



2009 SONY OPEN IN HAWAII

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Dates: January 12-18, 2009

Where: Waialae Country Club; Honolulu, HI

Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,044

Field: 144 (first full-field event of the season)

Purse: \$5,400,000; **Winner's Share:** \$972,000

Format: 72-hole stroke play

KEY STORYLINES:

1. **PGA TOUR kicks off 2009 Season with Hawaii Swing** – The FedExCup enters its third year in 2009 and will begin once again in the Aloha State, with the season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship and this week's Sony Open in Hawaii. The FedExCup has a few modifications heading into the 2009 season:
 - Shifting the points reset from the beginning of the Playoffs to after the BMW Championship, which means points earned during the PGA TOUR Regular Season will be carried through the first three Playoff events
 - Quintupling points awarded at Playoff tournaments relative to Regular Season tournaments
 - Changing the field size of the Playoff events to 125 at The Barclays, 100 at the Deutsche Bank Championship, 70 at the BMW Championship and 30 at THE TOUR Championship; they previously were 144, 120, 70 and 30
 - Streamlining the points structure for ease of understanding.
2. **First Full-Field Event of the Season Kicks Off** – The Sony Open in Hawaii represents the first full-field event of PGA TOUR Regular Season, with 144 players set to descend upon the par-70 Waialae Country Club. Once again, a strong field has been assembled for the tournament, led by 2009 Mercedes-Benz Championship winner Geoff Ogilvy (ranked 6th in the Official World Golf Rankings), Ernie Els (10th), Kenny Perry (14th), Steve Stricker (15th), Stewart Cink (16th), defending champion K.J. Choi (17th) and Adam Scott (18th). A total of 500 FedExCup points will be awarded to Sunday's winner.
3. **Hometown Favorite Parker McLachlin set to tackle Waialae** – The Honolulu native and 2008 Legends Reno-Tahoe Open champion will be making his fifth start at the Sony Open in Hawaii, coming off of his best finish at the tournament with a T10 in 2008. McLachlin's father, Chris, was the high school basketball coach of newly-elected U.S. President Barack Obama at Punahou High School – who will be inaugurated just two days after the Sony Open in Hawaii wraps up on Sunday.
4. **Ernie Els looking to continue success at Sony Open in Hawaii** – Few players have dominated a tournament like Ernie Els has done at the Sony Open in Hawaii. The Big Easy is back at Waialae for the first time since 2005, a place where he accumulated five consecutive top-five finishes in as many starts from 2000-05. In addition to victories in 2003 and 2004, he finished runner-up in 2005, third in 2001 and fifth in 2000. He is a collective 66-under in his five starts here, with a 1-over 71 during the first round in 2005 his only over-par effort.

ADDITIONAL STORYLINES:

1. **K.J. Choi set to defend** – K.J. Choi returns in 2009 to defend his title at the Sony Open in Hawaii. His win in 2008 – the seventh of his career – helped propel him to his second consecutive top-10 finish in the FedExCup standings (5th in 2007, 10th in 2008).
 - Choi is seeking to become just the fourth player to successfully defend a title at the tournament – Hubert Green (1978-79), Corey Pavin (1986-87) and Ernie Els (2003-04).
 - Choi has six made cuts in seven appearances at the event, including three top-10 finishes (1st in 2008, T4 in 2007 and T7 in 2002).
2. **Could this be the year for Steve Stricker at the Sony Open in Hawaii?** – The four-time TOUR winner is seeking his first victory at the Sony Open in Hawaii, despite much success at the event.
 - Like defending champion K.J. Choi, Stricker has finished inside the top four each of the past two seasons at Waialae (T4 in 2007 and 2008).
 - He has six top-15 finishes in his nine starts here, with the others a solo third-place finish in 1996, T7 in 1998 and T14s in 1994 and 2000.
 - In 34 rounds, Stricker has failed to produce a score of par or better just five times.
3. **First-time winners abundant in 2008** – There were 12 first-time winners on TOUR in 2008, and nine are expected to tee it up at the Sony Open in Hawaii, including Brian Gay, Greg Kraft, Andres Romero, Johnson Wagner, Ryuji Imada, Richard S. Johnson, Chez Reavie, Parker McLachlin and Marc Turnesa. Of that group, Romero, Reavie and Turnesa were playing their rookie season in 2008.
 - Romero, 27, won the Zurich Classic of New Orleans and finished 28th in the final FedExCup standings on his way to Rookie of the Year honors in 2008. The Argentina native also made the cut in all four major championships, one of just 11 players to do so in 2008, and posted top 10s at the Masters Tournament (T8) and PGA Championship (T7). Romero will be making his first start at the Sony Open in Hawaii.
4. **Ryder Cup standouts set to compete at Waialae** - Boo Weekley, one of the emerging stars on the PGA TOUR, is one of five members of the winning U.S. Ryder Cup team who will be teeing it up this week at the Waialae Country Club. The others include Kenny Perry, Stewart Cink, Steve Stricker and J.B. Holmes.
 - Weekley has emerged as a folk hero on the PGA TOUR over the last several years. He punctuated the United States Ryder Cup team's victory last fall by riding his driver, "Happy Gilmore style" down the fairway. Following the Ryder Cup, Weekley made an appearance on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and has a book in the works. He will be making his fourth start at the Sony Open in Hawaii, finishing T20 in 2007 and missing the cut in 2002 and 2008.
5. **Sony Open in Hawaii continues to shine in charitable donations** -2009 is the 11th year of Sony serving as the title sponsor of the Sony Open in Hawaii. Through their involvement with the tournament, Sony has helped generate more than \$8 million for the Friends of Hawaii Charities, the largest charity undertaking in the entire state of Hawaii. The charities ensure area women and children receive health and social services needed. Waialae Country Club has hosted the event each year since the tournament's inception in 1965.
6. **Going Green at the Sony Open in Hawaii** - This year the tournament has initiated a multi-year commitment to reduce adverse environmental impact of the event and to educate fans about environmental stewardship. The tournament has created the first sustainability-focused, air-conditioned hospitality venue on the PGA TOUR, which will be positioned along Waialae's "Aloha" Par 5 9th hole. It has been named the Greenside Lanai and will offer an exhibit on ways to "go green!"