



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**

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, March 1, 2014

Weather: Mostly sunny and breezy, with a high of 79 degrees. Winds NE 10-15 mph, with gusts to 20 mph.

For the first time of the week, the ball was played down in round three.

54-hole Cut

With more than 78 players making the 36-hole cut (79), a 54-hole cut reduced the field to 70 at 1-over 211 (low 70 and ties).

Third-Round Leaderboard

Rory McIlroy	63-66-69—199 (-12)
Russell Henley	64-68-68—200 (-10)
Russell Knox	70-63-68—201 (-9)
Jhonattan Vegas	70-66-66—202 (-8)

Rory McIlroy

2012 Honda Classic winner Rory McIlroy has previously taken a lead into the final round four times, three of which resulted in victory. At the 2011 Masters, he finished T15. McIlroy parlayed 54-hole leads into wins at the 2011 U.S. Open, 2012 PGA Championship and 2012 Honda Classic. En route to his Honda Classic victory, McIlroy held a 2-shot lead at 11-under after 54 holes.

McIlroy is making his third start of the 2013-'14 PGA TOUR season, having previously finished T6 at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, and is coming off a T17 finish at last week's WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship.

Should McIlroy hang on for the win, it would be the 12th time the title has gone to an international player. He would also become the only international to claim the title twice. Americans won the first 21 Honda Classic titles, with internationals having emerged victorious seven of the last 10 years.

During the 2013 PGA TOUR season, McIlroy made just seven putts from outside 25 feet. By comparison, he has made four putts in excess of 25 feet so far this week at The Honda Classic (26'10"/R1/#2, 45'6"/R1/#11, 29'4"/R2/#5, 27'4"/R2/#7).

R3 at a glance: 9 of 14 fairways, 12 of 18 greens, 29 putts, 1 of 1 sand saves.

McIlroy at The Honda Classic: 2009 (T13), 2010 (T40), 2011 (T70), 2012 (Won), 2013 (WD), 2014 (TBD).

54-hole Leader Statistics

Since moving to PGA National in 2007, every 54-hole leader/co-leader of The Honda Classic, with the exception of Ernie Els in 2008 (T8), has held on for the victory.

The third-round leader/co-leaders have carried their lead on to victory six of 13 times during the 2013-14 season, most recently Jimmy Walker at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

At the 2013 Honda Classic, Luke Guthrie and Michael Thompson shared the third-round lead at 8-under 202.

Russell Henley

Russell Henley holed a 150-yard wedge shot for an eagle-two at the 14th hole, only to follow that with a birdie-three from off the green at No. 17 from 48 feet.

In Henley's only other start in The Honda Classic, he finished T13 last year, with rounds of 68-71-70-70.



Henley is making his 10th start of the season this week, and comes into PGA National having missed the cut in three of his last four starts.

As a rookie last year, Henley won in his first professional start on the PGA TOUR at the Sony Open in Hawaii. He followed the win with top-10 finishes at the RBC Heritage (T6) and the Memorial Tournament (T6).

Russell Knox

Jacksonville Beach resident makes a return to the PGA TOUR in 2013-'14 by virtue of his 20th-place finish on the 2013 Web.com Tour priority list, where he garnered three top-10 finishes. Knox made eight cuts in 11 starts on the PGA TOUR in 2013, with a best finish of T13 at the Travelers Championship.

Knox is making his 10th start of the season this week, with a T10 at the Farmers Insurance Open being his best showing.

Knox's 7-under 63 in round two was a career-low, supplanting a pair of 64s.

Should Knox hang on for the win, he would become the 12th international winner of The Honda Classic, and first from Scotland.

Jhonattan Vegas

Playing on a Major Medical Extension this season, Jhonattan Vegas has 21 events to earn \$595,483 to retain said status for the remainder of the season. In seven previous starts before this week, he has made \$107,543. A two-way-tie for second (\$528,000) or better would cover the necessary monetary ground.

Vegas missed the cut in all three PGA TOUR starts in 2013, before a left shoulder injury resulted in surgery in South Carolina in March of last year.

Vegas has now made seven of eight cuts this season (Frys.com Open), but hasn't been able to finish better than T40 (Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, Northern Trust Open).

Making his third start at The Honda Classic, Vegas' 4-under 66 in rounds two and three are just his second and third sub-70 score in 10 rounds at PGA National. Vegas previously finished T67 in 2012 and T70 in 2011 at PGA National.

Tiger Woods

After waffling in and out of the cut line Friday en route to a 1-under 69, Tiger Woods rebounded strong in round three with a 5-under 65. Aside from a final-round 62 in 2012, the 65 is his lowest score in 13 rounds in the event.

Woods previous three starts at The Honda Classic: MC (1993/amateur), T2 (2012), T37 (2013).

Woods' proximity to the hole improved dramatically from round two to round three. On Friday, Woods was an average of 46' 1" from the hole. In round three, he was nearly 50 percent closer with an average of 25' 4".

Woods' rounds at a glance:

R3:	6 of 14 fairways	11 of 18 greens	23 putts	7 of 9 sand saves
R2:	11 of 14 fairways	9 of 18 greens	25 putts	3 of 4 sand saves
R1:	8 of 14 fairways	12 of 18 greens	30 putts	3 of 4 sand saves

Woods' biggest come-from-behind win in the final round is five strokes, most recently at the 2009 Arnold Palmer Invitational. After 54 holes at Bay Hill that year, Woods trailed Sean O'Hair by 5 strokes, and won by one over him. He will begin Sunday's final round seven strokes back.

**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	R3 Honda Position
Tiger Woods	1	2	225	T17
Adam Scott	2	4	101	T35
Henrik Stenson	3	1	144	MC
Phil Mickelson	5	9	83	MC
Zach Johnson	7	5	8	T17
Rory Mcllroy	8	50	104	1
Sergio Garcia	9	22	56	T42

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.

Scoring Averages at the par-70 PGA National:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.028	35.229	70.257	---
R2:	34.908	35.289	70.197	70.227
R3:	34.722	35.127	69.848	70.145

The par-4 6th hole played the toughest for the third-consecutive day, yielding a 4.570 average. The par-5 2nd hole was the easiest at 4.443.

The "Bear Trap" averages:

R1: No. 15 (3.069/8th toughest), No. 16 (4.111/7th toughest) and No. 17 (3.063/9th toughest).
R2: No. 15 (3.063/9th toughest), No. 16 (4.141/5th toughest) and No. 17 (3.211/3rd toughest).
R3: No. 15 (2.962/10th toughest), No. 16 (4.127/2nd toughest) and No. 17 (3.076/5th toughest).

Bogey-free Rounds:

R1: Rory Mcllroy (63), Russell Henley (64), William McGirt (65), Thomas Bjorn (69).
R2: Russell Knox (63), John Senden (63), Jason Allred (66), Billy Hurley III (67), Patrick Reed (67), Brian Stuard (68), Will MacKenzie (68).
R3: Stuart Appleby (65), Luke Guthrie (65), Keegan Bradley (66), Nicholas Thompson (66), Cameron Tringale (66), Luke Donald (68).

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