



The
Honda
Classic

The Honda Classic – 2009 Advance Notes

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Dates: March 2-8, 2009

Where: PGA National Resort & Spa, Champion Course

Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,241

Field: 144

Purse: \$5,600,000; **Winner's Share:** \$1,008,000

FedExCup points to winner: 500

Format: 72-hole stroke play

KEY STORYLINES:

Star Power

Ernie Els

Overcame a 3-stroke deficit at the 2008 Honda Classic, posting a final-round 67 for his 16th career TOUR victory. The win was Els' first PGA TOUR victory since 2004. The South African who now lives in Jupiter has three career wins in the state of Florida: 1998 Bay Hill Invitational; 2002 Genuity Championship; and the 2008 Honda Classic.

Sergio Garcia

Sergio Garcia makes the second start of the season on the PGA TOUR at The Honda Classic, having moved to No. 2 in the Official World Golf Ranking in recent months, his highest to-date. Garcia has won seven times on the PGA TOUR, including last year's playoff victory at THE PLAYERS Championship. Garcia finished the 2008 season ranked No. 3 in the FedExCup and captured the Vardon Trophy (69.40) becoming the first European-born winner of the award on the PGA TOUR since Harry Cooper in 1937.

Boo Weekley

Still riding high from his Ryder Cup performance and ensuing public appearances (Jay Leno, Jim Rome, etc.), Boo Weekley is currently working on a book about his life and golf career with author Paul Brown. One of the TOUR's most compelling figures, Weekley looks for redemption at The Honda Classic, the site of an untimely 3-putt on the 72nd hole in 2007 that forced a four-way, sudden-death playoff with Mark Wilson, Jose Coceres and Camilo Villegas.

Rory McIlroy

The 19-year-old from Northern Ireland (dubbed "Boy Wonder" in Europe) has generated his share of news over the past few years, punctuated by his first European Tour win on February 1 at the Dubai Desert Classic, where he jumped to No. 16 in the Official World Golf Ranking. McIlroy is making his second appearance in the United States, having played at the World Golf Championships-Accenture Match Play Championship.

Davis Love III

Thanks to his 20th PGA TOUR win at the 2008 Children's Miracle Network Classic in the year's last event, Davis Love III earned a lifetime exemption onto the PGA TOUR. The two-time PLAYERS Champion and 1997 PGA Championship winner posted a pair of runner-up finishes at the Honda Classic in 2003 and 2004. Love III will be making his 15th start at the Honda Classic dating back to 1986.

Andres Romero

The reigning PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year from Argentina played in the final group on Sunday with Phil Mickelson and Fred Couples at the Northern Trust Open, where he finished T3.

Erik Compton

Miami native Erik Compton is nine months removed from his second heart transplant, and playing in his first TOUR event since making the cut at last year's season-ending Children's Miracle Network Classic. Compton's message is especially compelling as his wife Barbara is expecting the couple's first child in the near future. A former top-ranked junior and college golfer, Erik serves as a spokesperson for the Transplant Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to funding patient services, public education to increase organ donation and lifesaving transplant research. Diagnosed at age nine with cardiomyopathy, an enlarging of the heart that hinders its ability to pump blood, Compton had his first transplant at 12. He suffered a heart attack last year and had to undergo a second transplant in May 2008.

Tadd Fujikawa

The 18-year-old native of Hawaii accepted a Sponsor Exemption into the The Honda Classic after a memorable performance at the Sony Open in Hawaii in January that included an 8-under-par 62 in the third round. Fujikawa turned professional in 2007 at the age of 16 after a T20 finish at the Sony Open.

Charity -- Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation

The Honda Classic continues to make a tremendous charitable impact throughout South Florida through Children's Healthcare Charity Inc., the non-profit host organization of The Honda Classic whose primary beneficiary is the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation. The Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation assists in the prevention of childhood diseases and disorders. Barbara Nicklaus serves as the chairperson of Children's Healthcare Charity, Inc., and the Nicklaus family is involved with many of the charity aspects of The Honda Classic. Last year, The Honda Classic donated than \$700,000 to the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation and other South Florida charities.

ADDITIONAL STORYLINES:

The Honda Classic kicks off PGA TOUR's "Florida Swing"

The Honda Classic will serve as the first of four events on the PGA TOUR's annual "Florida Swing," the third year of the revamped schedule in conjunction with the FedExCup. Following The Honda Classic will be the PODS Championship (Palm Harbor), the World Golf Championships-CA Championship (Miami) and the Arnold Palmer Invitational (Orlando).

PGA National proved a worthy venue in 2008

The former site of a Ryder Cup and a PGA Championship, the Champion Course at PGA National Resort & Spa played as the 11th-most difficult course on the PGA TOUR in 2008 with a scoring average of 71.824. Two holes – No. 6 (par-4, 444 yards) and No. 15 (par-3, 179 yards) ranked among the top-50 toughest holes on TOUR last year. The sixth hole averaged 4.444 (No. 11) while the 15th averaged 3.346 (No. 39).

The Bear Trap (Nos. 15-17), affectionately named after course renovator Jack Nicklaus, is especially difficult to negotiate, as shown below:

Bear Trap (Nos. 15-17) at PGA National – Champion Course

Hole	Par	Yardage	Average
15	3	179	3.346
16	4	434	4.185
17	3	190	3.280

Kenny G and The Honda Classic

Award-winning musician Kenny G is the title sponsor of the tournament's Wednesday Pro-Am which is being renamed The Kenny G Gold Pro-Am. He will play in a group of local celebrities in the March 4 Pro-Am.

The Honda Classic and Maltz Jupiter Theatre present a concert by Kenny G on Thursday, March 5. This is a special benefit concert with all proceeds going to Children's Healthcare Charity, the non-profit host organization of The Honda Classic whose primary beneficiary is the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation.

Also on March 5, Kenny G also will perform for the ill children at the Child Life Institute accompanied by Barbara Nicklaus. The Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation established and funds the Child Life Institute – a not for profit organization that provides resources, programs and services to seriously ill children and their families free of charge. The Nicklaus Foundation will purchase toy saxophones for the kids, a throwback to the days when a young Kenny Gorelick of Seattle discovered the saxophone one evening while watching the Ed Sullivan show and was inspired to take up the instrument.

Kenny G will perform at The Honda Classic's trophy presentation following the conclusion of the 2009 event.

PGA TOUR Wives Golf Classic

On Tuesday, March 3rd, the PGA TOUR Wives Association will host the PGA TOUR Wives Golf Classic. This exciting, charitable endeavor has historically been the biggest fund-raiser of the year for the PGA TOUR Wives Association. The nature of the event is having PGA TOUR professionals caddy for their wives in a nine-hole fund-raising event on the Haig Course at PGA National. 50 percent of the funds raised go towards the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation. The remaining 50 percent is dispersed amongst the various women's and children's area charities in cities where the PGA TOUR visits.

Inaugural Kodak Challenge continues at The Honda Classic

A first-of-its-kind competition for PGA TOUR players that offers \$1 million to the winner continues at The Honda Classic. There will be one designated Kodak Challenge Hole at 30 different PGA TOUR tournaments – with No. 16 at PGA National featured the week of The Honda Classic. Players, who must play at least 18 of the holes to be eligible, will count their lowest score relative to par on the Kodak Challenge Hole made during an official competition round. The player with the lowest cumulative score at the end of the challenge wins \$1 million.

FedExCup modifications for 2009

Now in its third year, the FedExCup underwent several modifications with the onset of 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.