



2009 50th Bob Hope Classic hosted by Arnold Palmer
(The third of 37 events in the PGA TOUR Regular Season)

La Quinta, CA	January 21-25, 2009	FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)	Purse: \$5,100,000
Arnold Palmer Private/PGA West; La Quinta, CA		Par/Yards: 72/6,930	
Jack Nicklaus Private/PGA West; La Quinta, CA		Par/Yards: 72/6,951	
Bermuda Dunes CC; Bermuda Dunes, CA		Par/Yards: 72/6,962	
Palmer Course at SilverRock Resort, La Quinta, CA		Par/Yards: 72/7,553	

Fourth-Round Notes – Saturday, January 24, 2009

Weather: Sunny. Winds – light. High temperature of 76.

Steve Stricker has taken over for Pat Perez to help re-write the PGA TOUR record book. Stricker has posted rounds of 65-67-61-62 and stands at 33-under 255 for the first 72 holes. He holds a three-stroke lead over 18-, 36- and 54-hole leader Pat Perez (258). Robert Garrigus (66/Bermuda Dunes), Bubba Watson (63/Bermuda Dunes) and Vaughn Taylor (68/Nicklaus Private) share third place at 26-under, seven shots back.

The PGA TOUR and Bob Hope Classic scoring record is 36-under par 324, set by Joe Durant in winning the 2001 tournament.

Steve Stricker's 123 total over his last two rounds (61-62) eclipses the TOUR's all-time record for consecutive rounds. Mark Calcavecchia set the mark of 124 at the 2001 Phoenix Open and Pat Perez tied the mark earlier this week.

123	61-62	Steve Stricker	2009 Bob Hope Classic	rounds 3-4
124	60-64	Mark Calcavecchia	2001 Phoenix Open	rounds 2-3
124	61-63	Pat Perez	2009 Bob Hope Classic	rounds 1-2

Not surprising is the fact that the tournament leaders are also leading the tournament in putting. Steve Stricker is No. 1 in total putts with 102, Pat Perez is No. 2 with 104.

Steve Stricker's 255 total for 72 holes is one shot off the TOUR's all-time record score for 72 holes:

254	26-under	Tommy Armour III	2003 Valero Texas Open
255	33-under	Steve Stricker	2009 Bob Hope Classic
256	28-under	Mark Calcavecchia	2001 Phoenix Open

Steve Stricker's blistering third and fourth rounds have helped him eclipse another PGA TOUR record – that for the most strokes under par through 72 holes. Interestingly, Pat Perez registered his second straight round of 67 earlier in the day to reach 30-under par through 72 holes, thus becoming only the second player in Tour history to reach 30-under for four rounds. About an hour later, Stricker went racing by with birdies on six of his final seven holes, including his final four to establish a new mark:

Most strokes under par for 72 holes: ** -- through first four rounds of 90-hole tournament

33	Steve Stricker**	2009 Bob Hope Classic (??)
31	Ernie Els	2003 Mercedes Championship (<u>won</u>)
30	Pat Perez**	2009 Bob Hope Classic (??)
29	Joe Durant**	2001 Bob Hope Classic (<u>won</u>)
	Tim Herron**	2003 Bob Hope Classic (<u>won</u>)
28	John Huston	1988 United Airlines Hawaiian Open (<u>won</u>)
	Mark Calcavecchia	2001 Phoenix Open (<u>won</u>)
	Stuart Appleby**	2003 Las Vegas Invitational (<u>won</u>)
	Phil Mickelson	2006 BellSouth Classic (<u>won</u>)

Steve Stricker and Pat Perez have been breaking records all week and they can add another one to the list, the 72-hole record for the Bob Hope Classic. Perez set the mark earlier in the day, only to be topped by Stricker later on:

255	33-under	Steve Stricker, 2009	currently leads by 3		
258	30-under	Pat Perez, 2009	currently trails by 3		
259	29-under	Joe Durant, 2001	led by 5	shot 65	1 st – won by 4
259	29-under	Tim Herron, 2003	led by 4	shot 75	T3

Veteran Steve Stricker is in a bit of uncharted territory this week. Stricker is making the 339th start of his PGA TOUR career and the 41-year old has put together a career-best score to this point. Stricker currently stands at 33-under par through 72 holes. Below is a list of his previous best 72-hole totals in relation to par:

33-under	2009	Bob Hope Classic
21-under	2002	Bob Hope Classic – shot 75 in final round to finish at 18-under
18-under	2008	Mercedes-Benz Championship
18-under	2007	BMW Championship
18-under	2005	Chrysler Classic of Tucson
18-under	1998	United Airlines Hawaiian Open
18-under	1998	Greater Milwaukee Open
18-under	1996	Motorola Western Open
18-under	1996	Greater Milwaukee Open

Steve Stricker has posted a 255 total for the opening 72 holes. Below is a list of his previous best 72-hole scores.

255	33-under	2009 Bob Hope Classic
266	18-under	1996 Greater Milwaukee Open
266	18-under	1998 Greater Milwaukee Open
266	18-under	2007 BMW Championship
267	21-under	2002 Bob Hope Classic

Here are Steve Stricker's tournament statistics thus far through his record-setting pace.

Fairways Hit	44 of 55	80.0%	T23
Greens in Regulation	61 of 72	84.7%	T9
Putts	102		1 st
Driving Distance	297.3		37

Fred Couples (16-under 272) made the 72-hole cut, marking the 23rd time in 24 starts here that he has advanced to the fifth round. Couples' total is now just one back of all-time tournament leader Peter Jacobsen, who made 24 cuts in 27 starts from 1978-2005.

The 72-hole cut came at 15-under 273, setting a record for the lowest cut in tournament history. The previous low was 13-under 275, which was set in 2002 and matched again in 2003.

Steve Stricker leads the tournament with 34 birdies through 72 holes. Joe Durant (2001) and Phil Mickelson (2004) hold the tournament record with 37 birdies for 90 holes.

Scott Piercy (65-267) is at 21-under par and has managed to negotiate all four courses without making a single bogey. The 2008 Nationwide Tour grad is the only player in the field to go bogey-free for the first 72 holes.

It probably hasn't happened too many times that a player would shoot 61 or 62 and miss the cut but it happened today. Jesper Parnevik posted 11-under 61 at Palmer Private and James Nitties fired a 10-under 62 at Nicklaus Private to each finish at 14-under 274 and miss the 72-hole cut by a single stroke. In addition, Jarrod Lyle also carded a 63 at Nicklaus Private to wind up 14-under, one shy of the cut line.

Pat Perez heads a list of hopefuls still in search of their first career win. Below is a list of the current leaders who have never won and their total career starts (prior to this week) on the PGA TOUR:

Pat Perez	197 starts
Robert Garrigus	87
John Merrick	59
Bubba Watson	85
Chris Stroud	56
Webb Simpson	8
David Berganio, Jr.	137
Tim Clark	173
Mathew Goggin	198

Several players at the top of the leaderboard are seeking their first career win. In the 49-year history of this tournament, four players have earned their first title at the Bob Hope Classic:

1978	Bill Rogers	1 st of 6	68 th career start
1980	Craig Stadler	1 st of 13	106 th career start
1986	Donnie Hammond	1 st of 2	87 th career start
2007	Charlie Hoffman	1 st	41 st career start

A couple of rookies are making some noise this week. Webb Simpson, a 23-year old 2008 Wake Forest graduate who played on the Nationwide Tour last year and made it through the PGA TOUR Qualifying Tournament, is at 24-under par and currently tied for seventh place. Simpson is making only the second start of the year – he finished T9 at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii, his first start as a TOUR member. David Mathis, a 34-year old 2008 Nationwide Tour graduate, is at 22-under after four rounds and T17. Mathis finished T16 last week, the only cut he has made in six total starts on TOUR.

Bubba Watson, who shot a 9-under 63 at Bermuda Dunes today, has had a bit of an up-and-down week. The big-hitting lefty opened with a 10-under 62 at Palmer Private but then struggled with a bogey and a triple on the first eight holes of round two at Nicklaus Private. Since then, Watson has rebounded and played the last 46 holes in 20-under par. He is now minus-26 and tied for third place.

Comebacks are nothing new to this event with several recent winners coming from off the pace to earn the championship. Most recent come-from-behind winners in this event:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>After 72</u>	<u>Final day</u>	<u>Result</u>
2008	D.J. Trahan	trailed by 4	shot 65	won by 3
2007	Charley Hoffman	trailed by 4	shot 71	won playoff over John Rollins
2005	Justin Leonard	trailed by 2	shot 67	won by 3
2003	Mike Weir	trailed by 4	shot 67	won by 2
2002	Phil Mickelson	trailed by 4	shot 64	won playoff over David Berganio, Jr.
2000	Jesper Parnevik	trailed by 2	shot 65	won by 1
1999	David Duval	trailed by 7	shot 59	won by 1
1998	Fred Couples	trailed by 3	shot 66	won playoff over Bruce Lietzke
1997	John Cook	trailed by 3	shot 63	won by 1

Rich Beem bogeyed the 5th hole today at Palmer Private, ending his bogey-free run in this event after 58 holes.