



## 2014 The Honda Classic

(The 14th of 41 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

**Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.**                      **Feb. 27 - March 2, 2014**      **Purse: \$6,000,000 (\$1,080,000/winner)**  
**PGA National (Champion Course)**              **Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,140**

### First-Round Notes – Thursday, February 27, 2014

*Weather: Mostly cloudy, with temperatures reaching 86 degrees. Winds NW 10-15 mph.*

Preferred lies were utilized in round one.

#### **First-Round Leaderboard**

Rory McIlroy	63 (-7)
Russell Henley	64 (-6)
Rory Sabbatini	65 (-5)
William McGirt	65 (-5)
Jamie Donaldson	65 (-5)

Last year, Camilo Villegas held the first-round lead at the Honda Classic, but missed the cut after a round two 77.

#### **Rory McIlroy**

McIlroy's 63 is his lowest round on TOUR since a 63 at the 2010 Open Championship (R1). His career-low round and only other round on TOUR under-64 is a final round 62 at the 2010 Wells Fargo Championship.

Today is Rory's mom's birthday, Rosie McIlroy.

McIlroy has seven previous first-round leads/co-leads on TOUR. His last was at the WGC-HSBC Champions where he finished T6. He has won two of his last four first-round leads/co-leads.

McIlroy is looking for his first win on TOUR since the 2012 BMW Championship.

McIlroy at the Honda Classic: 2009 (T13), 2010 (T40), 2011 (T70), 2012 (Won), 2013 (WD).

McIlroy is the youngest winner in Honda Classic tournament history at 22 years, 10 months.

In 2012 when McIlroy won the Honda Classic he was just the fourth player to win the event and post four straight rounds in the 60s (66-67-66-69). The others were Tom Kite (1981), Matt Kuchar (2002) and Camilo Villegas (2010).

The last first-round leader/co-leader to carry that lead to the winner's circle at The Honda Classic was Justin Leonard in 2003, carding an opening 63 en route to a one-shot win over Davis Love III and Chad Campbell at the CC at Mirasol.

#### **Russell Henley**

Henley finished T13 in his first start at The Honda Classic in 2013 with rounds of 68-71-70-70.

Henley is now 5-under in five career rounds on the Bear Trap (Nos. 15-17). That is the lowest of any player since 2007 on the Bear Trap.

Henley is looking for his first top 10 on TOUR since a T6 at the 2013 Memorial Tournament.

In winning the 2013 Sony Open in Hawaii, Henley became the first rookie to win in his first start as an official member of the PGA TOUR since Garrett Willis at the 2001 Touchstone Energy Tucson Open. He had two starts as an amateur in 2010 and 2011.



**Jamie Donaldson**

Donaldson has two top 10s in 18 previous starts on the PGA TOUR: 2012 PGA Championship (T7) and 2013 WGC-HSBC Champions (T8).

International wins (5): 2001 Telia Grand Prix [EurChall]; 2001 BMW Russian Open [EurChall]; 2007 Guatemala Open [EurChall]; 2012 Irish Open [Eur]; 2013 Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship [Eur].

Donaldson finished T58 last year in his only other start in the Honda Classic. He got in the field this year via a sponsor exemption, while last year he got in through the Monday Qualifier.

**Rory Sabbatini**

Sabbatini's last win on TOUR came at The Honda Classic in 2011. It was his sixth career win on TOUR to go with 14 runner-up finishes.

Sabbatini's only missed cut in six previous starts at the Honda Classic came last year after rounds of 69-75.

**William McGirt**

McGirt's previous finishes at The Honda Classic: 2011 (T41), 2012 (T62) and 2013 (MC).

McGirt's previous best round at the Honda Classic was 69 in 2011 (R4) and 2012 (R1).

In his last start McGirt finished T6 at the Northern Trust Open after holding the third-round lead by two shots.

**Miscellaneous Notes**

Seven of the world's top-10 ranked players are competing at this year's Honda Classic:

Player	OWGR	2013 FEC Standing	Current 2014 FEC Standings	R1 Honda Position
Tiger Woods	1	2	225	T81
Adam Scott	2	4	101	T22
Henrik Stenson	3	1	144	T121
Phil Mickelson	5	9	83	T57
Zach Johnson	7	5	8	T11
Rory McIlroy	8	50	104	1
Sergio Garcia	9	22	56	T101

The week of The Honda Classic offers the final opportunity to qualify for the following week's World Golf Championships event, the Cadillac Championship down the road at Trump National Doral. Players not previously eligible can qualify by being inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking (players inside the top 50 in the OWGR as of 2/24/14 cannot drop out) or the top 10 or the FedExCup standings following The Honda Classic.

Phil Mickelson (even-par 70) has three victories in the state of Florida (1997 Bay Hill Invitational; 2007 PLAYERS Championship; 2009 WGC-Cadillac Championship).

Twelve players have made The Honda Classic their first career TOUR title. Since 2000, five players have achieved the feat; Matt Kuchar (2002), Pdraig Harrington (2005), Mark Wilson (2007), Y.E. Yang (2009) and Michael Thompson (2013).

Since 1980, only four players have won The Honda Classic in their first attempt; Tim Herron (1996), Matt Kuchar (2002), Todd Hamilton (2004) and Pdraig Harrington (2005). Mark Wilson (2005) and Michael Thompson (2013) are the only United States natives to win since 2005.

Five of the last six winners of The Honda Classic have finished the season of their win inside the top 30 in FedExCup standings (Michael Thompson finished No. 66 in 2013).

Defending champion Michael Thompson shot a 2-under 68 in round one. Last year he opened with a 67. Jack Nicklaus (1977-78) is the only player to successfully defend his title at The Honda Classic.



International players have dominated The Honda Classic in recent years, with wins by Padraig Harrington (2005), Luke Donald (2006), Ernie Els (2008), Y.E. Yang (2009), Camilo Villegas (2010), Rory Sabbatini (2011) and Rory McIlroy (2012).

Scoring Averages at the par-70 PGA National:

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Thursday	35.028	35.229	70.257	---

Morning scoring average – 70.25

Afternoon scoring average – 70.26

First-round scoring average at PGA National: 2007 (72.838), 2008 (72.126), 2009 (72.378), 2010 (72.406), 2011 (73.875), 2012 (70.889) and 2013 (70.147).

The par-4 6<sup>th</sup> hole played the toughest during the first round, yielding a 4.438 average, with the par-5 3<sup>rd</sup> hole (4.333) being the easiest.

The “Bear Trap” averages – No. 15 (3.069/8<sup>th</sup> toughest), No. 16 (4.111/7<sup>th</sup> toughest) and No. 17 (3.063/9<sup>th</sup> toughest).

Bogey-free Rounds:

R1: Rory McIlroy (63), Russell Henley (64), William McGirt (65), Thomas Bjorn (69).

Dudley Hart withdrew prior to the first round with Troy Matteson taking his spot in the field.

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