship
(20th of 34 FedExCup Regular Season events)

Newtown Square, Pennsylvania
Aronimink Golf Club

May 14-17, 2026
Par/Yards: 35-35-70/7,394

FedExCup points: 750 (winner)
Purse: TBD

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, May 16, 2026

Weather: Mostly sunny. High of 80. Wind SSW 6-16 mph, gusting to 28 mph.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	Total
T1	Alex Smalley	67	69	68	204 (-6)
T2	Matti Schmid	69	72	65	206 (-4)
T2	Nick Taylor	69	72	65	206 (-4)
T2	Jon Rahm	69	70	67	206 (-4)
T2	Aaron Rai	70	69	67	206 (-4)
T2	Ludvig Åberg	72	66	68	206 (-4)
T7	Rory McIlroy	74	67	66	207 (-3)
T7	Xander Schauffele	68	73	66	207 (-3)
T7	Patrick Reed	68	72	67	207 (-3)
T7	Maverick McNealy	69	67	71	207 (-3)
T11	Twelve players tied				208 (-2)

Alex Smalley (1st/-6)

- 18- and 36-hole co-leader claims the outright 54-hole lead, the first of his career in his 141st start on TOUR
- Becomes the 10th player since 1995 to hold the outright 54-hole lead of a major championship despite not having a PGA TOUR victory; only one of the previous nine players to do so held on to win (Louis Oosthuizen/2010 Open Championship)
- Only player in the field to record three rounds in the 60s this week (67-69-68)
- Opened the third round 3-over through four after bogeys on Nos. 1, 2 and 4; played the final 12 holes in 5-under, capped off with a 13'10" birdie putt on No. 18
- 17 total birdies through 54 holes are the most by any player this week (next best: 16, Aaron Rai)
- Leads the field this week in Strokes Gained: Putting (7.053) after entering the week 53rd on TOUR in the category
- PGA Championship record entering the week: three starts, two made cuts (T23/2023, T28/2025)
- One additional major championship start: 2017 U.S. Open (MC)
- In 13 starts on TOUR this season, owns 12 made cuts and two top-10s (T2/Zurich Classic of New Orleans, T7/Cadillac Championship); finished inside the top 25 in his last five starts entering the week
- Seeking his first victory on TOUR, owns 15 top-10s and three runner-up finishes (2022 Corales Puntacana Championship, 2023 John Deere Classic, 2026 Zurich Classic of New Orleans)

54-hole lead notes:

- In the last 15 years at the PGA Championship, the winner held at least a share of the 54-hole lead 10 times, including each of the last three years: **Scottie Scheffler** (2025, led by three, won by five), **Xander Schauffele** (2024, tied after 54 holes, won by one), **Brooks Koepka** (2023, led by one, won by two)
- In 11 of the last 14 PGA Championships, the champion came out of the final group of the final round
- Fifth major championship in history with an outright 54-hole leader ahead of a group five or more players tied for second:
 - 2024 Open Championship: Billy Horschel led by one over six players (finished T2)
 - 1993 PGA Championship: Greg Norman led by one over six players (finished 2nd, lost in playoff)
 - 1968 Masters Tournament: Gary Player led by one over five players (finished T7)
 - 1960 Masters Tournament: Arnold Palmer led by one over five players (won by one)
- Sunday's final group of **Alex Smalley** and **Matti Schmid** is comprised of two players without a PGA TOUR victory; the last such final pairing of a major championship was at the 2022 U.S. Open with Matt Fitzpatrick and Will Zalatoris, where Fitzpatrick won by one stroke over Zalatoris and Scottie Scheffler

Additional notes:

- In the first two rounds, only one player carded a 65 or better (Chris Gotterup/65/R2); five players recorded 65s in the third round: **Nick Taylor** (T2/-4), **Matti Schmid** (T2/-4), **Kristoffer Reitan** (T11/-2), **Justin Rose** (T11/-2), **Chris Kirk** (T11/-2)
- **Matti Schmid** (T2/-4) recorded 25 putts in the third round (second fewest only behind Brian Harman's 25) after recording 29 and 31 the first two rounds, respectively; led the field in the third round in Strokes Gained: Putting (4.210); in his PGA Championship debut, best finish in four prior major starts is T59 (2021 Open Championship)

- **Nick Taylor** (T2/-4) recorded his first bogey-free round in a major (55 total rounds) with a 5-under 65; owns just one top-25 finish in 19 major starts (T23/2025 U.S. Open); entered the week coming off back-to-back top-15 finishes (T9/Cadillac Championship, T14/Truist Championship); leads the field this week in scrambling (17 of 20)
- **Jon Rahm** (T2/-4) records his best score in his last 11 rounds in a major championship with a 67; owns three top-10 finishes in nine PGA Championship starts (T4/2018, T8/2021, T8/2025); in 37 career major starts, owns 15 top-10 finishes and eight top-fives, including two wins (2021 U.S. Open, 2023 Masters Tournament)
- **Aaron Rai** (T2/-4) cards a 67, tied for his best score in 45 career rounds in major championships (67/2025 PGA Championship/R1); seeks his best finish in his 13th major championship start (best: T19, three times; 2021 Open Championship, 2024 U.S. Open, 2025 PGA Championship)
- **Ludvig Åberg** (T2/-4) leads all players through three rounds in Strokes Gained: Tee to Green (9.978) but ranks 72nd in Strokes Gained: Putting (-1.106); has not had a round with fewer than 30 putts this week (31-31-30); in his third PGA Championship appearance, recorded his first made cut after back-to-back missed cuts in 2024 and 2025
- With a third-round 66, **Rory McIlroy** (T7/-3) earned his 25th major championship round of 66 or better, second-most all-time only behind Tiger Woods (28); sat T105 after the first round, seeking to become the fifth player to win a major after sitting outside the top 50 following the first round (Mark O'Meara/1998 Open Championship/T62, Steve Jones/1996 U.S. Open/T84, Payne Stewart/1989 PGA Championship/T77, John Mahaffey/1978 PGA Championship/T59)
- 2024 PGA Championship and 2024 Open Championship winner **Xander Schauffele** (T8/-3) cards a 66 after a 3-over 73 Friday; since the start of 2024, has recorded seven top-10 finishes in nine major championships, second most by any player in that span (Scottie Scheffler/eight); ranks third this week in Strokes Gained: Off the Tee (4.067)
- **Patrick Reed** (T7/-3) recorded his best round in a major since the 2022 Open Championship (R4/67) with a 3-under 67; ranks fifth this week in Strokes Gained: Approach the Green (5.033); owns eight top-10 finishes in 46 major starts, highlighted by his 2018 Masters Tournament win; one top-10 finish in 12 PGA Championship starts (T2/2017)
- 36-hole co-leader **Maverick McNealy** (T7/-3) played his first 12 holes 1-over with a bogey on the par-3 eighth; carded two birdies and two bogeys over his final six holes for a third-round 71; ranks second this week in Strokes Gained: Around the Green (3.820)
- **Kristoffer Reitan** (T11/-2), winner of last week's Truist Championship, recorded eagles on the par-4 13th and par-5 16th, his second time this season with two eagles in a single round (Farmers Insurance Open/R1/Torrey Pines North Course); seeks his first top-25 finish in his fourth career major (best: T30/2025 Open Championship)
- **Justin Rose** (T11/-2) opened with a 5-under 30 on the front, including four straight birdies on Nos. 3-6, one stroke shy of his best nine-hole score in 293 career rounds in major championships (best: 29/2013 PGA Championship/R2)
- **Chris Gotterup** (T11/-2) played the front bogey free with birdies on the sixth and ninth, but carded three bogeys on the back (Nos. 10, 11, 17) for a 71; in five career major starts prior to this week, recorded three top-25 finishes and one top-10 (3rd/2025 Open Championship); leads the field in driving distance this week (347.8 average)
- **Rickie Fowler** (T23/-1) joined Nick Taylor as the only players with bogey-free rounds Saturday, his ninth time bogey free in his 201st career major round, and first time since the 2023 Open Championship (R3)
- World No. 1 **Scottie Scheffler** (T23/-1) ranked 73rd out of 82 players in Strokes Gained: Putting (-2.260) during the third round as he carded his second consecutive 1-over 71
- **Aldrich Potgieter** (T31/E), the youngest player in the field, entered the day one shot off the lead and now sits six back after carding three birdies against four bogeys and one double bogey for a 73
- Third-round course statistics:
 - Scoring Average (Total): 70.000
 - Scoring Average (Front Nine): 34.695 (-0.305)
 - Scoring Average (Back Nine): 35.305 (+0.305)
 - Toughest Hole: No. 12, Par 4, 464 yards – 4.341 (+0.341)
 - Easiest Hole: No. 16, Par 5, 554 yards – 4.329 (-0.671)