



Rapiscan Systems Classic

Fallen Oak | Biloxi, Mississippi | March 23-25, 2018

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Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** Fallen Oak (Par 72, 7,151 yards)
- **Designed by:** Tom Fazio (2006)
- **Purse:** \$1,600,000 (Winner: \$240,000)
- **Golf Channel Coverage (all times ET):** Friday: 10:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 5-7 p.m.
- **Social Media:** Twitter ([@RapiscanClassic](#)), Instagram ([@rapiscanclassic](#)), [Facebook](#)

Field Overview (as of 3/20/18)

After a week off, PGA TOUR Champions returns for the ninth-annual Rapiscan Systems Classic in Biloxi, Mississippi. Miguel Angel Jimenez is the two-time defending champion, as he defeated Gene Sauers in a playoff last year and claimed his fourth career PGA TOUR Champions victory. Steve Stricker and Vijay Singh, the two most recent winners on Tour, are in the top five of the Charles Schwab Cup standings, and both players will make their first starts since their victories. In addition to Stricker and Singh, the year's other three winners – Jerry Kelly, Mark Calcavecchia and Joe Durant – are also in the field.

- 37 of the top 40 players in the current Charles Schwab Cup standings
- 5 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
- 48 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 202 total career victories
- 57 PGA TOUR winners with 284 total career victories
- 14 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 13 with a PGA TOUR major

2017 Recap: Jimenez Defends Title in Playoff Over Sauers

After making double bogey on the 54th hole, Miguel Angel Jimenez rebounded by making a 10-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole to defeat Gene Sauers and successfully defend his title at the 2017 Rapiscan Systems Classic. The win was Jimenez's fourth on PGA TOUR Champions, and it was one of 10 top-10s he had in 2017. He went on to finish No. 6 in the Charles Schwab Cup, while Sauers finished 17th.

Tournament Storylines

Jimenez Hoping to Keep Winning Streak(s) Alive

If Jimenez successfully defends his title again, it would be the ninth time a player has won the same tournament at least three straight times in PGA TOUR Champions history. Hale Irwin holds the longest winning streak, as he won five straight titles at the Turtle Bay Championship (2000-2005; no event in 2004). Most recently, Bernhard Langer won the Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship three times, from 2014-2016.

A victory this week would also give Jimenez one win in five straight seasons on PGA TOUR Champions. The only other players with active multi-year streaks are Bernhard Langer (11), Paul Goydos (4), Colin Montgomerie (4), Jerry Kelly (2) and Scott McCarron (2).

In his last six rounds at Fallen Oak, Jimenez has one eagle, 32 birdies, five bogeys and one double bogey, and his scoring average is 67.50. This season, he has two top-10s in four starts and is 14th in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Kelly, Stricker Making Their Mark

At Nos. 1 and 3, respectively, Wisconsinites Jerry Kelly and Steve Stricker are the two highest-ranked players in the Charles Schwab Cup playing in Biloxi. Kelly, the 2017 Rookie of the Year, won the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship and finished T2 at the Cologuard Classic. Most recently, he was T26 through two rounds at the Toshiba Classic before withdrawing due to a family illness.

Stricker will make his third start of the season, and first since he broke through with his first victory at the Cologuard Classic. In all, he has six top-three finishes in seven individual starts on PGA TOUR Champions, and his record includes a T3 finish at the 2017 Rapiscan Systems Classic. Overall, this will be his sixth pro start of the year, as he has made three cuts in three starts on the PGA TOUR, with his best finish being a T12 at the Valspar Championship.

Singh Ready for his Encore

Like Stricker, Vijay Singh will also make his first start since winning his first individual title on PGA TOUR Champions. With his victory at the Toshiba Classic, Singh broke a winless streak of 237 individual starts since his last win at the 2008 Dell Technologies Championship. Singh, who partnered with Carlos Franco to win the 2017 Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge, is the first FedExCup champion (2008) to win on PGA TOUR Champions, and with the victory he moved to No. 5 in the Charles Schwab Cup. He has also played five PGA TOUR events this season, missing the cut four times, including last week at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard.

Rocco on the Rise

Rocco Mediate's resurgence continued at the Toshiba Classic, as he finished T6 and extended his top-10 streak to four. Before this current stretch, he had four top-10s in his previous 32 starts, dating back to his wire-to-wire victory at the 2016 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship. His current top-10 streak matches his longest on PGA TOUR Champions, as he also had top-10s in his first four starts in 2013, which included a win in his debut at the Boca Raton Championship. He is No. 9 in the Charles Schwab Cup with \$251,900, which is already more than he made in 18 starts last year (\$193,085).

Sweet Start for Sauers

In 2017, Gene Sauers was the 36-hole leader before eventually losing in a playoff to Miguel Angel Jimenez. The runner-up finish was his second top-three in Biloxi, as he also finished T3 in 2013. Through five events this season, Sauers has three top-10s, including a tie for second at the Cologuard Classic, and he is currently No. 7 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Tolles on a Roll

Though Tommy Tolles fell one shot shy of his first PGA TOUR Champions win at the Toshiba Classic, he finished tied for second and continued his early-season momentum. He has been in the top-10 after each of the last six rounds, including leads after 18 and 36 holes at the Cologuard Classic. He also held the lead on the back nine Sunday at the Toshiba Classic, only to fall one shot short of Vijay Singh. Nonetheless, he earned \$130,000 in Newport Beach, his biggest paycheck in nearly 17 years, and he moved to 12th in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Goydos Makes Cut in PGA TOUR Cameo

Paul Goydos, winner of the 1996 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, made the cut at Bay Hill last week and finished T69. It was his first start on the PGA TOUR since the 2015 Sony Open, and it was his first made cut since he finished T70 at the 2014 John Deere Classic. This season on PGA TOUR Champions, he is 61st in the Charles Schwab Cup and is coming off a T33 finish at the Toshiba Classic.

By the Numbers: Fallen Oak

The field average has been over par in six of eight tournaments at Fallen Oak. Last year was just the second time the average has been under par (71.598), but the course still ranked as the fifth-hardest among non-majors in 2017.

- **Easiest Hole (2017):** The 520-yard par-5 sixth hole played to a 4.540 average, yielding 5 eagles and 110 birdies.
- **Hardest Hole (2017):** The 423-yard par-4 fourth hole played to a 4.183 average, yielding just 15 birdies.

	R1	R2	R3	Total
2017	71.620	70.835	72.364	71.598
2016	74.235	72.282	72.551	73.212
2015	74.038	73.103	73.260	73.472
2014	72.700	71.650	72.600	72.317
2013	73.617	70.667	73.025	72.432
2012	71.056	72.395	73.457	72.453
2011	72.456	69.687	72.000	71.483
2010	72.390	73.027	73.340	72.881

Past Champions in the Field

Six of the tournament's seven past champions are in this week's field, including each winner since 2011. Tom Lehman's four-shot victory in 2011 is the only margin greater than two, and four of the eight events have been decided by one stroke or by playoff.

Year	Champion	Total	To Par
2017	Miguel Angel Jimenez ¹	203	-13
2016	Miguel Angel Jimenez	202	-14
2015	David Frost	206	-10
2014	Jeff Maggert	205	-11
2013	Michael Allen	205	-11
2012	Fred Couples	202	-14
2011	Tom Lehman	200	-16
2010	David Eger	205	-11

1. After making double bogey on the final hole of regulation, Miguel Angel Jimenez rebounded with a birdie on the first extra hole to defeat Gene Sauers.

PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Season Overview

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older, including 35 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour's mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. In 2018, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 27 tournaments across the United States, Scotland and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$56 million. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long champion. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air in excess of 190 countries and territories, reaching more than 330 million potential households. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at PGATOUR.com, at facebook.com/PGATOURChampions, on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs

In 2017, Kevin Sutherland became just the third player to win the Charles Schwab Cup Championship and the Charles Schwab Cup in the same season. His breakthrough win at the season-ending event was the first of his PGA TOUR Champions career, and it was enough for him to surpass Bernhard Langer, who had won the Charles Schwab Cup the previous three years.

The third edition of the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will begin with 72 players at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Oct. 15-21). The top 54 will advance to the following week's PowerShares QQQ Championship, and the season will conclude with the top 36 players at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Nov. 5-11).

The 2018 Rookie Class

For players to become eligible to compete for PGA TOUR Champions events they must turn 50 years of age by the first competition round. If a player plays less than six tournaments in his first season of eligibility, he is considered a rookie the following season. Newcomers for 2018 with at least one PGA TOUR win include:

- Brent Geiberger (May 22)
- Robert Gamez (July 21)
- Dudley Hart (August 4)
- Darren Clarke (August 14)
- Chris DiMarco (August 23)

Upcoming rookie classes include:

- 2019 – Retief Goosen (February 3), Angel Cabrera (September 12), Ernie Els (October 17)
- 2020 – Jim Furyk (May 12), Mike Weir (May 12), K.J. Choi (May 19), Phil Mickelson (June 16)

PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Schedule

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Jerry Kelly birdied the 18th hole in the final round to turn a one-shot deficit into a one-shot victory over Colin Montgomerie. Leading by one on No. 18, Montgomerie found the fairway bunker off the tee and missed the green with his approach. After Kelly made his 18-foot birdie putt, Montgomerie had a chance to force a playoff, but his six-foot par putt slid by the hole.
2. **Boca Raton Championship:** Mark Calcavecchia captured his fourth PGA TOUR Champions title in wire-to-wire fashion, finishing two shots better than Bernhard Langer. Langer, who trailed by as many as four on Sunday, evened the score at 16-under with two holes to play, but he bogeyed the last two holes and finished second. The win was Calcavecchia's first since the 2015 Principal Charity Classic.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Over the last six holes at the Chubb Classic, Joe Durant and Steve Stricker traded two two-shot swings and one three-shot swing. In the end, it was Durant's birdie-birdie finish that produced a 19-under total and four-shot victory, the third of his PGA TOUR Champions career and first since the 2016 3M Championship.
4. **ColoGuard Classic:** One year after bogeying No. 18 and finishing runner-up in his PGA TOUR Champions debut, Steve Stricker parred the closing hole en route to a 14-under total and two-stroke victory. It was his first win in his eighth start on Tour, and it was his first victory since the 2012 Sentry Tournament of Champions.
5. **Toshiba Classic:** As many as six players shared the lead Sunday, and Vijay Singh was the last man standing as his five back-nine birdies helped him post an 11-under total and a one-shot victory. It was his first individual win since the Dell Technologies Championship on September 1, 2008, and he had played 237 individual tournaments since that triumph. Singh is the first FedExCup champion (2008) to win on PGA TOUR Champions.
6. Rapiscan Systems Classic
7. Mitsubishi Electric Classic
8. Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge
9. Insperity Invitational
10. Regions Tradition
11. KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship
12. Principal Charity Classic
13. American Family Insurance Championship
14. U.S. Senior Open
15. Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship
16. The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex
17. 3M Championship
18. DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
19. Boeing Classic
20. Shaw Charity Classic
21. Ally Challenge
22. The Sanford International
23. PURE Insurance Championship
24. SAS Championship
25. Dominion Energy Charity Classic
26. PowerShares QQQ Championship
27. Charles Schwab Cup Championship