

2018 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Recap

In a Sunday showdown with Dustin Johnson, the No. 1 player in the world, Ted Potter Jr. knew he was a heavy underdog. The odds were against him, but he didn't flinch. And he didn't fold after three-putting the first hole for a bogey. The lefty just kept plugging along to a final-round 69, 3-under-par, and three-shot win over a foursome that included Johnson, world No. 6 Jason Day and four-time tournament champion Phil Mickelson.

"Everybody knew Dustin was probably going to win the tournament, so why put pressure on myself?" said Potter, who had only one victory on the PGA TOUR, compared to Johnson's 17 – including twice at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. "What do I have to lose? Just go play golf."

Following the opening bogey, Potter ran off four birdies in the next six holes to take the lead and strung together 11 straight pars to maintain a pace none of the challengers could match. Potter finished with a total of 270, 17-under-par. Johnson, the co-leader with Potter through 54 holes, closed with an even-par 72, while Mickelson shot 67, Day shot 70, and Chez Reavie 68 to all wind up tied for second at 273, 14-under-par.

"It's truly an unbelievable thing to win at Pebble Beach," Potter said. "I was proud of the way I finished the tournament down the stretch. I hit a lot of quality golf shots knowing I had to."

Potter hit even more quality golf shots on Saturday. While the massive, sun-drenched galleries turned Pebble Beach Golf Links into an 18-hole fun-fest, Potter was having a good time shooting 9-under-par 62 at Monterey Peninsula Country Club's Shore Course. He tied the record on the back nine with a 30 and was 11-under with three holes to play, made two closing bogeys to finish with 32 on the front to put him in a tie with Johnson atop the leaderboard – and sleeping on a lead for the first time.

"I haven't been in contention too much, really," said Potter, who turned pro out of high school in 2002 and has spent most of his career playing mini-tour events. "It's just getting comfortable playing at a high level."

Johnson, on the other hand, did not find any comfort with two bogeys on the front side to offset two birdies. Playing in the final group with Potter, Johnson repeated that two-birdie-two bogey process on the back, never mounting an aggressive challenge.

"I would have liked to put more pressure on Ted," Johnson said. "I just didn't have it ... never really got in rhythm out there."

The most exciting finish came from Day, who hit his second shot on the 18th hole onto the cliffs. But with the tide out, he was able to play it. His third shot from the beach found the front bunker, then he got up and down to "save par off the pebbles."

Among the nine past champions of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am competing was Peter Jacobsen, making his 30th start in the tournament, dating back to 1977. The 63-year-old Jacobsen, winner in 1995, did not make the cut.

NFL superstar wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald (Arizona Cardinals) and pro partner Kevin Streelman – both members of the same golf club in Phoenix – executed their game plan perfectly to win the pro-am team competition. Fitzgerald and Streelman opened with a 58 at Spyglass Hill and closed with a 12-under-par 60 at Pebble Beach to post a total of 246, 41-under-par. It was the third-lowest team total in tournament history. Fitzgerald, playing with a 13-handicap, helped the team 28 shots overall.

The celebrity amateurs in the field included a pair of popular newcomers, including rock singer Pat Monahan (Train), drummer Adrian Young (No Doubt) and Chris Harrison, host of "The Bachelor." Making the pro-am team cut for Sunday's final round were TV newsman Bret Baier; country singers Darius

Rucker and Colt Ford; TV stars Alfonso Ribeiro and Harrison; and sports figures Justin Verlander, Wayne Gretzky (WD Sunday with back injury) and Fitzgerald.

LEADERS: First Round – Kevin Streelman -7 (65 SH), Beau Hossler -7 (65 PB), Matt Kuchar -6 (66 SH), Julian Suri -6 (66 SH), -6 Aaron Wise (65 MP); 10 tied at -5. Second Round – Dustin Johnson -12 (131/64 MP) Beau Hossler -12 (132/67 SH); Troy Merritt -10 (134/67 SH), Julian Suri -10 (133/67 MP); six tied at -9. Third Round – Ted Potter, Jr. -14 (201/62 MP), Dustin Johnson -14 (201/70 PB); Jason Day -12 (203/69 PB), Troy Merritt -12 (203/69 MP); three tied at -11.

CUT: 75 pros made the cut at 212, 3-under par (low 60 and ties), advancing to Sunday's final round. The pro-am team cut was 196, 19-under par, with the limit of 25 teams advancing (three of 11 teams at 196 eliminated through the tiebreaker).

COURSE AVERAGES: Pebble Beach 72.022 (4 rounds); Spyglass Hill 71.783 (3 rounds); Monterey Peninsula 70.063 (3 rounds).

WEATHER: Sunny all week with temperatures ranging from early morning 50s to a high of 80. Thursday high of 80, with winds at 5-10 mph. Friday high of 74, winds at 8-16 mph. Saturday high of 69, winds at 12-22 mph. Sunday high of 64, winds 5-15 mph.