

100th

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAYERS TO WATCH

DUSTIN JOHNSON
Age: 34.
Country: United States.
World ranking: 1.
Worldwide victories: 19.
2018 victories: Sentry Tournament of Championship, FedEx St. Jude Classic, RBC Canadian Open.
Majors: US Open (2016).
2018 majors: Masters-T10, US Open-3, British Open-MC.
PGA Championship appearances: 8.
Best result: Tie for 5th in 2010 at Whistling Straits after two-shot penalty for grounding his club in a bunker on the 18th hole.
Backspin: He is too good to still have only one major, and that's due to chance.

RICKIE FOWLER
Age: 29.
Country: United States
World ranking: 9.
Worldwide victories: 8.
2018 victories: None.
Majors: None.
2018 majors: Masters-2, US Open-T20, British Open-T28.
PGA Championship appearances: 8.
Best result: Tie for 3rd in 2014 at Valhalla, where he had a long eagle putt to force a playoff and three-putted for par.
Backspin: This is his last chance to win a major in his 20s. The key is for him to get off to a good start, not only on Thursday but on Sunday if he's in contention. What has kept Fowler from winning majors is going backward on Sunday and making a charge when it's too late.

JORDAN SPIETH
Age: 25.
Country: United States.
World ranking: 8.
Worldwide victories: 14.
2018 victories: None.
Majors: Masters (2015), US Open (2015), British Open (2017).
2018 majors: Masters-3, US Open-MC, British Open-T9.
PGA Championship appearances: 5.
Best result: Runner-up in 2015 at Whistling Straits.
Backspin: This is his second chance to complete the career Grand Slam, and history shows that players with such an opportunity get it done sooner rather than later in the modern configuration of majors. Spieth's best two events this year were majors, and he lost a share of the 54-hole lead at the British Open. His game would appear to be trending upward after Carnoustie.

The PGA Championship has all the trappings of one big party this year. This is the 100th edition of the only major championship restricted only to professionals. This is the last time it is held in the muggy heat of summer before moving next year to May.

Jordan Spieth gets another crack at the career Grand Slam, a feat never completed at the PGA Championship. And the biggest buzz belongs to a guy who hasn't won a major in 10 years.

Just the sight of Tiger Woods' name atop the leaderboard in the British Open turned cynics into cheerleaders. Three weeks later, Woods takes his momentum to a course he has never played. Bellerive Country Club last hosted the world's best players in 1992, when Nick Price won the first of his three majors. Only 13 players in the 156-man field were at Bellerive in 2008 for the BMW Championship. Woods was not among them. He missed the second half of that season recovering from knee surgery.

The usual suspects are likely to contend — Dustin Johnson, who won the Canadian Open for his third title this year; defending champion Justin Thomas, trying to join Woods as the only back-to-back winners of the PGA Championship in stroke play; Rory McIlroy, Jason Day, Justin Rose all would

love to win the last major to turn a very good year into a great one. Spieth hasn't won at all this year, and one week could carve out a slice of history.

Still, no one casts a shadow over everything like Woods in a red shirt on Sunday contending for a major. Disappointment from not winning the British Open — he tied for sixth, four shots behind — was tempered by progress. "It felt great to be a part of the mix and build my way into the championship," he said.

GRAND SLAM, TAKE TWO

Bellerive already has been the scene of one career Grand Slam. That was 53 years ago, when Gary Player of South Africa won the 1965 U.S. Open to capture the final leg of golf's four professional majors. Jordan Spieth gets his second crack at it in the final major of the season.

This will be the third major of the year that a player can try to join golf's most elite fraternity. Rory McIlroy played in the final group at the Masters and faded. Phil Mickelson lost his cool at the U.S.

Open by purposely violating a rule when his putt was rolling off the 13th green. Spieth is not having a great year by his standards, but he was bullish about the direction of his game coming out of the British Open. He has achieved many great things at an early age, and this very well could be another one.

RYDER CUP

Ryder Cup captain Jim Furyk was staring at multiple possibilities for his U.S. team during the week-end of the British Open. Xander Schauffele, Kevin Kisner, Kevin Chappell, Zach Johnson, Matt Kuchar and yes, even Tiger Woods, all were poised for a big finish that would have moved them into the top eight automatic qualifiers for the Sept. 28-30 matches in France. The PGA Championship is the final qualifying event, and then Furyk will have four captain's picks spread over the next month. But given the depth of American golf, players will not want a spot on the team left to chance.

LAST SHOT AT GLORY'S LAST SHOT

The Masters has Augusta National. The U.S. Open is the toughest test in golf. The British Open is links golf. The identity of the PGA Championship? "The other one,"

Geoff Ogilvy once said. This should help. After nearly 50 years of being in the heat of August, the PGA Championship moves to May next year. That puts it five weeks after the Masters, and a month before the U.S. Open. It also shuts out northern sections of the country, such as Whistling Straits and Hazeltine. However, Bethpage on Long Island (2019) and Oak Hill in upstate New York (2023) already were on the schedule when the change was announced. It could be brisk, but it's nothing players haven't experienced before, either in Scotland in July or San Francisco in June.

BELLERIVE'S BAD LUCK

Golf at the highest level has been held at Bellerive twice during Woods' career, yet his only time playing the course was a practice round with Mark Calcavecchia for the American Express Championship. That was on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, and the World Golf Championship was canceled the next day. A couple of years later, Bellerive was awarded the 2008 BMW Championship, the third FedEx Cup playoff event. That was the year Woods won the U.S. Open and had season-ending surgery on his left knee a week later. Maybe the third time is a charm for Woods in St. Louis.



Gary Player • career Grand Slam in 1965

FACTS & FIGURES

Dates: Aug. 9-12.
Site: Bellerive Country Club.
Length: 7,316 yards.
Par: 35-35 — 70.
Field: 156 players (136 tour pros, 20 club pros).
Prize money: TBA (\$10.5 million in 2017).
Winner's share: TBA (\$1.89 million in 2017).
Defending champion: Justin Thomas.
Last year: Justin Thomas took his place among the young stars in golf by closing with a 3-under 68 for a two-shot victory at Quail Hollow Club. With five players in the mix on the back nine, Thomas made a birdie putt at No. 10 that hung on the lip before dropping and surged ahead by chipping in for birdie on the 13th. He clinched it with a 7-iron to 15 feet and a birdie on the 17th. It was an emotional victory for Thomas. His father, Mike, is a longtime club pro and former PGA of America board member.
Grand Slam: Jordan Spieth gets his second chance at becoming the sixth player to complete the career Grand Slam.
Tiger Tales: Tiger Woods briefly had the

lead at the British Open in the final round and finished in a tie for sixth. He will try to tie the record for most PGA Championship titles (five) held by Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen.
Ryder Cup: The PGA Championship is the final event for players to finish among the top eight qualifiers for the U.S. Ryder Cup team. With points counting double and a big purse, the winner is virtually assured a spot on the team.
Last shot at Glory's Last Shot: The PGA Championship will be the second major starting next year when it moves to May.
Bellerive champions: Gary Player (1965 U.S. Open), Nick Price (1992 PGA Championship), Camilo Villegas (2008 BMW Championship).
Key statistic: Tiger Woods is the only player to win the PGA Championship back-to-back in stroke play. Woods did it twice.
Worth noting: None of the previous five players with the career Grand Slam completed it at the PGA Championship.
Worth quoting: "I think my best golf is yet to come, which is cool to think about." — Jordan Spieth.



Jordan Spieth bid for career Grand Slam

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SCOREBOARD

Football

Thursday's Games
 Baltimore 17, Chicago 16

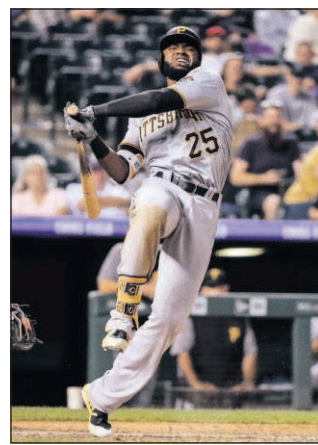
Thursday, Aug. 9
 Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
 New Orleans at Jacksonville, 4 p.m.
 Cleveland at N.Y. Giants, 4 p.m.
 Chicago at Cincinnati, 4 p.m.
 Carolina at Buffalo, 4 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Miami, 4 p.m.
 L.A. Rams at Baltimore, 4:30 p.m.
 Washington at New England, 4:30 p.m.
 Tennessee at Green Bay, 5 p.m.
 Houston at Kansas City, 5:30 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Seattle, 7 p.m.
 Dallas at San Francisco, 7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 10
 Atlanta at N.Y. Jets, 4:30 p.m.
 Detroit at Oakland, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 11
 Minnesota at Denver, 6 p.m.
 L.A. Chargers at Arizona, 7 p.m.

Baseball

American League	W	L	Pct	GB
East Division				
Boston	80	34	.702	—
New York	70	42	.625	9
Tampa Bay	57	56	.504	22½
Toronto	51	61	.455	28
Baltimore	34	79	.301	45½
Central Division				
Cleveland	62	50	.554	—
Minnesota	53	59	.473	9
Detroit	47	67	.412	16
Chicago	41	72	.363	21½
Kansas City	34	79	.301	28½
West Division				
Houston	73	42	.635	—
Oakland	67	47	.588	5½
Seattle	65	49	.570	7½
Los Angeles	57	58	.496	16
Texas	50	65	.435	23



Pittsburgh Pirates' Gregory Polanco grimaces after hitting a foul ball off his foot during the ninth inning of the team's baseball game against the Colorado Rockies Tuesday in Denver.

Tuesday's Games
 Houston 2, San Francisco 1
 Boston 10, Toronto 7, 10 innings
 Minnesota 3, Cleveland 2

Tampa Bay 4, Baltimore 3	Los Angeles 63	51	.553	—		
Texas 11, Seattle 4	Arizona	63	52	.548	½	
N.Y. Yankees 4, Chicago White Sox 3, 13 innings	Colorado	60	53	.531	2½	
Chicago Cubs 5, Kansas City 0	San Francisco	57	58	.496	6½	
L.A. Dodgers 4, Oakland 2	San Diego	45	70	.391	18½	
L.A. Angels 11, Detroit 5	Tuesday's Games					
Wednesday's Games	Washington 8, Atlanta 3, 1st game					
Seattle (Gonzales 12-6) at Texas (Gallardo 6-1), 11:05 a.m.	Houston 2, San Francisco 1					
Detroit (Hardy 4-3) at L.A. Angels (Barria 6-7), 1:07 p.m.	Atlanta 3, Washington 1, 2nd game					
Boston (Johnson 2-3) at Toronto (Hauschild 1-0), 4:07 p.m.	Cincinnati 6, N.Y. Mets 1					
Baltimore (Cashner 3-10) at Tampa Bay (Stank 1-3), 4:10 p.m.	St. Louis 3, Miami 2					
Minnesota (Odorizzi 4-7) at Cleveland (Clevinger 7-7), 4:10 p.m.	San Diego 11, Milwaukee 5					
N.Y. Yankees (Severino 14-5) at Chicago White Sox (Giolito 7-8), 5:10 p.m.	Chicago Cubs 5, Kansas City 0					
Chicago Cubs (Quintana 10-7) at Kansas City (Fillmyer 0-1), 5:15 p.m.	Pittsburgh 10, Colorado 2					
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 5-5) at Oakland (Fiers 7-6), 7:05 p.m.	Philadelphia 5, Arizona 2					
Thursday's Games	L.A. Dodgers 4, Oakland 2					
Minnesota at Cleveland, 10:10 a.m.	Wednesday's Games					
Texas at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05 p.m.	Cincinnati (Stephenson 0-0) at N.Y. Mets					
Boston at Toronto, 4:07 p.m.	White Sox (Giolito 7-8), 9:10 a.m.					
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 4:10 p.m.	Pittsburgh (Archer 3-5) at Colorado (Marquez 9-8), 12:10 p.m.					
Seattle at Houston, 5:10 p.m.	Philadelphia (Velasquez 8-8) at Arizona					
Eastern League	Atlanta (Foltynewicz 8-7) at Washington					
W L Pct GB	(Milone 1-0), 4:05 p.m.					
Philadelphia 64	St. Louis (Gant 3-4) at Miami (Richards 3-6), 4:10 p.m.					
Atlanta 61	San Diego (Kennedy 0-0) at Milwaukee					
Washington 58	Chicago Cubs (Quintana 10-7) at Kansas City (Fillmyer 0-1), 5:15 p.m.					
New York 46	L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 5-5) at Oakland					
Miami 47	(Fiers 7-6), 7:05 p.m.					
Central Division	Thursday's Games					
W L Pct GB	Atlanta at Washington, 10:05 a.m.					
Chicago 66	San Diego at Milwaukee, 11:10 a.m.					
Milwaukee 65	L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, 5:40 p.m.					
St. Louis 59	Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 7:15 p.m.					
Pittsburgh 58	Basketball					
Cincinnati 50	Women's National Basketball Association					
West Division	EASTERN CONFERENCE					
W L Pct GB	W L Pct GB					
Philadelphia 64	Atlanta United 14	4	6	48	50	28
Atlanta 61	New York	14	6	2	44	23
Washington 58	Los Angeles	13	5	44	45	29
New York 46	Columbus	10	7	6	36	29
Miami 47	Montreal	9	13	2	29	30
Central Division	New England	7	7	8	29	35
W L Pct GB	Philadelphia	8	11	3	27	37
Chicago 66	Orlando City	7	14	2	23	35
Milwaukee 65	Toronto FC	6	11	5	23	37
St. Louis 59	Chicago 6	13	5	23	35	48
Pittsburgh 58	D.C. United	4	9	6	18	30
Cincinnati 50	WESTERN CONFERENCE					
West Division	W L T Pts GF GA					
Philadelphia 64	FC Dallas	12	4	6	42	36
Atlanta 61	Portland	10	3	7	37	25
Washington 58	Sporting KC	10	6	6	36	40
New York 46	Los Angeles FC	10	6	6	36	45
Miami 47	LA Galaxy	10	8	5	35	44
Central Division	Real Salt Lake	10	9	4	34	33
W L Pct GB	Vancouver	8	9	6	30	46
Chicago 66	Seattle	8	9	5	29	24
Milwaukee 65	Minnesota	9	13	1	28	36
St. Louis 59	Houston	7	9	6	27	39
Pittsburgh 58	Colorado	5	12	5	20	27
Cincinnati 50	San Jose	3	12	7	16	32
West Division	NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.					
W L Pct GB	Saturday, August 4					
Houston 73	Toronto FC 2, Atlanta United FC 2, tie					
Oakland 67	D.C. United 1, Montreal 1, tie					
Seattle 65	New England 3, Orlando City 3, tie					
Los Angeles 57	San Jose 3, FC Dallas 1					
Texas 50	Seattle 2, Minnesota United 1					
Soccer	Vancouver 2, New York City FC 2, tie					
Major League Soccer	Colorado 2, LA Galaxy 1					
EASTERN CONFERENCE	Sporting Kansas City 1, Houston 0					
W L T Pts GF GA	Real Salt Lake 2, Chicago 1					
Atlanta United 14	Portland 3, Philadelphia 0					
New York	Sunday, August 5					
Los Angeles	New York City FC at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.					
Columbus	Houston at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.					
Montreal	Philadelphia at New England, 4:30 p.m.					
New England	New York at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.					
Philadelphia	San Jose at Colorado, 6 p.m.					
Orlando City	Montreal at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m.					
Toronto FC	Minnesota United at LA Galaxy, 7:30 p.m.					
Chicago 6	Sporting Kansas City at Los Angeles FC, 7:30 p.m.					
D.C. United 4	Vancouver at Portland, 8 p.m.					
FC Dallas 12	Sunday, August 12					
Portland 10	New York City FC at Toronto FC, 1 p.m.					
Los Angeles FC 10	Orlando City at D.C. United, 5 p.m.					
LA Galaxy 10	FC Dallas at Seattle, 7 p.m.					