



2009 Northern Trust Open

(The seventh of 37 events in the PGA TOUR Regular Season)

Pacific Palisades, CA
Riviera Country Club

February 19-22, 2009

FedExCup Points: 500

Purse: \$6,300,000

Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,298

Partial First-Round Notes – Thursday, February 19, 2009

Weather: Sunny skies with temperatures in the upper 60s. Light NE winds in the morning shifting to SW in the afternoon.

Play was suspended due to darkness at 6:05 p.m. with four players remaining on the course. Mark Brooks (1-over through 17), Bill Lunde (2-under through 16), Chris Stroud (1-under through 16) and Kevin Chappell (4-over through 16) will return at 7:45 a.m. to complete the first round. The second round will begin as scheduled.

Phil Mickelson shot a bogey-free, 8-under 63. The last time Mickelson scored a bogey-free round was a second-round 65 at the 2008 BMW Championship.

Mickelson's 63 equals the best first round in tournament history, joining Padraig Harrington (1997), Michael Allen (1990) and Lanny Wadkins (1985) who all scored 63s at Riviera Country Club.

This is Mickelson's 11th visit to the Northern Trust Open and his 63 is his ninth consecutive round under par at Riviera Country Club.

Mickelson holds the first-round lead for the 20th time in his career.

The last time Mickelson held the first-round lead was the 2007 PLAYERS Championship (67), which he went on to win. Mickelson's lowest first-round score holding the lead was 62 (-10) at the 2005 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, which he also won.

Mickelson has won six times after holding the first-round lead – 2007 PLAYERS Championship, AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, 2006 BellSouth Classic, 2005 PGA Championship, AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and the 1995 Northern Telecom Open.

Scott McCarron (64) equaled his low round at the Northern Trust Open – he shot 64 in the third round here in 1997, eventually finishing T6. His best finish at the Northern Trust Open is T2 in 2002 when he shot back-to-back 65s. McCarron has made three cuts in four starts this year but his 64 is not his low round this year. He fired 63 in the third round of the Bob Hope Classic.

Ryo Ishikawa (73), the teen sensation from Japan who received the Commissioner's Foreign Exemption to get in the field, is making his PGA TOUR debut. Ishikawa opened his round with a first-hole birdie before bogeys at holes two and five, along with a double-bogey at the seventh. He came home strongly with a back-nine 35 (1-under). Ishikawa won the Japan Golf Tour's Munsingwear Open KSB Cup on debut as a 15-year-old amateur. He turned pro in 2008 and won his second Japan Golf Tour event at the Mynavi ABC Championship in November. Ishikawa is scheduled to play the Transitions Championship, the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard and the Masters Tournament.

Vincent Johnson (70), the recipient of the inaugural Charlie Sifford Exemption, birdied his first hole of the day, the 315-yard, par-4 10th. A total of three birdies and two bogeys, and an inward nine of 1-under 34 earned the Oregon State graduate

his first sub-par round on TOUR. This is Johnson's first PGA TOUR event, calling the experience "a little surreal, this whole thing."

Fred Couples (67) owns one of the best records at the Northern Trust Open with two victories (1990/92), three second-place finishes (1993/94/96) and 18 top-25 finishes. This is Couples' 27th appearance at the tournament where he has earnings of \$1,430,111. Couples has missed the cut just twice (1983/2001) during that stretch. He has scored lower than his 67 in the first round here just twice – 66 in 2004 for a T59 and 66 again in 2006, finishing fourth.

There are 11 former Northern Trust Open champions in the field this week. Here's a look at how they scored in the opening round.

2008	Phil Mickelson	63
2007	Charles Howell III	72
2006	Rory Sabbatini	68
2004/03	Mike Weir	70
2001	Robert Allenby	70
2000	Kirk Triplett	67
1999	Ernie Els	71
1998	Billy Mayfair	76
1995/94	Corey Pavin	73
1992/90	Fred Couples	67
1989	Mark Calcavecchia	70

Robert Allenby (70) is making his first start of the 2009 season. The Australian returned to his homeland earlier this year to be with his mother, Sylvia, who passed away in late January after a battle with cancer. Allenby was victorious in a six-way playoff at Riviera CC in 2001 and finished top-10 the last two years, T7 in 2008 and T3 in 2007. Allenby is on a streak, having made 27 consecutive cuts. His last missed cut was at his first event in 2008, the Sony Open in Hawaii. Allenby is seeking to pull within one made cut of TOUR-leading Tiger Woods (29).

It's still early in the tournament but Phil Mickelson (63) has a chance to become the seventh back-to-back champion at the Northern Trust Open. The most recent back-to-back winners are Mike Weir (2003/04) and Corey Pavin (1994/95), both in the field this week. Arnold Palmer (1966/67), Paul Harney (1964/65), Ben Hogan (1947/48) and Macdonald Smith (1928/29) are also in this group.

Steve Elkington (68) scored an eagle at the par-4, third hole when he holed his 165-yard, second shot from the right rough. Elkington has three top-10s at the Northern Trust Open (T10 in 1996, T8 in 1992/88). He also won the 1995 PGA Championship at Riviera Country Club - making eagle at the first hole of the tournament. The only other eagle Elkington has made on a par-4 at the tournament this decade is at hole No. 10 in 2006.

Jeff Klauk and D.J. Trahan shot 4-under 67s and are in good shape to make the cut for the sixth consecutive time this year. They are the only two players on TOUR with five consecutive cuts in 2009, the most this year. Klauk is one of three 2008 Nationwide Tour graduates currently in the top-40 on the money list – Scott Piercy is No. 24, Bill Lunde is No. 31 and Klauk is No. 37.

Johnson Wagner (70) and Daniel Chopra (73) are the only players to have played in every PGA TOUR event this season.

The season-long Kodak Challenge, where players must play at least 18 of the 30 Kodak Challenge holes throughout the season to be eligible for the \$1 million prize, includes the 315 yard, par-4, 10th hole at Riviera Country Club. Cameron Beckman (70), who birdied No. 10 on Thursday, holds a one-stroke lead at 4-under, over 18 players. The player with the lowest cumulative score relative to par wins. The 10th hole relinquished 38 birdies and one eagle (Chris Stroud) in Thursday's opening round.

Three bogey-free rounds were recorded in the first round: Phil Mickelson (63), Jim Furyk (66) and Tommy Armour III (67).