



2009 Mayakoba Golf Classic

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

Playa del Carmen, Mexico
FedExCup Points: 250
El Camaleón Golf Club

Feb. 23 – March 1, 2009
Purse: \$3,600,000 (winner: \$648,000)
Par/Yards: 70/6,923

First-Round Notes – Thursday, February 26, 2009

Weather: Partly cloudy with afternoon high in the mid 80s. Morning winds E 10-20 mph, gusting to 30 mph. Afternoon winds E 8-15 mph, gusting to 25-30 mph.

Bo Van Pelt matched his career low round on the PGA TOUR with a 63 to take a two stroke lead after the first-round. Van Pelt scorched the front nine (started on #10) with a tournament record 28, which included seven birdies. His other 63 came at the 2002 Greater Milwaukee Open.

Looking for his first PGA TOUR victory, Van Pelt has held the first-round lead three previous times in his career including the 2008 Buick Open (T17), the 2008 Puerto Rico Open (T2) and the 2004 US Bank Championship (T7).

Chris Riley shot a five-under 65 to hold the lead after the morning wave. Riley won the 2002 Reno-Tahoe Open and played in the 2004 Ryder Cup, but has registered only two top-10 finishes since 2004. He has missed three straight cuts on TOUR including in his only two starts this season and his final event of 2008 at the Ginn sur Mer.

Playing in his 32nd PGA TOUR event, Jarrod Lyle is looking for his first top 10 finish. Lyle is T2 after shooting a five-under 65.

To be successful at the Mayakoba Golf Classic, Driving Accuracy is a must. Last year's champion Brian Gay finished 17th in TOUR Driving Accuracy in 2008, while 2007 Mayakoba Golf Classic winner Fred Funk ranked 2nd in TOUR Driving Accuracy that season.

Scott Piercy, who shot a four-under 66 in the first round (T4), is T181 in TOUR Driving Accuracy and 3rd in TOUR Driving Distance (305.8). Rookie Gary Woodland shot a one-under 69 and is T31. Woodland is 175th in TOUR Driving Accuracy and 2nd in TOUR Driving Distance.

Along with defending champion Brian Gay, four players in the field are among the top 10 on the PGA TOUR in Driving Accuracy-- Mark Brooks, David Toms, Olin Browne and Gay. Another, Chris DiMarco led the field in that category last week at the Northern Trust and finished T13. Below are their results after the first round:

Player	Score	Rd 1 Standing
Brian Gay	68 (-2)	T20
Mark Brooks	68 (-2)	T20
David Toms	70 (E)	T49
Olin Browne	69 (-1)	T31
Chris DiMarco	69 (-1)	T31

After the first-round four players are tied for the top Driving Accuracy after hitting 14 of 14 fairways. Below are the four players and their current standing.

Player	Score	Rd 1 Standing
Jarrold Lyle	65 (-5)	T2
J.J Henry	66 (-4)	T4
Pablo Larrazabal	66(-4)	T4
Notah Begay III	68 (-2)	T20

Defending champion Brian Gay shot a two-under 68. Gay is off to a solid start in 2009, recording four top-20 finishes in his first four starts, with top-10s at the Sony Open in Hawaii and FBR Open. Gay played in 292 PGA TOUR events without a win prior to capturing the 2008 Mayakoba Golf Classic at Riviera Maya-Cancun by two strokes.

El Camaleón Golf Club, designed by 2009 Presidents Cup International Team Captain Greg Norman, was ranked No. 14 among most-difficult courses on the PGA TOUR in 2008 (71.00). The par-4 third hole (462 yards) was ranked 22nd among the toughest holes on TOUR last year (4.385). Below is the first-round scoring averages and the scoring average for the 3rd hole.

	<u>Front Nine</u>	<u>Back Nine</u>	<u>Total</u>
Rd 1	35.545	35.485	71.030
3 rd Hole, Rd 1			4.197

J.P. Hayes' four-under 66 today was just his second round in the 60s in his last 10 rounds. Hayes has missed the cut in 20 of his last 26 events. Like Chris Riley, Hayes' last win came in 2002 (John Deere Classic).

Chris Riley is the first player in tournament history to eagle the 386-yard par-4 17th hole.

There are several Mexican and Spanish players in the field this year. Spaniard Pablo Larrazabal finished the day at four-under and is T4. Larrazabal finished 30th on the European Tour Order of Merit in 2008. He was named the European Tour's Rookie of the Year on the strength of a four-stroke victory over Angel Cabrera and Colin Montgomerie in the Open de France. Below are the first-round results of the Mexican and Spanish players:

Mexican Players	Score	Rd 1 Standing
Jose de Jesus Rodriguez	70 (E)	T49
Mauricio Azcue Pederzoli (A)	81 (+11)	129
Esteban Toledo	72 (+2)	T74
Spanish Players		
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	73 (+3)	T94
Pablo Larrazabal	66 (-4)	T4
Jose Manuel Lara	70 (E)	T49
Santiago Luna	74 (+4)	T102

Thirty-three players in the 2009 Mayakoba Golf Classic at Riviera Maya-Cancun have competed in all three years of the event. Below are those that are in the top 5 following the first-round.

Player	Score	Rd 1 Standing
Chris Riley	65 (-5)	T2
Scott Piercy	66 (-4)	T4
Cameron Beckman	66 (-4)	T4

Alex Cejka (back), Troy Kelly (back) and Jason Gore (back) both withdrew following the first-round.