



**2009 Omega Mission Hills World Cup**  
**Shenzhen, China November 26-29, 2009**  
**Mission Hills Golf Club**

**Purse: \$5,500,000**  
**Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,320**

## **Second-Round Notes – Friday, November 27, 2009**

After taking first-round lead with a scintillating 58 on Thursday, Ireland's Graeme McDowell and Rory McIlroy teamed to shoot a second-round, 4-under-par 68 for a three-stroke lead over defending champions Henrik Stenson and Robert Karlsson of Sweden at the 55<sup>th</sup> playing of the Omega Mission Hills World Cup. After playing four-ball (best-ball) in round one, the competition switched to foursomes (alternate shot) on Friday. The format rotates again Saturday and Sunday, playing four-ball and foursomes, respectively.

The last team to record a wire-to-wire victory was Ernie Els and Wayne Westner of South Africa at Erinvale Golf Club in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1996.

McIlroy and McDowell rebounded with birdies on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> holes after recording a double bogey on the par-5 15<sup>th</sup>.

This is the 54<sup>th</sup> time that Ireland has fielded a World Cup team. Ireland has won the World Cup twice (1958, Harry Bradshaw and Christy O'Connor, Sr.; 1997, Pdraig Harrington and Paul McGinley).

McIlroy is playing in his first World Cup. McDowell, a four-time winner on the European Tour, finished 16<sup>th</sup> last year with Paul McGinley in his only other appearance at this event.

Defending champions Henrik Stenson and Robert Karlsson of Sweden shot the low round of the day, with a 7-under-par 65 and are three shots off the lead at 15-under-par. The Swedish team is attempting to become the first set of teammates to defend their World Cup title since the U.S. team of Fred Couples and Davis Love III won four consecutive tournaments between 1992 and 1995. The U.S. also won back-to-back World Cups in 1999 and 2000, but Tiger Woods swapped Mark O'Meara (1999) for David Duval as his partner at those events.

Sweden was the only squad to complete the second round without recording a bogey.

Italian brothers Edoardo and Francesco Molinari are alone in third at 14-under-par after a second-round 66 despite two bogeys on their back nine. They make-up the 49<sup>th</sup> team to represent Italy in the history of the World Cup. Italy's best finish at the World Cup came in 1998 when Massimo Florioli and Costantino Rocca finished runner-up.

The Molinari brothers are playing as a team for the third consecutive year together. Their best finish came in 2007 (T17). Francesco finished T8 in his only other start at the World Cup in 2006, partnering with Emanuele Canonica.

The Molinaris are one of four sets of teammates who have been represented their country for each of the past three years of the Omega Mission Hills World Cup. The others are:

**Germany**- Alex Cjeka, Martin Kaymer

**Thailand**- Prayad Marksaeng, Thongchai Jaidee

**China** - Liang Wen-chong, Zhang Lian-wei

From 1953 until 1999, the World Cup's format consisted of each team member playing his own ball and then adding up the total strokes. During that 46-year period, the all-time low World Cup 18-hole score didn't come from Jack Nicklaus, Fred Couples or Tiger Woods, who all had 63s in their World Cup careers. Instead it was Japan's Hisayuki Sasaki who has the honor. On the strength of 11 birdies and one bogey, Sasaki shot a 10-under 62 in the first round of the 1995 World Cup, the first year Mission Hills Golf Club in Shenzhen, China, hosted the tournament.

Venezuela's team of Jhonattan Vegas and Alfredo Adrian shot their second consecutive 67 of the tournament and are at 10-under-par, the best score by one of the nine countries who did not receive an automatic bid to this year's World Cup. Venezuela is T5 through two rounds. Vegas, a member of the Nationwide Tour, made the decision to skip two key Nationwide Tour events late in the season in order to attend the World Cup qualifying tournament in his own country. By doing so, Vegas dropped out of the top 60 on the Nationwide Tour's money list and was unable to attend the season-ending Nationwide Tour Championship at Daniel Island. Nine teams made the field from the World Qualifiers held in September and October that completed the field of 28 nations. The qualifiers filled three spots from the Asian qualifier, three spots from the European qualifier and three spots from the South American qualifier.

Venezuela's best finish at the Omega Mission Hills World Cup is ninth in 1958.