



2015 Humana Challenge in partnership with the Clinton Foundation
(The 10th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

La Quinta, Calif. **Jan. 19-25, 2015** **Purse: \$5,700,000 (\$1,026,000 to the winner)**
500 FedExCup points to winner

(PP) Palmer Private/PGA West	Par/Yards: 72/6,950
(NP) Nicklaus Private/PGA West	Par/Yards: 72/6,924
(LQ) La Quinta Country Club	Par/Yards: 72/7,060

Second-Round Notes – Friday, January 23, 2015

Weather: Mostly sunndy with SE winds 5-10 mph. Afternoon high reached 77 degrees.

Second-Round Leaderboard

Matt Kuchar	65-64-129 (-15)
Michael Putnam	63-67-130 (-14)
Bill Haas	67-63-130 (-14)
Nick Watney	67-64-131 (-13)
Justin Thomas	68-63-131 (-13)
Scott Pinckney	64-67-131 (-13)

Matt Kuchar

Matt Kuchar's career-low for 36 holes is 126. He opened the 2008 Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospital for Children Open with back-to-back, 9-under 63s. He went on to finish second by one stroke to Marc Turnesa.

This is Kuchar's eighth career start at the Humana Challenge (2007-13, 2015) and he has a pair of top-10 finishes to his credit (T2/2010 and T7/2011).

Kuchar is making his 330th career start on the PGA TOUR. He has seven wins, the last coming at the 2014 RBC Heritage.

Kuchar has held/shared the 36-hole lead nine previous times in his TOUR career. His only win in those nine events came at THE PLAYERS Championship in 2012.

Kuchar was tied for the 36-hole lead with Webb Simpson and Justin Thomas at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii. He finished T3.

Michael Putnam

Michael Putnam, the first-round leader, kept pace with a 5-under 67 at the Palmer Private course. His 14-under total of 130 put him tied for second, one shot back of leader Matt Kuchar.

Putnam finished No. 93 in the FedExCup standings last season.

Putnam's best career finishes on TOUR are a pair of T4s (2005 Travelers Championship and 2014 RBC Canadian Open).

This is Putnam's third career start in this event. He finished T68 in 2011 and T48 a year ago.

This matches Putnam's career-best 36-hole score on TOUR. He also posted scores of 130 at the 2014 Travelers Championship (-10) and the 2014 OHL Classic at Mayakoba (-12).

This is the second time that Putnam has been atop the leaderboard after 36 holes. He was at 12-under par and led by one over Jason Bohn and Shawn Stefani at the 2014 OHL Classic at Mayakoba.



Putnam is a three-time winner on the Web.com Tour, where he was the Player of the Year in 2013.

Bill Haas

Bill Haas, the 2010 champion, moved into contention with a 9-under 63 at LaQuinta CC. Haas started slowly with seven consecutive pars before reeling off nine birdies over his next 10 holes, including seven in a row (Nos. 2-8). His two-day total of 130 puts him one off the lead heading into Saturday's third round.

Haas started on the back nine today and then closed with a 7-under 29 on the front nine. He holed a sand shot for a birdie at the par-3, third hole and wound up needing only 11 total putts for the nine holes.

Haas has made the cut in nine of his previous 10 starts in this event. In addition to his win in 2010, Haas finished T2 the following year. He was T18 in 2014.

Ryan Palmer

Palmer carded a 9-under-par 27 on the Nicklaus Private course en route to an 11-under 61 that put him at 12-under 132 and T7.

Palmer's 9-under 27 on the back nine at the Nicklaus Private course matched the second-lowest 9-hole score in TOUR history. Corey Pavin posted an 8-under 26 on the front nine in the opening round of the 2006 U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee.

Palmer is the 10th player in TOUR history to shoot a 27 on nine holes. Sergio Garcia was the last to do it, at the 2014 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational.

Palmer is the fifth player in TOUR history to shoot 9-under par on nine holes. Billy Mayfair (2001 Buick Open), Robert Gamez (2004 Humana Challenge), Brandt Snedeker (2007 Farmers Insurance Open) and Chris Riley (2009 Barracuda Championship) are the only other players to post 9-under par scores.

Palmer opened the back nine with a pair of pars and then ran off a streak that went E-B-B-B-E-B-B-B. His streak came to an end with a bogey-5 at the par-4, 2nd hole. He then added another bogey at the next hole but managed to turn things around with three birdies on his final six holes. He missed a birdie putt of approximately 6 feet on the final hole for a round of 60.

Palmer's streak of 10-under (in 8 holes) is the lowest such birdie-eagle streak in TOUR history. Billy Mayfair was 9-under (7 birdies, 1 eagle) in the final round of the 2001 Buick Open and Briny Baird was also 9-under (7 birdies, 1 one eagle) in the second round of the 2003 FUNAI Classic at Walt Disney World Resort.

Pat Perez

Perez, the 2009 champion, has opened with rounds 66-68—134 and stands at 10-under at the halfway point. Perez is making his 12th career start in this event. His T6 in 2003 is his only other top-10 finish in this event.

Nick Watney

Watney's 8-under 64 on the Nicklaus Private put him at 13-under 131 through 36 holes (T4).

Watney's 64 today is two shots off his career-low of 62 at the 2011 Quicken Loans National (R3).

Watney has made two cuts in four starts in the 2014-15 wraparound season. He finished T16 at the Shriners Hospital for Children Open and was 85th at The McGladrey Classic. He then missed the cut at both the Sanderson Farms Championship and the OHL Classic at Mayakoba in November.

Watney has collected five wins in his PGA TOUR career, the last of which came at The Barclays in 2012.

Watney is making his fifth career start in this event, and his first since 2009. He made the cut all four years and his best finish was a T13 in 2007.

Justin Thomas

Rookie Justin Thomas moved into contention Friday with a bogey-free, 9-under 63 on the Nicklaus Private course. Thomas stands at 13-under 131 and two shots off the lead.



Thomas, 21, is in his first season as a member of the PGA TOUR. Thomas missed the cut in his first two starts of the 2014-15 season but has made the cut in his last four starts. He finished T4 at the Sanderson Farms Championship last fall and was T6 at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii after sharing the 36-hole lead.

Thomas turned professional after two years at the University of Alabama where he helped his team win the 2013 NCAA team championship.

Thomas spent last year on the Web.com Tour where he won once and had seven top-10 finishes in 20 starts. His victory came at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship where he became the fourth youngest winner in Tour history.

Blake Adams

Blake Adams stumbled in his second round today at LaQuinta CC, posting a 7-over 79. Adams opened with an 8-under 64 at the Palmer Private course Thursday and was tied for second. His two-day total of 1-under 143 puts him T120.

Adams hit 13 greens and had 23 putts in his first round, but struggled in round two with only nine greens hit and 33 putts.

Adams is making his first start on TOUR since the Valspar Championship in March of 2014.

Adams made two starts in January of 2013 before injuring his hip and missing the rest of the season. He came back in 2014 and made eight starts before reinjuring his hip in March. In July of 2014, Adams had left hip-replacement surgery.

Adams has 16 events during the 2014-15 season to earn 278 FedExCup points or \$497,044 as part of his Major Medical Extension.

Patrick Reed

Defending Humana Challenge champion Patrick Reed has opened play with rounds of 65-70—135 (-9). He is currently T21. The only player to successfully defend his Humana Challenge title was Johnny Miller (1975-1976).

Last year, Reed became just the second wire-to-wire winner of the Humana Challenge (Rik Massengale/1977).

Last year at the Humana Challenge, Reed became the first player in PGA TOUR history to post scores of 63-or-better in his first three rounds of a tournament.

Last year at the age of 23 years, 5 months and 14 days, Reed became the second-youngest winner of the Humana Challenge behind Jack Nicklaus (23 years and 13 days at the 1963 Humana Challenge).

Arnold Palmer won the Humana Challenge five times. The only other players to win more than once are two-time champions: Billy Casper, John Mahaffey, Johnny Miller, Corey Pavin, John Cook and Phil Mickelson.

Reed at the Humana Challenge: 2013/MC (74-68-68), 2014/Won (63-63-63-71).

Phil Mickelson

Phil Mickelson picked up some momentum late in the day and closed with five consecutive birdies at the Nicklaus Private course. He finished with a 6-under 66, which put him 7-under through 36 holes and T36.

Mickelson is a two-time champion here, having won in 2002 and 2004.

Second-Round Leader Notes

After the first nine events of the 2014-15 season, none of the 36-hole leaders/co-leaders have been able to go on and win the tournament.



Since 2000, there have been seven 36-hole leaders who have gone on to win at the Humana Challenge – Joe Durant (2001), Chad Campbell (2006), D.J. Trahan (2008), Pat Perez (2009), Jhonattan Vegas (2011), Mark Wilson (2012) and Patrick Reed (2014).

Miscellaneous Notes

Low rounds of the day:

NP	61	Ryan Palmer
PP	66	Martin Laird
LQ	63	Bill Haas

Rookie Tony Finau ran off a string of seven consecutive birdies during his round today. Finau’s run came on the back nine at the Nicklaus Private course. He finished with a 7-under 65

Scott Verplank had 10 birdies (and three bogeys) during his round of 7-under 65 at the Nicklaus Private course. Verplank is 9-under through 36 holes and T21.

Scott McCarron had a hole-in-one at the 178-yard 17th hole at the Nicklaus Private course. McCarron used a 6-iron for his ace. He finished with an even-par 72 and is currently 1-over for the tournament.

Mark Brooks is making his 28th start in this event, which ties him for the third most appearances. Arnold Palmer played in this tournament 42 times from 1960-2002. Miller Barber made 29 starts from 1960-90. Brooks joins John Cook, Peter Jacobsen, Tom Nieporte and Doug Sanders as those players with 28 starts.

Brett Quigley withdrew prior to the start of the second round. He was replaced in the field by rookie Zack Sucher, whose score will count only towards to pro-am of the tournament.

20-year anniversary of three U.S. Presidents playing in the Humana Challenge

It was in 1995 when the pro-am team of Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, Gerald Ford, Bob Hope and defending champion Scott Hoch teed up for the tournament’s opening round. It marked the first time a sitting president – Clinton – had played during a PGA TOUR event and it is believed to be the first time three presidents had ever played together.

Several of the players in the field this year also played in 1995, including Mark Brooks, Justin Leonard, Scott McCarron and Woody Austin.

Scoring Averages	R1	R2
Palmer Private Course	70.077	70.808
Nicklaus Private Course	70.077	68.294
La Quinta Country Club	70.000	69.962

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