



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

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, January 24, 2015

Weather: Mostly sunny with NW winds 10-20 mph, with gusts to 30 mph. Afternoon high reached 78 degrees.

Scheduled 54-hole cut: 72 players at 8-under 208 from a field of 156 professionals.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Erik Compton	66-66-67—199 (-17)
Bill Haas	67-63-69—199 (-17)
Justin Thomas	68-63-68—199 (-17)
Michael Putnam	63-67-69—199 (-17)

Bill Haas

Following round two's nine-under 63, 2010 Humana Challenge champion Bill Haas posted a 3-under 69 at the Nicklaus Private Course and will begin Sunday's final round with a share of the 17-under lead.

Haas has previously held a lead/co-lead after 54 holes five times. The two which resulted in victory were the 2010 Sanderson Farms Championship and 2013 Quicken Loans National.

In 2010, Haas began Sunday's final round one stroke back, before a final-round, 8-under 64 resulted in a one-stroke margin of victory.

Haas has now made the cut in 10/11 starts in the Humana Challenge. In addition to his win in 2010, he finished T2 in 2011. He finished T18 in 2014.

The 2011 FedExCup champion is in search of his sixth career win on the PGA TOUR and first since the 2013 Quicken Loans National. His first TOUR win was at the 2010 Humana Challenge.

Last season, Haas amassed five top-10 finishes, highlighted by a T2 finish at the Wyndham Championship. Haas finished last season ranked 16th in FedExCup points.

In the 2013-14 PGA TOUR Season, Haas made 28 starts and missed no cuts. Following a wrist injury, incurred after a fall down stairs at the RBC Heritage, he withdrew from that event after the first round.

Haas is making just his third start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, and first since a T48 at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions in November. Prior to that, he finished T22 at The McGladrey Classic.

Bill's father Jay was the leader headed into the final round of the Humana Challenge in 2002, before finishing T16.

Erik Compton

Following a pair of 6-under 66s in rounds one and two, double heart transplant Erik Compton birdied two of his last three holes at the Nicklaus Private Course in round three to post a 5-under 67 and get to 17-under 199.



Compton has previously never held a lead/co-lead after 54 holes in a PGA TOUR event. His best position after a third round was T2 at last year's U.S. Open, the same position he finished the national championship with.

Compton is making his fourth consecutive start in the Humana Challenge this week; 2014/T69, 2013/MC, 2012/T42.

Playing in his 113th PGA TOUR event this week, Compton remains in search of his first TOUR win. His nearest miss came at last year's U.S. Open at Pinehurst, where he claimed a share of second place with Rickie Fowler.

This week's Humana Challenge is Compton's fifth start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, with his best finish being a T28 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

In addition to his finish at Pinehurst, Compton amassed top-5 finishes at the Arnold Palmer Invitational (T5) and Zurich Classic of New Orleans (T5). Prior to 2014, his only other top-10 finish since joining the PGA TOUR in 2012 was a T4 at the 2013 Honda Classic.

Justin Thomas

Following his 9-under 63 on the Nicklaus Private Course in round two, Justin Thomas posted a 4-under 68 and will begin the final round Sunday tied for the lead.

Thomas is making his 18th start of his PGA TOUR career this week, and this marks his first 54-hole lead/co-lead. His previous-best standing headed into a final round came with his T5 position at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii (finished T6).

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.

Michael Putnam

At La Quinta Country Club, first-round leader Michael Putnam's 3-under 69 in round three was good enough for him to reclaim a share of the top spot. Putnam has never previously held a lead/co-lead after 54 holes. His best position going into a final round was T3 at the 2014 Travelers Championship. He finished T11.

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

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

This is Putnam's third career start at the Humana Challenge. He finished T68 in 2011 and T48 a year ago.

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

Third-Round Leader Notes

The last time more than two players were tied for the lead headed into the final round of the Humana Challenge was in 1996, when Mark Brooks, John Huston, Jeff Maggert and Payne Stewart were tied at the top. Brooks emerged victorious that year.

After the first nine events of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season, four 54-hole leaders have converted for victory. Most recently, Jimmy Walker achieved the feat at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii.



Since 2012, when the Humana Challenge was shortened to 72 holes, Mark Wilson (2012) and Patrick Reed (2014) held on for the win. In 2013, Scott Stallings lost a 5-stroke lead in the final round to Brian Gay.

As a 72-hole event, the best come-from-behind win in tournament history after 54 holes is six shots by Brian Gay in 2013.

Matt Kuchar

Playing the Palmer Private Course, Matt Kuchar hit a few snags over the course of his last four holes, carding bogeys at Nos. 15, 17 and 18. He will begin Sunday's final round trailing four players by a stroke.

With a win tomorrow, Kuchar will become the second, consecutive player to follow a top-three finish one week with a victory the following week. After his playoff loss to Patrick Reed at the Hyundai tournament of Champions two weeks ago, Jimmy Walker claimed a nine-stroke win at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii.

With the exception of his bogey at No. 18 in round three, Kuchar has played the par fives perfectly through three rounds. Of the 13 he has played, Kuchar has made 11 birdies, 1 eagle and 1 bogey.

Kuchar played today's Palmer Private Course with 12 previous rounds and a scoring average of 66.75 on that layout under his belt.

Through 54 holes at this week's Humana Challenge, Kuchar is 13/19 for rounds in the 60s this season.

In eight previous starts at the Humana Challenge, Kuchar has collected a pair of top-10 finishes (T2/2010 and T7/2011).

In 2014, Kuchar's final-round scoring average was his best of the four rounds (69.62). Through four events this season, the final round has been his worst of the four by nearly two strokes (70.75).

Kuchar is making his 330th career start on the PGA TOUR. He has seven wins, the last coming at the 2014 RBC Heritage. Including his win at Harbour Town, Kuchar collected an impressive 11 top-10 finishes last season. Rory McIlroy led the TOUR with 12.

Patrick Reed

Defending Humana Challenge champion Patrick Reed posted a third-round, 5-under 67 and is T9 at 14-under 202. The only player to successfully defend his Humana Challenge title was Johnny Miller (1975-1976).

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.

In Reed's only other start before his 2014 win in Palm Springs, he missed the cut in 2013.

Phil Mickelson

When 2002 and 2004 Humana Challenge winner Phil Mickelson stood on the 10th tee in round two, he was T107. At the 10th tee in today's third round, he had climbed all the way to T16. Mickelson ended the second round T36.

With his 4-under 68 in round three, Mickelson is at 11-under 205 and will begin Sunday's final round six strokes back.

En route to his playoff win at the 2002 Humana Challenge, Mickelson rallied from four strokes back in the final round with an 8-under 64. In 2004, Mickelson held a share of the 72-hole lead (90-hole event) before winning again via a playoff, this time over Skip Kendall.

Miscellaneous Notes

Low rounds of the day:

NP 63 - Rory Sabbatini, Shawn Stefani
PP 65 - Billy Horschel, David Toms
LQ 64 - Matt Jones



Twenty-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. All missed the cut.

Ryan Moore withdrew during the third round with a neck injury. For his amateur partners, he was replaced in the field by Jeff Gove.

Scoring Averages	R1	R2	R3	Cumulative
Palmer Private Course	69.692	70.808	70.216	70.368
Nicklaus Private Course	69.431	68.294	69.431	69.273
La Quinta Country Club	70.192	69.962	70.288	70.083

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