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**2023 RBC Canadian Open select player information**

**Sponsor Exemptions**

**Wil Bateman**

* Former No. 1 junior in Canada in 2011 turned pro after his freshman year at San Diego State University in 2012
* Was the first Canadian player, and second left-hander, to win on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica when he won the 2015 Abierto de Chile title
* Received a sponsor exemption into his PGA TOUR debut at the 2016 Puerto Rico Open (MC) and makes his second TOUR start this week
* Won twice on PGA TOUR Canada in 2022 and won the Player of the Year title to earn status on the Korn Ferry Tour (see link)
* <https://www.tsn.ca/golf/weeks-wil-bateman-finds-success-with-artistic-approach-to-golf-1.1908846>
* Has made six cuts in 11 starts on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2023, including top-five finishes in The Bahamas and Panama

**Sam Bennett**

* Former Texas A&M standout and 2022 U.S. Amateur champion makes fifth PGA TOUR start and second as a professional after finishing 63rd with a final-round 84 at last week’s Memorial Tournament presented by Workday
* PGA TOUR debut came at 2021 Valero Texas Open (MC) after winning Cabo Collegiate event at TPC San Antonio to earn exemption; finished T16 and won the Silver Medal as the top amateur at 2023 Masters Tournament
* As the top-ranked player in the 2021 PGA TOUR University Global Velocity Rankings, earned a sponsor exemption into the 2022 Slync.io Dubai Desert Classic (MC) on the DP World Tour
* All-around athlete played tennis, basketball, baseball and golf at Madisonville High School
* Tattoo on his left forearm reads “Don’t wait to do something” which is what his dad, Mark, told him; Mark passed away last June after a seven-year battle with early-onset Alzheimer’s

**Michael Block**

* Reno, Nevada native, but spent most of his childhood in Iowa and Missouri
* Played golf at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, then moved from the Midwest to California to attend the San Diego Golf Academy, where he received a degree in Golf Course Management, with an emphasis in Teaching; upon graduation, started teaching at The Lakes Country Club in Palm Desert, California
* Since 2004, he’s been the head professional at the Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club in California
* When hewon the 2014 PGA Professional National Championship, became the ninth player in history to win that event in his first attempt
* Makes 27th PGA TOUR start and fifth this season; after failing to advance to the weekend in his 15 prior TOUR starts, finished T15 at the 2023 PGA Championship with rounds of 70-70-70-71, including an ace at No. 15 in the final round
* Made first appearance at Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial CC after receiving and accepting a sponsor exemption Sunday night after his performance at Oak Hill, shooting 81-74 to miss the cut

**Luis Carrera**

* Mexico City native makes PGA TOUR debut after being the No. 1 ranked amateur golfer in Mexico right out of high school
* Played college golf at Sam Houston State University before transferring to UCF
* Won the 117th Canadian Men’s Amateur Championship at Point Grey G&CC in 2022 with rounds of 73-68-67-66, the second Mexican golfer to claim the title (Rafael Alarcon/1979)
* Held the 36-hole lead at the 2023 Latin America Amateur Championship, eventually finishing runner-up, four strokes behind winner Mateo Fernandez de Oliveira

**Aaron Cockerill**

* Manitoba, Canada native made his PGA TOUR debut at this event last year (T48); played two additional TOUR events since (T60/Barbasol Championship, T39/Barracuda Championship)
* Played PGA TOUR Canada before heading to the DP World Tour in 2020 where he has posted two top-five results this season (T4/2022 Alfred Dunhill Championship, 2/2023 ISPS Handa Championship)

**Myles Creighton**

* Canadian makes second PGA TOUR start and second appearance at RBC Canadian Open (MC/2022)
* Owns two top-10s on PGA TOUR Canada and four top-10s on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica, including a win at last week’s Inter Rapidisimo Golf Championship in his 28th start; with two events remaining, leads the Totalplay Cup, the season-long race to determine who advances to the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour (see link)
* <https://www.pgatour.com/latinoamerica/article/news/latest/2023/06/04/creighton-wins-in-colombia,-claims-totalplay-cup-lead>
* Last month, finished T7 at the Colombia Classic on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica with a substitute set of clubs pulled together at the last minute after his were destroyed by the airline during travel (see link)
* <https://twitter.com/myles11/status/1660742046154469379?s=46&t=lA0syXeP2rV9jB7DOwPLXg>
* Finished T15 at 2021 TPC Colorado Championship, one of three starts on the Korn Ferry Tour
* Played collegiate golf at Radford University in Virginia

**Taylor Durham**

* 29-year-old amateur with a regular day job makes his PGA TOUR debut
* Shot 5-under 65 to win a regional qualifier of 128 players at Ledgeview Golf Club to earn a spot in the field; Ledgeview is the childhood home course of PGA TOUR winners Adam Hadwin and Nick Taylor

**David Hearn**

* Canadian has played 326 TOUR events without a win but owns two runner-up results, losing in sudden-death playoffs both times (2015 Greenbrier Classic, 2013 John Deere Classic)
* His only other top-three finish on TOUR came at the RBC Canadian Open (3rd/2015) where he will make his 19th appearance this week
* Makes fourth start this season, missing the cut in his three previous starts

**Daniel Kim**

* 32-year-old Canadian shot 5-under 66 at the first Ontario Regional Qualifier at Oshawa Golf & Curling Club to earn a spot in the field
* Quit playing golf professionally last year due to injury and personal reasons and said after qualifying, “If you were to ask me six months ago, would I be playing the Canadian Open, I would have said you’re crazy. I’ve been working full time and I keep telling people it’s a hobby now, it’s not my job, it’s a hobby now and its pretty crazy how things come around. This was the last little competitive thing I was actually going to do, before digging in and start working. So, this is a blessing in disguise, and I feel so thankful and grateful.”

**Jake Knapp**

* California native and former UCLA golfer makes fourth PGA TOUR start; shot 21-under to win 2019 Canada Life Open and earn exemption into the 2019 RBC Canadian Open, where he finished 70th in his only prior appearance at this event; first two TOUR starts were as an amateur in 2015 (MC/Farmers Insurance Open, MC/U.S. Open)
* Played 36 events in the 2020-21 extended Korn Ferry Tour season, posting one top-10 (T9/Mexico Championship); has made 10 cuts in 11 starts on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2023, including four top-10s
* Won three times on PGA TOUR Canada, most recently at the 2022 CRMC Championship
* Big fan of the Los Angeles Lakers and a Rubik’s Cube enthusiast

**Stuart Macdonald**

* Vancouver, BC, Canada native and former Purdue University golfer makes second PGA TOUR start (MC/2022 RBC Canadian Open)
* Best finish in 75 starts on the Korn Ferry Tour is T3 at the 2021 REX Hospital Open
* Currently plays PGA TOUR Latinoamerica where he finished third two weeks ago at the Colombia Classic
* Also played PGA TOUR Canada and PGA TOUR China Series earlier in his career
* Considers himself a ‘ping-pong and badminton extraordinaire’

**Adrian Meronk**

* Makes 11th PGA TOUR start and first at the RBC Canadian Open, posting two top-25 results (T14/2023 Honda Classic, T17/2023 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play)
* Requires 56 non-member FedExCup points to become eligible for PGA TOUR Special Temporary Membership
* Played a practice round with Tiger Woods at St. Andrews ahead of The Open Championship in 2022, calling it an “unbelievable experience”
* Became the first golfer from Poland to win on the DP World Tour when he was victorious at the 2022 Horizon Irish Open, playing the final four holes in 4-under to beat Ryan Fox by three strokes; won for a second time on the DP World Tour with a five-stroke victory over Adam Scott at the 2022 ISPS Handa Australian Open
* Finished T51 at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games Men’s Golf Competition
* Played college golf at East Tennessee State University from 2012-2016
* As an amateur, represented Poland in the Eisenhower Trophy (2012, 2014, 2016) and Europe in the Palmer Cup (2015, 2016)
* Stands 6 feet, 6 inches tall, was born in Germany, but represents Poland and wants to play on the PGA TOUR in 2023 (see link)
* <https://www.golfdigest.com/story/adrian-meronk-poland-dunhill-links-pga-tour-dp-world>

**Etienne Papineau *(eh-TEE-en PAP-uh-no)***

* Canadian makes second PGA TOUR start and first at the RBC Canadian Open
* PGA TOUR debut came at the 2022 WM Phoenix Open (MC) where he advanced into the field in a 6-for-2 playoff at the Monday qualifier with a birdie at the second extra hole; shot 9-under at Western Skies GC on February 2 to advance out of the pre-qualifying to make it to the Monday qualifier (see link)
* ﻿ <https://twitter.com/pgatour/status/1490836482239705089?s=21>
* On January 31, 2022 shot 59 at Legacy Golf Resort (see link)
* <https://twitter.com/etiennepapineau/status/1488193523476168706?s=21>
* Former West Virginia University standout and native of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec played college golf for five years, but missed entire 2020-21 season due to knee surgery; he was the second WVU golfer to Monday qualify for a TOUR event in 2022 (Max Sear, also Canadian, at Farmers Insurance Open)
* Notched three top-10 finishes on PGA TOUR Canada in 2022
* Was a former competitive figure skater and dancer

**Ben Silverman**

* Canadian makes 62nd PGA TOUR start and fourth appearance at RBC Canadian Open (MC/2014, T71/2018, T20/2019); his second-round scores at this event are noteworthy: 71/2014, 63/2018, 61/2019
* Won the 2023 Bahamas Great Abaco Classic in a playoff, his second Korn Ferry Tour victory; following the win, accepted a sponsor exemption to play the 2023 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (MC), where he won the team title with NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers
* Along with his victory in The Bahamas, added a T3 (LECOM Suncoast Classic) and a playoff loss (HomeTown Lenders Championship) on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2023
* Finished No. 181 in the FedExCup in 2019 and No. 136 in 2018 in his only two full seasons as a PGA TOUR member
* Captained the PGA TOUR Canada team to victory at the 2017 Aruba Cup (match play event vs. PGA TOUR Latinoamérica)
* Gave himself a plan out of college to make it to the PGA TOUR by age 30, and earned his PGA TOUR card at age 29
* Used to work at an indoor Golf Dome in Toronto to help get himself more access to the game growing up
* Was married and had first child in 2017 before securing his first Korn Ferry Tour win at the Price Cutter Charity Championship
* Two top-10s in 61 TOUR starts (T7/2017 Sanderson Farms Championship, T8/2017 The RSM Classic)

**Roger Sloan**

* Canadian makes his 128th PGA TOUR start while seeking his first win; owns two runner-up results (2019 Puerto Rico Open, 2021 Wyndham Championship) among his five top-10s
* Makes second TOUR start this season (T79/AT&T Byron Nelson)
* Advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs twice (2019, 2021)
* Was one of six players involved in a sudden-death playoff at the 2021 Wyndham Championship (won by Kevin Kisner); T2 marks his most recent top-10 in any PGA TOUR or Korn Ferry Tour event in which he has played
* Is a winner on PGA TOUR Canada and the Korn Ferry Tour
* T37 in 2018 marks his best result in six appearances at RBC Canadian Open

**Sebastian Szirmak *(ZEER-mack)***

* Toronto native earned a spot in the field after winning a four-way playoff at the regional qualifier at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley
* Former University of New Orleans golfer makes his PGA TOUR debut
* Posted two top-10s on PGA TOUR Canada in 2016 and three top-25 results on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica in 2019

**Michael Thorbjornsen**

* Wellesley, Massachusetts resident and Stanford University standout makes fifth PGA TOUR appearance ad first at RBC Canadian Open
* On Monday, earned medalist honors at his qualifying site (canoe Brook CC) to advance to next week’s U.S. Open
* Won the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur at Baltusrol GC, which earned him a spot in the 2019 U.S. Open, where he made the cut at Pebble Beach as a 17-year-old and finished 79th; also qualified for the 2022 U.S. Open (77-69/MC), where he was given the honor of hitting the opening tee shot (see link); came close to joining Phil Mickelson and Scott Verplank as the only amateurs to win on the PGA TOUR in the last 37 years while shooting 68-65-66-66—265 (-15) en route to finishing fourth at the 2022 Travelers Championship; fourth TOUR start was 2022 Rocket Mortgage Classic (MC)
* <https://golfweek.usatoday.com/2022/06/13/u-s-open-rose-zhang-stanford-michael-thorbjornsen-first-tee-shot/>
* His mom, Sandra, played golf at Ursuline College
* Nickname is ‘Thunder Cub’ (see link) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikedojc/2022/07/08/thunder-cub-michael-thorbjornsen-tracking-to-be-golfs-next-big-shot/amp/>

**Johnny Travale**

* Ontario, Canada native and former University of Central Florida golfer makes second PGA TOUR start (MC/2022 RBC Canadian Open)
* Plans to turn professional later this summer and play PGA TOUR Canada using the conditional status he earned via the qualifying process in the winter

**Camilo Villegas**

* Four-time TOUR winner played 26 events in the 2021-22 season, posting one top-25 (T13/Barbasol Championship)
* After suffering the loss of daughter, Mia, in 2020, he and Maria welcomed son, Mateo, in December 2021
* Served as an assistant captain for the International Team at the Presidents Cup in 2022
* Made three cuts in nine starts on TOUR this season; has made eight starts on the Korn Ferry Tour this season
* Following a shoulder injury, the T8 finish at The Honda Classic in 2021 was pivotal in allowing him to continue the remainder of that season in the 126-150 category
* Makes 15th appearance at RBC Canadian Open where he owns two top-10s which came in back-to-back years (T5/2006, T10/2007)

**Mike Weir**

* Eight-time PGA TOUR winner and 2003 Masters champion is the only Canadian man to win a major championship
* 2024 Presidents Cup International Team Captain makes 461st start on PGA TOUR and second this season (MC/Masters Tournament)
* Won his first PGA TOUR Champions title in his 14th start after turning 50 (2020 Insperity Invitational); also has six runner-up finishes on that Tour
* Seeks to win the RBC Canadian Open for the first time in his 30th appearance where he owns three top-10s (10th/2003, 2nd/2004, T5/2008); missed the cut in his first nine starts in his National Open

**Monday Qualifiers**

The RBC Canadian Open Monday qualifier was held Sunday, June 4 at Coppinwood GC (par-72) and the following players advanced:

**Peter Kuest (66) *(quest)***

* Makes ninth PGA TOUR start, making the cut in two of prior eight (T14/2023 AT&T Byron Nelson, 65th/2020 Barracuda Championship)
* Final-round 63 in his most recent TOUR start at the 2023 AT&T Byron Nelson moved him from T33 through 54-holes to a T14 finish
* Fresno, California native played collegiate golf at BYU after attending Clovis West High School
* Posted one top-10 in 13 Korn Ferry Tour starts in 2022 (T5/Utah Championship)
* His dad played soccer at Fresno State

**Ryan Hall (67)**

* Knoxville, Tennessee native makes third PGA TOUR start after advancing in a 4-for-3 playoff
* Won the 2021 Augusta Haskins Award Invitational on Easter Sunday to earn a sponsor exemption to the 2021 3M Open (MC), his TOUR debut; made eagle on the final hole to force sudden-death playoff, then birdied two extra holes to win to earn the spot in the field while still an amateur; second TOUR start was the 2022 World Wide Technology Championship (MC), where he played as a professional after Monday qualifying
* Finished T16 in one Korn Ferry Tour start in 2023, the Visit Knoxville Open in his hometown
* In 2022, notched two top-15 finishes in four starts on the Korn Ferry Tour and made one cut in six starts on PGA TOUR Canada
* Former South Carolina Gamecock had a standout 2020-21 season finishing top-20 in all eight regular season starts; became first Gamecock men’s golfer to play for the United States in the 2021 Palmer Cup
* <https://gamecocksonline.com/news/2021/4/4/mens-golf-hall-wins-augusta-haskins-award-invitational-on-easter-sunday.aspx>

**Drew Nesbitt (67)**

* Canadian lefthander makes sixth PGA TOUR appearance after advancing in a 4-for-3 playoff; lone cut made in five PGA TOUR starts is 2019 Honda Classic for which he Monday qualified, eventually making the 36-hole cut but missing the 54-hole cut; most recent event played on TOUR was 2022 Wells Fargo Championship (MC) after shooting 64 to be medalist in the Monday qualifier
* First player to shoot 59 (-12) on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica; round included an ace – one of four eagles – five birdies and a bogey at the 2018 JHSF Brazil Open; his 59 followed a first-round 79 that left him 16 strokes off the lead; posted 73-70 on the weekend to finish T49
* Won his first title on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica with a final-round 62 at the 2019 Abierto Mexicano de Golf
* Made four cuts in eight starts on PGA TOUR Canada in 2022
* One of three Canadians to win on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica (Wil Bateman and Myles Creighton, both in the field this week as sponsor exemptions, are the other two)

**David Carey (67)**

* Dublin, Ireland native makes his third PGA TOUR start after advancing in a 4-for-3 playoff
* With his girlfriend, Caitlin, as his caddie, advanced out of the Monday qualifier with a 64 to make his second PGA TOUR start at the Valero Texas Open (MC), but first in the USA, via the Monday qualifier following his win at the pre-qualifying event, where he also shot 64 at Cypresswood Golf Club, to get into the Monday qualifier (see link)
* <https://www.independent.ie/sport/golf/david-carey-sensationally-qualifies-for-his-first-pga-tour-event-with-girlfriend-on-the-bag-42406922.html>
* Finished T62 at The Open Championship at St. Andrews in 2022 (72-67-73-73) after winning at his final qualifying site to make the field
* Wears a ‘Ben Hogan-style’ cap bearing the moniker “Mr 57” after he shot 11-under 57 en route to victory in the Cervino Open on the Alps Tour in Italy in 2019