



2015 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard
(The 19th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Orlando, FL March 19-22, 2015
Bay Hill Club and Lodge

Purse: \$6,200,000
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,419

First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 19, 2015

Weather

Partly cloudy with a high of 85 degrees. Winds SE 5-10 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Position	Name	Score
1	Morgan Hoffmann	66 (-6)
T2	Five players	67 (-5)

Morgan Hoffman

Morgan Hoffman ended his first round with an exclamation point, placing his approach shot into his last hole, No. 9, inside a foot from 152 yards. His birdie at the last made for a bogey-free, 6-under 66.

Morgan hit 12 of 14 fairways in regulation (85.7 percent) and 14 of 18 greens (77.8 percent). He took 26 putts to complete his round. Hoffmann came into the week ranked 212th in Driving Accuracy (45.74 percent) and 205th in Greens in Regulation (58.02 percent).

In Hoffmann's only other start in the Arnold Palmer Invitational, he finished T35 last year. Hoffmann began the final round at Bay Hill in 2014 inside the top ten at T8, before a costly, 6-over 78 Sunday derailed his bid for victory.

Hoffmann is in search of his first career win on TOUR this week in his 68th start. His best finish is solo-third at last year's BMW Championship.

Hoffmann is making his 10th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, with a T17 at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship two weeks ago his best showing. He missed last week's cut at the Valspar Championship.

Hoffmann, a New Jersey native, now calls Jupiter, Fla. home.

Hoffmann's previous-best position after 18 holes is T3 (2013 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial and 2013 Wyndham). Neither one resulted in a finish higher than 65th.

First-Round Lead Notes

On just two of 18 occasions this season has a first-round leader emerged victorious, most recently being James Hahn at the Northern Trust Open.

Since 1980, the first-round leader/co-leader of the Arnold Palmer Invitational has held on for the win seven times. The last to do so was Chad Campbell in 2004, who was tied at 6-under with Darren Clarke and Shigeaki Maruyama after 18 holes.

In last year's first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational, Adam Scott posted a 10-under 62 and led by three strokes over Ryo Ishikawa and John Merrick. Scott finished third at Bay Hill.

Ian Poulter (67/-5)

Thanks to a late eagle-three at the 16th, Ian Poulter posted a bogey-free, 5-under 67.

Poulter is making his 10th start in the Arnold Palmer Invitational, with a third-place finish in 2012 his lone top-10 finish.

At The Honda Classic three weeks ago, Poulter headed into the final round at PGA National with a three-stroke lead, before a 4-over 74 in the final round on Monday resulted in a T3 with Russell Knox and Paul Casey.

Poulter is making his seventh start of the season this week, and 188th on the PGA TOUR. He is in search of his third TOUR title and first since the 2012 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions. In addition to his finish at The Honda Classic, Poulter also claimed a top ten (T6) at the WGC-HSBC Champions this season.

Jason Kokrak (67/-5)

A year after finishing fourth at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, Canada's Jason Kokrak opened with four birdies, an eagle-three at No. 16 and just one bogey (No. 7).

Prior to last year's fourth-place finish, Kokrak missed the cut in 2012 in his only other start in the event.

Kokrak is making his 13th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, with his best finish being a T7 at last week's Valspar Championship.

Through 12 events this season on the PGA TOUR, Kokrak's first-round scoring average is 68.50, the best of his four rounds. His worst scoring round is the second round, with an average of 71.58. He has been unable to break par in the second round in his last five starts.

In round one, Kokrak managed to find just six of 14 fairways in regulation (42.9 percent). He hit 15 of 18 greens (83.3 percent) and needed 29 putts.

Ken Duke (67/-5)

Ken Duke earned a berth into this week's field as an alternate when Adam Hadwin withdrew. The last player to get in a PGA TOUR event as an alternate and win was Derek Ernst at the 2013 Wells Fargo Championship. That week, Ernst was the fourth alternate in, when Freddie Jacobson withdrew. Duke was this week's third alternate in.

Duke is making his sixth start in the Arnold Palmer invitational, an event which can be defined for Duke as feast or famine. Of the two cuts he made, he finished T6 in 2008 and T8 in 2013.

Duke is making his 233rd career start on the PGA TOUR this week and is in search of his second TOUR victory (2013 Travelers Championship).

Duke is making his 12th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, where he has collected a pair of top-10 finishes; T4/The McGladrey Classic and T9/OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

Duke showed early promise at last week's Valspar Championship with a second-round, 6-under 65, but struggled on the weekend with scores of 75-74. He finished T63.

Kevin Na (67/-5)

Making his eighth start at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, Kevin Na has been close to victory at Bay Hill twice. In 2010, he finished T2 and was T4 in 2012.

Last year at Bay Hill, Na posted rounds of 70-71-71-71—283 (-5) to finish T14.

Needing only 24 putts to complete his round, Na 1-putted his first five holes in round one.

Na is in search of his second career PGA TOUR win this week, and first since the 2011 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, a span of 72 starts.

Na is making his 11th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, having already claimed three top-10 finishes. In his second start of the season, he finished T2 at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia and in his last two starts before this week, he finished T9 at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship and T10 at last week's Valspar Championship.

Adam Scott (68/-4)

Making his eighth start at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard, and second since missing the cut in 2009, Adam Scott opened with a 4-under 68, six strokes higher than his opening round at Bay Hill last year.

Scott's streak of consecutive-cuts-made came to an end at last week's Valspar Championship. Prior to the Tampa Bay event, Scott had made a TOUR-leading 44 straight cuts. Steve Stricker, who is not in this week's field, now carries that torch, with 35.

Scott is looking for his 12th career PGA TOUR win this week and first since the 2014 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial.

Miscellaneous Notes

Sam Saunders, grandson of tournament host Arnold Palmer, opened with a 2-under 70 in his sixth start in the event. This marks the first occasion of playing when not on a sponsor exemption. Saunders is coming off his career-best finish on the PGA TOUR two weeks ago, when he lost in a playoff at the Puerto Rico Open to Alex Cejka.

Saunders earned his way onto the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of his 13th-place finish on last year's Web.com Tour priority list.

In his first start at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, World No. 1 Rory McIlroy opened with a 2-under 70. McIlroy is in search of his 10th PGA TOUR title and first since the 2014 PGA Championship. McIlroy's first win on TOUR, the 2010 Wells Fargo Championship, came in his first start in Charlotte.

Kevin Kisner, who earned a spot into this week's field when Bubba Watson withdrew Wednesday, opened with a 3-under 69.

Past Arnold Palmer Invitational champions in the field: Matt Every/2014 (68), Martin Laird/2011 (68), Ernie Els/1998, 2010 (71), Vijay Singh/2007 (71), Rod Pampling/2006 (72), Chad Campbell/2004 (72) and Tim Herron/1999 (75).

The Arnold Palmer Invitational has seen just four international-born players win (5 total wins): South African Ernie Els (1998 and 2010), Australian Rod Pampling (2006), Vijay Singh of Fiji (2007) and Scotland's Martin Laird (2011).

Since the start of the Arnold Palmer Invitational in 1966, only Fred Couples (1992) and Tiger Woods (2001 and 2002) have won the Masters and the Arnold Palmer Invitational in the same year.

There have only been five multiple winners on the Florida swing since 1980; Ernie Els (2010), Tiger Woods (2001, 2013), Steve Elkington (1997), Tom Kite (1989) and Ray Floyd (1981).

The hardest hole in round one was the par-3 second hole, with a scoring average of 3.217. The easiest was the par-5 16th, with a 4.408 average.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Morgan Hoffmann (66), John Peterson (67), Ian Poulter (67), Henrik Stenson (68), Keegan Bradley (68), Martin Laird (68), Hunter Mahan (68), George McNeill (69), Francesco Molinari (70) and David Lingmerth (70).

Scoring Averages:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	36.067	35.375	71.441	---