



**2015 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial** (The 28<sup>th</sup> of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Fort Worth, Texas Colonial Country Club May 21-24, 2015 Par/Yardage: 35-35—70/7,204 FedExCup Points: 500 Purse: \$6,500,000 (\$1,170,000)

# First-Round Notes – Thursday, May 21, 2015

Weather: Due to a dangerous weather situation, the start to the first round was delayed by three hours, from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. CT. Cloudy, but drier in the afternoon, with highs reaching only into the lower 60s. North winds 10-20 mph. A total of 1.30" of rain fell overnight and into the morning Thursday.

Preferred lies in closely-mown areas were in effect for round one. This marks the fifth event of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season where preferred lies were utilized and first since the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

This marks the 10<sup>th</sup> event of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season to experience a delay/suspension. Of the previous nine, four were related to inclement weather (as opposed to darkness). The last event to experience a weather delay was the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

### First-Round Leaderboard

Jordan Spieth64 (-6)Kevin Na64 (-6)Boo Weekley64 (-6)Ryo Ishikawa64 (-6)George McNeill65 (-5)Ian Poulter65 (-5)

# Jordan Spieth

Hometown favorite and current Masters champion Jordan Spieth opened the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial with a bogey-free 6-under 64, good for a four-way share of the opening-round lead. His 64 equals the lowest opening round of his career, having posted the same score at this year's Masters Tournament.

R1 at a glance: 7 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens, 1 of 1 sand saves, 26 putts.

Spieth is making his third start at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial, having finished T7 in 2013 (65-67-71-67) and T14 in 2014 (67-69-70-69).

So far this season, FedExCup leader Spieth has seven top 10s in 13 starts, with victories at the Valspar Championship and Masters Tournament. He also owns runner-up finishes at the Valero Texas Open and Shell Houston Open.

This week marks the fourth time Spieth has held at least a share of the 18-hole lead on TOUR: 2014 Hyundai Tournament of Champions (finished runner-up), 2014 BMW Championship (T8), 2015 Masters Tournament (Won), 2015 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial (TBD).

### Kevin Na

Making his 10<sup>th</sup> start in the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial, Kevin Na birdied his final two holes, Nos. 8 and 9, in his bid for a third top-10 finish in the event. He claimed T7 and T9 honors in 2007 and 2009, respectively.

Two of Na's four first-round leads on TOUR have come at the Crowne Plaza Invitational: 2007 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial (finished T7), 2009 RBC Canadian Open (T53), 2015 PLAYERS Championship (T6), 2015 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial (TBD).

Na's 64 in round one is one stroke shy of his low round in the tournament, a 63, posted in round one of 2007.

Na's 64 in round one today is just his third, sub-70 score in his last 11 rounds at Colonial Country Club.

Na is in search of his second career PGA TOUR victory and first since the 2011 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Na is making his 16<sup>th</sup> start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, one where he has claimed five top-10 finishes, highlighted by a T2 at the CIMB Classic and a T6 at the PLAYERS Championship in his most recent start before this week. His share of second in Malaysia marked his third runner-up finish since the start of the 2013-14 PGA TOUR Season.

### **Boo Weekley**

2013 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial champion Boo Weekley opened with a bogey-free, 6-under 64 in his bid to become the 13<sup>th</sup> multiple winner of the event.

Weekley is seeking to become the 13<sup>th</sup> multiple winner of the Crowne Plaza Invitational, hoping to join five-time winner Ben Hogan and two-time winners Billy Casper, Julius Boros, Al Geiberger, Ben Crenshaw, Bruce Lietzke, Lee Trevino, Corey Pavin, Nick Price, Kenny Perry, Phil Mickelson and Zach Johnson.

In the event of a win this week, Weekley will have claimed his first four PGA TOUR titles at just two events. He won his first two titles at the 2007 and 2008 RBC Heritage.

With a collective distance of 151' 9", today marked Weekley's fourth-best putting round on the PGA TOUR. Weekley was also a perfect 12 for 12 when putting from inside 10 feet.

Making his seventh start at Colonial, in addition to his 2013 win, Weekley also finished inside the top ten in 2010 (9<sup>th</sup>). His 64 Thursday was one stroke shy of his tournament low round of 63 (R2/2010).

This week marks the third time Weekley has held at least a share of the opening-round lead on TOUR, having finished T4 at the 2008 FedEx St. Jude Classic and third at the 2015 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

### Ryo Ishikawa

Making his 17<sup>th</sup> start of the season, Ryo Ishikawa carded a bogey-free 6-under 64 Thursday, capped off with birdies on his final two holes (Nos. 8 and 9).

Ishikawa's 64 is just his second opening round in the 60s in 17 starts this season (69 at the CIMB Classic).

Ishikawa is making his fourth start at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial (MC-2012, T70-2013, MC-2014). His previous-best score at Colonial was 1-under 69, set during the opening two rounds in 2013.

Prior to this week, Ishikawa had never held the lead after any round in a PGA TOUR event.

### First-Round Leader Stats

The lowest opening-round score at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial is 8-under 62 (Ryan Palmer/2013, David Toms/2011, Chez Reavie/2011 and Patrick Sheehan/2005).

In the previous 67 playings of the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial, the first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win 17 times. Dating to 1989, just four first-round leaders have gone on to win the event (Ian Baker-Finch in 1989, Steve Stricker in 2009, David Toms in 2011, Zach Johnson in 2012).

Last year, eventual champion Adam Scott was six strokes back after a 1-over 71.

The first-round leader/co-leader has won just three of 26 stroke-play events this season, most recently Jordan Spieth at the Masters.

### Miscellaneous Stats

There are ten past Colonial champions are competing this week: Adam Scott/2014 (72), Boo Weekley/2013 (64), Zach Johnson/ 2010, 2012 (71), David Toms/2011 (74), Steve Stricker/2009 (67), Rory Sabbatini/2007 (67), Tim Herron/2006 (70), Kenny Perry/2003, 2005 (70), Steve Flesch/2004 (71) and Corey Pavin/1985, 1996 (73).

Fourteen players have won both the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial and AT&T Byron Nelson during their career. Players who have won the "DFW Double": Ben Crenshaw, Roberto De Vicenzo, Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Bruce Devlin, Jack Nicklaus, Lanny Wadkins, Tom Watson, Bruce Lietzke, Nick Price, Phil Mickelson, Sergio Garcia, Rory Sabbatini and Julius Boros.

#### Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Jordan Spieth (64), Ryo Ishikawa (64), Boo Weekley (64), George McNeill (65), Marc Leishman (66), Ben Crane (66), Zac Blair (66), Rory Sabbatini (67), Cameron Tringale (68), Jhonattan Vegas (68)

Colonial CC shows its teeth over the stretch of holes from Nos. 3-5, known as the "Horrible Horseshoe." During the first round, the holes played as the ninth toughest (4.025), the third most difficult (3.107) and the toughest (4.336), respectively.

Scoring Averages at the par-70 Colonial Country Club:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
Thursday	34.869	35.123	69.992	

Round One: Morning Scoring Average (70.48) vs. Afternoon Scoring Average (69.48).

The par-4 fifth hole played the toughest on day one with a 4.336 average. The par-4 sixth hole played the easiest at 3.746.

# **Always on Charity Challenge**

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Crowne Plaza has selected nine players in this week's field to participate in the "Always On Charity Challenge," a sweepstakes designed to make a significant donation to the Fort Worth community.

The player who generates the most number of unique hashtags between May 18-24 earns a \$125,000 charitable contribution from Crowne Plaza. Of that dollar amount, \$90,000 will remain in the Fort Worth area, \$10,000 will be donated to the charity of the winning player's choice and \$25,000 will go to IHG Shelter in a Storm. In addition, nine participating fans will be selected to win 90,000 IHG Rewards Points for participating.

Competing players in the "Always On Charity Challenge": Hunter Mahan, Boo Weekley, J.J. Henry, Ryan Palmer, Erik Compton, Kevin Streelman, Graham DeLaet, Scott Stallings and Jimmy Walker. A player's hashtag is simply his last name, followed by AlwaysOnSweeps (ie: #MahanAlwaysOnSweeps). Follow the leaderboard at alwaysoncharitychallenge.com.

# Get in the Q Sweepstakes

As part of the "Get in the Q" sweepstakes, Quicken Loans is giving away a monthly mortgage payment to one lucky fan every time a PGA TOUR player hits their tee shot within seven feet of the pin on the 13th hole at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial. To sign-up for "Get in the Q," fans should download the PGATOUR App or visit a Quicken Loans sign-up kiosk at the tournament. Here's a list of the eight winners from the first round: Brad L. of Albert Lea, MN (as a result of William McGirt hitting it to 1'8") Mitchell S. of Bixby, OK (Ken Duke, 6'10") Michael H. of College Station, TX (Zach Johnson, 3'2") Andrew P. of Fort Worth, TX (Michael Thompson, 6') James S. of Elma, NY (Robert Streb, 6'9") Rachael M. of Doyline, LA (Chad Campbell, 1'4") Lindsey W. of Liberty Hill, TX (Scott Piercy, 5'7") Dana A. of Seymour, IN (Steve Stricker, 3'4")

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