

Ryan Palmer eagled the par-4, 13th hole Saturday morning by taking the “shortest distance between two points” route. Palmer went for the green off the tee, and hit his drive to within 27’ 5” of the cup on the dogleg-left hole and then rolled in the putt. The hole measures 370 yards but Palmer needed to hit his drive only 336 yards to get in position for an eagle.

Todd Hamilton had an interesting start to his round. The former British Open champion played the front nine in even-par today despite not actually making a par until the ninth hole. Hamilton pieced together four birdies and four bogeys in his first eight holes before making a par at No. 9.

George McNeill made a run at the TPC Louisiana course record early Saturday but ran into trouble down the stretch. McNeill birdied four holes in a row (Nos. 2-5) and was 7-under for the day after a birdie at No. 13. His run at the course record of 64 was derailed by a tee shot into the water at the par-4, 16th hole, where he made bogey. Two more penalty strokes at the closing, par-5, 18th, resulted in a triple-bogey and a final score of 69.

Joe Ogilvie and Paul Goydos have played together each of the first three days but won’t be paired together for the final round after Ogilvie distanced himself from his playing partner with a 5-under 31 on the back nine. Ogilvie finished with a 3-under 69 and is 8-under for the week (T8). Goydos double-bogeyed the final hole for a back nine 39 and posted a 73, winding up at 4-under 212 (T41).

Kevin Stadler continues his solid play this week, despite a triple-bogey on the final hole Saturday. Stadler carded a 1-under 71 today and tied for eighth, five shots back of leader Jerry Kelly. Stadler gained entry into the field this week as a Monday qualifier after shooting a 66 at The Bridges Golf Club in Bay St. Louis, MS. The last Monday Qualifier to win on the PGA TOUR was Fred Wadsworth at the 1986 Southern Open. Wadsworth posted scores of 67-67-68-67 to finish at 11-under par at Green Island Country Club in Columbus, GA and win by two shots over George Archer, Tim Simpson, Jim Thorpe and John Cook. A few players who played in that event also teed it up this week, including Bob Tway, Scott Verplank and Russ Cochran.

A comparison between the standings of Fred Wadsworth at the 1986 Southern Open and Kevin Stadler this week::

	after 18	after 36	after 54	after 72
<u>1986 Southern Open</u>				
Fred Wadsworth	T8 (3 back)	T5 (3 back)	T3 (2 back)	1 (won by 2)
<u>2009 Zurich Classic</u>				
Kevin Stadler	T31 (4 back)	T9 (3 back)	T8 (5 back)	???

Lucas Glover (66) and Greg Chalmers (67) made significant moves up the leaderboard Saturday and go into the day tied for 15th place, six shots off the lead. Glover started the day T55 and Chalmers started T49.

Lucas Glover (66) moved into contention Saturday and is now T15 after starting the day tied for 55th place. Glover birdied the final hole Friday to make the 36-hole cut on the number (1-under 143). The former Clemson star is currently six shots back of leader Jerry Kelly. Glover is trying to become the first player to make the cut on the number and go on to win since Chris Couch did it right here at the 2006 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

Auburn grad Roland Thatcher is making the most of his start this week, just the second one for him on the PGA TOUR in 2009. Thatcher missed the cut at the Mayakoba Classic earlier this year. He has posted scores of 68-70-70 and is 8-under par, tied for eighth. This is his 69th career start on TOUR and he has four top-10s to his credit, the best being a T5 at the 2004 Reno-Tahoe Open, where he held the 54-hole lead.

Steve Marino (68-206) finished at 10-under par after a bogey at the final hole and holds down second place after three rounds. Marino is in his third full season on TOUR and is seeking his first career win. Marino’s career best finish a runner-up at the 2008 Mayakoba Golf Classic. For his career, Marino has now made the cut in 57 of 77 Tour starts. This year, Marino has made the cut in eight of 12 starts with his best finish a T7 at the Sony Open in Hawaii.

Here is how the course is playing this week:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
Round 1	35.949	35.994	71.942	
Round 2	35.858	36.123	71.981	
Round 3	35.750	36.000	71.750	71.922

There were a total of six eagles recorded in Thursday's opening round and nine eagles during the second Friday but only two on Saturday – Ryan Palmer at the par-4, 13th and Ian Poulter at the par-5, 18th, where he holed a bunker shot from 88 feet.

Rod Pamplung birdied the final four holes Saturday for a 4-under 68 and a 9-under 207 total.

Louisiana native David Toms is making his 16th career start in this event. He won the tournament in 2001 when it was contested at English Turn G&CC. The victory was the fifth of his 12 career titles. Toms has made two starts at TPC New Orleans:

2005	m/c	76-75—151	
2007	T44	69-71-74-72—286	-2
2009	(T8)	68-68-72—208	-8

For more information please visit www.pgatourmedia.com