



## **2009 The Honda Classic**

*(The 10<sup>th</sup> of 37 events in the PGA TOUR Regular Season)*

**Palm Beach Gardens, FL March 5-8, 2009**  
**PGA National Resort & Spa**

**FedExCup Points: 500**  
**Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,158**

**Purse: \$5,600,000**

### **Final-Round Notes – Sunday, March 8, 2009**

*Weather: Partly cloudy. High of 80. Winds E/SE 10-15 mph.*

Y.E. Yang posted a 2-under 68 on Sunday to finish 9-under 271, capturing the 2009 The Honda Classic by one stroke over John Rollins (67). The victory is the first of Yang's career on the PGA TOUR and comes in his 47<sup>th</sup> start. His previous best finish was a T9 at the 2008 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

The victory for Yang is worth 500 points and moves him to No. 9 in the FedExCup standings with 579 points. By moving inside the top 10 on the FedExCup points list, he earns a spot in next week's World Golf Championships-CA Championship. John Rollins also gained entry into next week's event as a result of his runner-up finish on Sunday, propelling him from No. 22 to No. 8 in the standings. Geoff Ogilvy leads the list with 1,176 points.

Y.E. Yang is just the second South Korean-born player to capture a PGA TOUR event, joining seven-time winner K.J. Choi. Yang, Choi and Charlie Wi are also the only South Korean players to win on the European Tour.

What a difference a year makes. Y.E. Yang teed off first in the final round of the 2008 The Honda Classic as a single, going on to a final-round 1-over 71 and a T72 finish. He played that round in one hour and 53 minutes, teeing off at 8:03 a.m. and holing his last putt at 9:56 a.m. On Sunday, he was in the final group as he went on to win his first TOUR event.

Entering this week, Y.E. Yang ranked No. 169 in driving distance, T151 in driving accuracy and No. 136 in greens in regulation, but for the week he ranked 13<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and T3 in the field, respectively, in each of the categories.

Robert Allenby wore a pink shirt on Sunday in memory of his mother, Sylvia, who passed away a month ago. Allenby has now posted three consecutive top-5 finishes at The Honda Classic (T5-2007, T4-2008, T5-2009). He also finished T4 at the 2004 The Honda Classic.

The Honda Classic has produced a single-digit under-par winning score all three years since it moved to PGA National in 2007. Mark Wilson won with a 5-under tally in 2007, followed by Ernie Els' 6-under total in 2008 and Yang's 9-under score this season.

Yang's 9-under winning score is the highest in relation to par on the PGA TOUR since Ryan Palmer won the 2008 Ginn sur Mer Classic at 7-under.

Eleven players have now earned their maiden TOUR victory at The Honda Classic: Leonard Thompson (1974), Larry Nelson (1979), Kenny Knox (1986), John Huston (1990), Tim Herron (1996), Stuart Appleby (1997), Matt Kuchar (2002), Todd Hamilton (2004), Padraig Harrington (2005), Mark Wilson (2007) and Y.E. Yang (2009).

The runner-up finish is the seventh of John Rollins' career (2009 - The Honda Classic, Buick Invitational; 2008 Legends Reno-Tahoe Open; 2007 - FBR Open, Bob Hope Chrysler Classic; 2005 B.C. Open; 2003 Buick Classic).

John Rollins was the only player in the field to record all four rounds in the 60s this week. He is the first to do so at The Honda Classic since the 2003 season.

Robert Allenby (T5) tied Tiger Woods for the TOUR lead this week with his 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive made cut.

Davis Love III, who has never missed a cut at The Honda Classic, finished T13 in his 15<sup>th</sup> appearance here.

Shaun Micheel, making his first TOUR start since having left shoulder surgery after missing the cut last year in Memphis, finished T52 this week. The winner of the 2003 PGA Championship has 13 events to earn \$694,924, which coupled with 2008 earnings of \$157,828, would equal No. 125 from the 2008 money list and earn a Major Medical Extension status for the remainder of the 2009 season.

Thanks to a final-round 4-under 66, Ernie Els finished T22 this week in his title defense. Jack Nicklaus remains the only player to win The Honda Classic in back-to-back years (1976-78).

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy posted his second consecutive top-15 finish, following a T5 at the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship with a T13 this week.

Mark Calcavecchia made his 499<sup>th</sup> career cut this week, finishing T22 in his 705<sup>th</sup> career start. A two-time winner of The Honda Classic (1987, 1998), Calcavecchia has six top-10 finishes here, including a T4 finish in 2008.

Scott Piercy (T5) and D.A. Points (T9) posted the round of the day with matching 5-under 65s.

Jeff Klauk, a two-time winner on the Nationwide Tour, finished fourth in his eighth career PGA TOUR event and seventh this year. He has made the cut in all seven of his starts in 2009, with his previous best effort a T11 at the Buick Invitational. His father, Fred, served several years as the superintendent at the TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS Championship, before retiring in 2008.

Past champions of The Honda Classic and their finishes this week: Ernie Els (T22), Mark Wilson (MC), Todd Hamilton (T39), Justin Leonard (T52), Matt Kuchar (T39), Dudley Hart (WD), Mark Calcavecchia (T22), Stuart Appleby (MC), Tim Herron (T32) and John Huston (MC).

The third-round leader/co-leader has won seven of eight events so far this season, including Pat Perez at the 90-hole 50<sup>th</sup> Bob Hope Classic presented by Arnold Palmer. Because of a final-round wash-out at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Dustin Johnson emerged victorious as the 54-hole leader.

Jeff Klauk (4<sup>th</sup>) and Michael Letzig (T64) each made their TOUR-leading seventh consecutive cut of the season. Neither player has missed a cut in 2009, with Klauk sitting at No. 19 on the FedExCup points list, while Letzig is at No. 90. Both players are products of the Nationwide Tour, with Klauk graduating a year ago and Letzig in 2007.

The season-long Kodak Challenge, where players must play at least 18 of the 30 Kodak Challenge holes throughout the year to be eligible for a \$1 million prize, included this week's 434-yard, par-4 16<sup>th</sup> hole at PGA National. Through the first seven events of the Challenge, J.B. Holmes (thru six holes) and Chris DiMarco (thru five holes) are tied at 5-under. The next Kodak Challenge hole is the par-5 eighth at next week's WGC-CA Championship.

Stat leaders for the week:

|                      |                           |                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Driving Distance     | Robert Garrigus           | 311.9 yards       |
| Driving Accuracy     | Ernie Els, Justin Leonard | 43 of 56 (76.79%) |
| Greens in Regulation | Sergio Garcia             | 55 of 72 (76.39%) |
| Putts per Round      | Jeff Klauk                | 26.00 per round   |

D.A. Points (65) and Scott Verplank (66) managed the only bogey-free rounds on Sunday.

Scoring Averages at the par-70 PGA National:

|          | <b>Front 9</b> | <b>Back 9</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Cumulative</b> |
|----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Thursday | 35.476         | 36.902        | 72.378       | ---               |
| Friday   | 35.191         | 35.809        | 71.000       | 71.694            |
| Saturday | 35.177         | 35.785        | 70.962       | 71.534            |
| Sunday   | 34.889         | 35.764        | 70.653       | 71.389            |

The par-5 third hole played the easiest this week with a 4.786 average, while the par-3 No. 17 was the hardest at 3.395.