



2009 THE PLAYERS Championship

(The 20th of 37 events in the PGA TOUR Regular Season)

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. May 4-10, 2009
THE PLAYERS Stadium Course, TPC Sawgrass
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,215

First-place FedExCup Points: 600
Purse: \$9,500,000

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, May 9, 2009

Weather

Partly cloudy skies with temperatures an official high of 92, which ties the record high temperature in tournament history, set during the third round in 2008 and equaled during yesterday's second round. Light winds out of the SSE 10-15 mph.

Alex Cejka, 66-67-72=205 (-11)

Alex Cejka enters the final round of THE PLAYERS with a 5-shot lead, the first time in his career he holds a 54-hole outright lead. Prior to this week, Cejka's best position entering a final round on the PGA TOUR was a share of the lead at the 2001 British Open Championship.

His 5-stroke lead entering the final round is the largest 54-hole lead in tournament history, bettering a 4-stroke advantage by Greg Norman in 1994 and Larry Mize in 1986.

Here is a look at Cejka's top-four standings entering the final round in his PGA TOUR career:

Year	Event	Position	Eventual finish
2001	British Open	T1	T13
2003	B.C. Open	T2	T2
2008	Stanford St. Jude Championship	T2	T4
2006	John Deere Classic	T4	T3

The third-round leader/co-leader has won 14 of 18 events (78 percent) on the PGA TOUR this season. Last year, the third-round leader/co-leader only won 22 of 46 events (48 percent).

In the last 10 PLAYERS Championships, only Stephen Ames (2006), Adam Scott (2004), Hal Sutton (2000) and David Duval (1999) have managed to turn a 54-hole lead into victory. Since THE PLAYERS moved to TPC Sawgrass in 1982, the third-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win 11 of 27 times (41 percent).

Should Cejka go on to victory, he would be the fifth international player in the last eight years to win THE PLAYERS and only the second player in tournament history to make THE PLAYERS his first PGA TOUR win (joining Craig Perks, 2002).

Henrik Stenson, 68-69-73=210 (-6)

Henrik Stenson is 5 shots off the lead following a third-round 1-over-par 73. Like Cejka, Stenson is vying to become the fifth international champion at THE PLAYERS in the last eight years and the 10th in tournament history.

Stenson is also looking for his first PGA TOUR victory in a stroke-play event. His only PGA TOUR victory to date came at the 2007 World Golf Championships-Accenture Match Play Championship. Stenson's best PGA TOUR finish in a stroke-play event is T3, accomplished four previous times, including the 2006 PLAYERS.

Best PGA TOUR stroke-play finishes:

Year	Event	Finish
2005	WGC-American Express Championship	T3
2006	THE PLAYERS Championship	T3
2008	British Open Championship	T3
2009	Shell Houston Open	T3

Stenson's T2 position entering the final round matches his career-best 54-hole standing, previously accomplished at the 2008 PGA Championship. Here is how Stenson has fared when entering the final round in the top five:

Year	Tournament	After 54 holes/shots back	Finish/Score on Sunday
2008	PGA Championship	T2/1 shot	T4/ 72 (+2)
2006	THE PLAYERS	T4/3 shots	T3/ 73 (+1)
2005	WGC-American Express	5/3 shots	T3/ 68 (-2)
2006	WGC-American Express	T6/9 shots	T13/ 73 (+2)
2008	British Open	T9/6 shots	T3/ 71 (+1)

Tiger Woods, 71-69-70=210 (-6)

After shooting a 2-under-par 70 in the third round, Tiger Woods enters the final round T2 at 6-under-par, five shots behind leader Alex Cejka. The 5-shot deficit equals the same margin he came back from to claim his only victory of 2009 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

This week marks the first time Woods has produced three-consecutive sub-par rounds at THE PLAYERS since the final three rounds in 2001 when he went on to win.

His T2 position entering the final round is his best standing since 2001 when he was also T2.

Year	R3 pos	Strokes Back	Finish (R4 score)	Strokes Back
2007	T64	14	T37 (67)	11
2006	T23	7	T22 (75)	15
2005	T71	14	T53 (75)	14
2004	T16	6	T16 (73)	9
2003	T12	5	T11 (72)	11
2002	T10	6	T14 (74)	7
2001	T2	2	1 (67)	won by 1
2000	2	1	2 (71)	1
1999	T7	4	T10 (75)	6
1998	T49	12	T35 (72)	12
1997	T37	13	T31 (73)	17

He has posted 17 of 18 rounds at par or better in 2009. His lone over-par round was a third-round 71 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

In 63 career stroke-play wins, Woods has come from behind after 54 holes to win 19 times. Earlier this season, Woods was five strokes behind Sean O'Hair entering the final round before winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

He also overcame a five-stroke at the 2000 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (see attached chart). The biggest come-from-behind win in PLAYERS history was six shots by Raymond Floyd in 1981 (he was T12).

Tiger Woods has played the 16th hole in 39-under par for his career at THE PLAYERS, including a birdie in the third round and an eagle on Thursday. His next-best hole is the par 5 second, which he has played at 24-under in 47 rounds, including a birdie today. Below is a chart showing how Woods has played the different holes at TPC Sawgrass.

Par 3s: +26

Par 4s: +36

Par 5s: -92

Front 9: -4

Back 9: -24

Retief Goosen, 67-72-71=210 (-6)

Following a third-round 1-under-par 71, Retief Goosen enters the final round 5 shots behind leader Alex Cejka at 11-under-par. Goosen's best finish in 10 previous appearances at THE PLAYERS is a solo 2nd in 2006.

Goosen notched his seventh PGA TOUR victory earlier this year with a one-shot victory at the Transitions Championship in Tampa, FL. He also produced a solo 3rd at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and is currently 11th in the FedExCup rankings with 852 points.

Ian Poulter, 67-68-75=210 (-6)

Poulter enters the final round of THE PLAYERS T2 at 6-under-par following a 3-over-par 75 in Saturday's third round.

Like Alex Cejka, with a victory Ian Poulter would become just the second player in tournament history to make THE PLAYERS his first PGA TOUR victory, joining Craig Perks in 2002. Also like Cejka, a victory would make Poulter the fifth international winner at THE PLAYERS since 2002.

Poulter's previous best standing through 54 holes was solo 4th at the 2007 EDS Byron Nelson Championship where he finished T3. His best PGA TOUR finishes are solo 2nd at the 2008 British Open Championship and a T2 at the 2006 WGC-American Express Championship.

Other notes

Three of the last four winners of THE PLAYERS, Sergio Garcia (2008), Stephen Ames (2006) and Fred Funk (2005), all ranked either first or T1 in both greens in regulation and driving accuracy. Should Cejka go on to win, he would be the fourth champion out of the last five as he is T1 in driving accuracy. He has hit 35/42 fairways through three rounds.

Here is a look at where this year's top five rank in both categories:

	GIR	Driving Accuracy
Alex Cejka	T21	T1
Tiger Woods	T31	T51
Retief Goosen	T14	T51
Jonathan Byrd	T3	T17
Ben Crane	T31	T35
Henrik Stenson	T23	T26
Ian Poulter	T48	T22

Defending champion Sergio Garcia posted a third-round 1-over-par 73 and is T55 entering the final round after scores of 71-73-73 (+1).

Garcia is one of six past champions who qualified for the weekend in 2009, led by 2001 PLAYERS champion Tiger Woods who is T2 at 6-under-par.

Tiger Woods, (2001)	71-69-70 = (-6)	T2
Justin Leonard (1998)	70-69-75 = (-2)	T28
Phil Mickelson (2007)	73-71-71 = (-1)	T41
Sergio Garcia (2008)	71-73-73 = (+1)	T55
Stephen Ames (2006)	70-71-75 = (+3)	T51
Fred Funk, (2005)	73-71-78 = (+6)	MDF

Woody Austin and Kenny Perry both made Friday's cut on the number and then carded 4-under-par 68s this morning, the lowest scores of the day.

Jason Bohn recorded an eagle on the 449-yard par-4 15th, his first of the 2009 season, holing his second shot from 148 yards. The eagle was the second of the week on No. 15 after Scott Verplank holed his second shot from 141 yards in the first round and only the fourth on No. 15 since THE PLAYERS moved to TPC Sawgrass in 1982.

Tiger Woods and Daniel Chopra played together on Saturday and both recorded birdies on the par-3 No. 17. They were one of five third-round pairings where both players recorded birdies on No. 17. The other pairings were Luke Donald/Billy Mayfair (7:55 a.m.), Phil Mickelson/Dustin Johnson (9:15 a.m.), Fredrik Jacobson/Ben Curtis (10:05 a.m) and Charley Hoffman/Kevin Sutherland (12:55 p.m.).

Alex Cejka, Daniel Chopra and Brian Davis lead the field with 17 birdies through 54 holes.

Nine first-time participants (and two rookies) made the 36-hole cut at this year's PLAYERS Championship. In the 35-year history of THE PLAYERS, Jack Nicklaus (1974), Hal Sutton (1983) and Craig Perks (2002) are the only players to win the tournament in their first attempt. Here's how the first-timers have fared through 54 holes:

Brad Adamonis	67-76-74=217 (+1) T55
Jason Dufner	67-70-77=214 (-2) T28
Martin Kaymer	71-73-69=213 (-3) T17
Jeff Klauk*	71-72-71=214 (-2) T28
Martin Laird	71-72-76=219 (+3) MDF
Michael Letzig	71-68-74=213 (-3) T17
Scott Piercy*	71-72-74=217 (+1) T55
Chez Reavie	70-72-75=217 (+1) T55
Jeev M. Singh	68-74-76=218 (+2) T65

*=denotes PGA TOUR rookie

TPC Sawgrass played substantially more difficult as the third round unfolded, yielding only five sub-70 scores on the day and none after the 10:05 a.m. starting time when Ben Curtis carded a 3-under-69. No player in the final eight groups of the afternoon produced a sub-par round, only Ben Crane and Alex Cejka posted rounds of even-par 72.

The famous island green par 3 No. 17 is playing to an average of 2.940 through the first three rounds, the first time it's played under par for the week since 1997 when it played to an average of 2.952.

Saturday's scoring average was 73.614. Here is a look at third-round scoring averages at THE PLAYERS since 2004:

Third-round scoring average since 2004

Year	Avg.	Sub-par	Sub-70
2009	73.614	18	5
2008	74.122	18	4
2007	71.063	47	25
2006	74.595	16	5
2005	73.470	21	5
2004	71.928	35	14

A total of four balls were hit in the water off of the tee on the famed 17th hole on Saturday, which is the fewest in the third round since 2004 and the fewest total (24) in the first three fours since 2004.

Year	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
2009	14	6	4	
2008	20	18	10	16 (in regulation play)
2007	50	21	10	12
2006	19	17	12	9
2005	7	8	25	28
2004	9	10	4	7
2003	6	10	3	10

The Birdies for Charity program annually leads up to THE PLAYERS Championship and allows the community to support local charities through tracking the exciting, high-level of play during the tournament. Similar to a walk-a-thon, Birdies for Charity participants make a pledge to a local organization for each birdie made by professional golfers during THE PLAYERS. A record 68 local organizations are participating this year, up from 51 in 2008 and a strong indication that the generosity of First Coast residents will allow for a record fundraising effort.

First-round birdies: 548 = \$58,485.60
 Second-round birdies: 486 = \$56,892.20
 Third-round birdies: 251 = \$50,852.70
Total: birdies: 1,285 = \$166,230.50