

Waste Management Picks 2012

The Waste Management picks are based on recent performance and historical performance at the event. Picks can be verified by checking out the statistics page on the web site.

D.A. Points – Points has back to back top 10 finishes and made a decent showing last year with a top 20 after a missed cut in '10. His biggest issue over the past few years has been consistency, he rarely posts more than back to back top 10s or back to back top 20s, and if/when he does, it's unlikely the third event will be a good finish. And this year, he's had top 15 finishes in 3 starts. Maybe this year can be marked by consistency...

Webb Simpson – Simpson was the definition of consistency last year. He was like Furyk and Singh a few years back, with top 25 finishes in 21 of 26 events. We saw Simpson coming from a mile away last year. The only question was how he would answer the poor play down the stretch at the Transitions. When he bounced back with 2 top 20 finishes in his next 3 events, we knew he was comfortable on the tour. This year will be telling, but we think Simpson will have multiple wins again. If not, at least a whole stack of top 10 finishes and he'll always be a good pick.

Nick Watney – Over the past couple of years it seems like Watney always needs a poor finish to get him motivated and refocused for the next event. It's as if he takes a week off and then realizes he has to focus in order to play well – which he usually does. So the 60th place finish in his last event should serve as a wakeup call to him and have him playing better this week. Especially since he posted 2 top 20 finishes and a top 5 finish prior to the 60th and he also finished 5th at this event last year.

Bubba Watson – Watson is giving off the appearance of consistency over his last 5 events, all top 20 finishes – something he's never done on the PGATour (although the recent top 20s include overseas events as well). The strong play of late and his 8th place finish in '07 is why he's on this list. He can play the course well and he's playing well recently, so perhaps he'll continue or even win here.

Bryce Molder – Molder was on a trend last year when he won, he finished 64th, then 10th, then he won, he'd also had 2 top 10s at the Frys.com in previous years. We think this event is setting up similarly for him. A trend and a top 10 finish here in '10.

Martin Laird – Laird appears to be picking up from where he left off at the end of last year. He's finished 2nd and 14th in his last 2 events and 3rd last year at this event after going 2 years of consecutive missed cuts.

Rickie Fowler – Fowler picked up a win in Korea in October – his first as a professional. A win is a win and this should help him to garner another this year. Fowler has played this event 3 years now and finished 2nd in '10 and 13th last year. He also is coming off a 13th place finish at his most recent event. He should be a decent pick here for a top 10 or win.

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Jason Dufner – Dufner has played at this event 2 times in 5 years. The first time was in '07 and he finished 62nd, then last year he finished 2nd. He's also trending toward a strong finish. The 2nd place finish last year could indicate he's grown to like the course or figured something about it out or maybe he just had a good week. Regardless, he seems to be a good pick for the event.

Scott Piercy – Piercy is on a trend, missing a cut and then finishing 13th in his last event. But in his only 2 starts at this event he's posted 2 top 10s and that seems to be a good thing and an indication of his being a "horse for a course" at this event.

Kevin Na – When Na misses a cut and follows it up with a 20-30th place finish, he seems to do well at the following event. He's missed a cut and followed it up with a 30th place finish over his last 2 events. Plus, he's posted 2 top 10s at this event in his last 5 starts here, although he missed the cut last year. It could be a good week for him this week.

Others to consider:

Cameron Beckman, Brandt Snedeker, Carl Pettersson, Jonas Blixt, Ben Crane, Bud Cauley, Chris Couch, Vijay Singh