



2015 AT&T Byron Nelson

(The 29th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Las Colinas, Texas
TPC Four Seasons Resort

May 25-31, 2015
Par/Yardage: 35-35—70/7,166

FedExCup Points: 500 to the winner
Purse: \$7,100,000 (\$1,278,000)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, May 28, 2015

Weather: Mostly cloudy with periods of sunshine. High of 84. Winds SSE 10-15 mph.

Due to wet conditions, the first two rounds will feature preferred lies in closely mown areas.

First-Round Leaderboard

Steven Bowditch	62 (-8)
Jimmy Walker	64 (-6)
James Hahn	65 (-5)
Ryan Palmer	65 (-5)

Steven Bowditch

Australian Steven Bowditch, a 31-year-old resident of Flower Mound, Texas, opened his fifth AT&T Byron Nelson with an 8-under 62, tying his career-low round on TOUR (2011 Sanderson Farms Championship, round four).

Bowditch's previous-best score in 11 rounds at TPC Four Seasons Resort was a second-round 65 in 2011.

Bowditch's 62 equals the low first-round score on TOUR this season, joining J.B. Holmes (World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship), Paul Casey (Sony Open in Hawaii), Webb Simpson (Sony Open in Hawaii).

Bowditch's average made putt was from 8 feet during the opening round. He made four putts in excess of 18 feet, including an 18'4" birdie on No. 14, a 24' birdie putt on No. 1, a 29'3" birdie on the ninth hole and a 30'2" birdie on the fourth hole.

R1 at a glance: 9 of 14 fairways, 15 of 18 greens, 25 putts, 2 of 2 sand saves.

Bowditch's only made cut in four prior starts at the AT&T Byron Nelson occurred in his inaugural appearance in 2011 (T60), having missed the cut in each of his last three starts.

A runner-up finish in the season-opening Frys.com Open is Bowditch's best outing in 18 prior starts this season. He is making his 146th career start this week, with his lone victory coming at the 2014 Valero Texas Open.

The only previous time Bowditch led after a round on the PGA TOUR was the 2014 Valero Texas Open, where he carried the second- and third-round leads on to victory.

Dating to 2000, there have been eight international-born winners of the championship (2000-Jesper Parnevik, 2002-Shigeki Maruyama, 2003-Vijay Singh, 2004-Sergio Garcia, 2008-Adam Scott, 2009-Rory Sabbatini, 2010-Jason Day, 2013-Sang-Moon Bae).

First-Round Leader Stats

First-round leaders have not fared well over the previous 61 playings of this tournament. Only seven players (eight times) have carried the opening-day lead on to victory, including Jason Day (2010), Scott Simpson (1993), Tom Watson (1979-80), Mark Hayes (1976), Chi Chi Rodriguez (1972), Earl Stewart (1961) and Don January (1956).

Only two players have won the tournament in wire-to-wire fashion – Mark Hayes in 1976 and Tom Watson in 1980. (Note: Complete first-round scores are not available for the inaugural event in 1944, which was won by Byron Nelson).

The first-round leader/co-leader has won three times in 27 stroke-play events this season, most recently Jordan Spieth at the Masters Tournament.

A year ago, Peter Hanson opened with a 5-under 65 and a one-stroke lead over Marc Leishman, David Duval and Tim Wilkinson. He went on to finish T37.

Jordan Spieth

FedExCup leader and Dallas native Jordan Spieth posted an opening-round 1-under 69. Here's a look at his opening round scores at the AT&T Byron Nelson (68-2010, 69-2011, 69-2013, 70-2014, 69-2015).

R1 at a glance: 9 of 14 fairways, 16 of 18 greens, 33 putts, 1 of 1 sand saves.

First-round scores for the featured pairing: Spieth (69), Brooks Koepka (69), Justin Thomas (70).

Spieth made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2010 AT&T Byron Nelson at the age of 16, finishing T16. The 21-year-old is playing the AT&T Byron Nelson for the fifth time (T6-2010, T32-2011, T68-2013, T37-2014).

With wins at the Valspar Championship and Masters Tournament this year, Spieth became the third different player since 1940 to win three times on TOUR before reaching the age of 22 (Tiger Woods, Sergio Garcia).

So far this season, has eight top-10 finishes in 14 starts. In addition to previously-mentioned wins, he has runner-up finishes this year at all three of the Texas events (Valero Texas Open, Shell Houston Open and Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial).

With eight runner-ups and three victories, Spieth has the most first- and second-place finishes by a TOUR player before the age of 22 since 1970. Here's the list: Spieth (11), Tiger Woods (7), Sergio Garcia (6), Bobby Clampett (5), Rickie Fowler (3).

Jimmy Walker

Jimmy Walker's opening-round 64 is his best round in 10 starts at the AT&T Byron Nelson. His previous-low score was a final-round 65 in 2009.

By his lofty standards of late, the five-time PGA TOUR winner and Texan has found little success at the AT&T Byron Nelson. Despite seven made cuts in nine previous starts, he has yet to crack the top 20, with a T23 in 2009 his best showing.

Walker, No. 2 in the FedExCup standings, has wins this season at the Sony Open in Hawaii and Valero Texas Open.

Ryan Palmer

Dallas resident Ryan Palmer, who lost in a playoff to Keegan Bradley at the 2011 AT&T Byron Nelson, carded an opening round 5-under 65. His last five opening rounds here: 65 (2011), 64 (2012), 65 (2013), 67 (2014), 65 (2015).

Palmer is making his 12th consecutive start at the AT&T Byron Nelson, dating to 2004. He missed the cut in six of his first seven starts (T73-2006) and has since finished runner-up (2011), T9 (2012), T33 (2013) and T22 (2014).

Palmer ended an annual tradition at the AT&T Byron Nelson of letting his caddie, James Edmondson, choose his club of choice for each shot. Instead, Palmer is back in charge of choosing which club to hit.

Danny Lee

Danny Lee, a resident of Irving, Texas, aced the par-3 17th hole Thursday with a 5-iron from 190 yards. As the Official Mortgage Sponsor of the PGA TOUR, Quicken Loans will award one year's worth of mortgage payments to John A. from Yulee, Florida to commemorate the ace. The Quicken Loans' Hole-In-One Sweepstakes awards one year's worth of mortgage payments to a randomly selected entrant for every ace during official PGA TOUR events from the Waste Management Phoenix Open through the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola. Fans can enter the sweepstakes by visiting www.pgatour.com/quickenloans. Participants in the 2014 Sweepstakes must re-register to be eligible in 2015.

The ace for Lee (who carded a 3-under 67 Thursday) is his second on the PGA TOUR. During the 2012 CareerBuilder Challenge, he aced the 17th hole during the final round. It marked the 25th ace of the season.

Lee also eagled the par-5 seventh hole en route to a 3-under 67, marking the 33rd time this season a player has had two eagles in a round (Lee also performed the feat in the third round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am).

Additional Player Notes

Defending champion Brendon Todd opened with a 2-over 72 in his bid to become the first repeat winner of the AT&T Byron Nelson since Tom Watson won three in a row from 1978-80. Last year he posted an opening-round 68.

11-time PGA TOUR winner Zach Johnson opened with a 1-under 69. He returned to the AT&T Byron Nelson this week for the first time since 2005. His finishes include a T41 in 2004 and missed cut in 2005.

Nine-time TOUR winner Dustin Johnson, who opened with a 3-under 67 Thursday, owns three top 10s in five AT&T Byron Nelson starts (T63/2008, T4/2009, T7/2010, T20/2011, T7-2014). With his win this year at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship, Johnson won for the eighth consecutive season on TOUR (the best current streak).

Matt Kuchar had opened the last four AT&T Byron Nelsons with rounds in the 60s, but saw that streak snapped Thursday with a 1-over 71. He has yet to miss a cut in seven previous starts at the AT&T Byron Nelson (T39-2007, T42-2008, T39-2009, T6-2011, T15-2012, T33-2013, T7-2014). Kuchar is coming off of his only missed cut of the season at THE PLAYERS Championship.

Miscellaneous Stats

Seven past AT&T Byron Nelson winners are competing this week: Keegan Bradley (66), Rory Sabbatini (69), Vijay Singh (70), Jason Dufner (71), Scott Verplank (71), Brendon Todd (72), Sangmoon Bae (74).

Bogey-free rounds: Steven Bowditch (62), Jon Curran (67), S.J. Park (68), Mark Anderson (68).

Scoring Averages at the par-70 TPC Four Seasons Resort:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
Thursday	35.160	35.359	70.519	---

Round One: Morning Scoring Average (70.41) vs. Afternoon Scoring Average (70.63).

The par-4 14th hole played the toughest on day one with a 4.282 average. The par-5 seventh hole played the easiest at 4.506.

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