



2015 Sony Open in Hawaii

(9th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Honolulu, HI
Waialae Country Club

January 15-18, 2015
Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,044

Purse: \$5,600,000 (\$1,008,000)
500 FedExCup points to winner

First-Round Notes – Thursday, January 15, 2015

Weather

Partly cloudy. High of 80. Winds S 7-12 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Paul Casey	62 (-8)
Webb Simpson	62 (-8)
Robert Streb	63 (-7)
Camilo Villegas	63 (-7)

Best opening-rounds at the Sony Open in Hawaii:

62 – Paul Casey (2015), Webb Simpson (2015), Scott Langley (2013), Mike Reid (1997), Brian Claar (1997), Scott Simpson (1991).

Prior to Casey and Simpson's 62, the previous-best opening-round score on TOUR this season was 64, set by Stewart Cink and Martin Laird at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

There have been seven 62 on TOUR this season (the best score of the season so far). Of those seven scores, four have been posted in Hawaii (Jason Day/R4/Hyundai Tournament of Champions, Chris Kirk/R4/Hyundai Tournament of Champions, Paul Casey/R1/Sony Open in Hawaii, Webb Simpson/R1/Sony Open in Hawaii).

Paul Casey

Beginning on No. 10, England's Paul Casey birdied five straight holes in round one, Nos. 17-3, en route to a career-low, 8-under 62. His previous best was a 7-under 63 in round two of last year's AT&T Byron Nelson Championship.

Despite hitting just five of 14 fairways in regulation (35.7 percent), Casey managed to birdie half of his 18 holes. He hit 15 greens (83.3 percent).

Casey makes a return to the PGA TOUR for the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season following his 95th-place finish on last season's FedExCup points list.

Casey is making just his second start at the Sony Open in Hawaii, and first since 2005. That year, rounds of 75-74 resulted in a missed cut.

Casey is in search of his second career PGA TOUR win this week, having previously won the 2009 Shell Houston Open. His last top-10 finish came at the 2011 Frys.com Open (T7).

Thanks to weekend rounds of 62-66, Casey won the KLM Open in the Netherlands on the European Tour last September. The win was his 14th international victory.

This week's Sony Open in Hawaii is Casey's second start on the PGA TOUR this season. He finished T37 at the CIMB Classic in November in Malaysia.

Casey has previously held a lead/co-lead after 18 holes six times on the PGA TOUR, most recently at the 2011 Valspar Championship (finished T37). The closest he has come to parlaying an 18-hole lead into victory was at the 2010 TOUR Championship (T4).



Webb Simpson

Making his sixth start at the Sony Open in Hawaii and using a conventional putter, Webb Simpson birdied 7 of his inward nine holes to open with an 8-under 62. Simpson began his round on No. 10 and posted birdies on Nos. 10, 18, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9. Like Casey, Simpson ran off a string of five consecutive birdies in round one.

Simpson's 28 on the front ties that nine's record low. At the 2012 event, Toshinori Muto achieved the feat in round two. The low cumulative score on Waialae Country Club's back nine is 29.

Of his previous five starts at Waialae Country Club, Simpson's only top-10 finish was a T9 in his first start of 2009.

Simpson is making his third start of the season, coming off a T4 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and T41 at The McGladrey Classic.

Simpson is in search of his fifth career PGA TOUR title and first since the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in 2013.

In the 2013-14 PGA TOUR Season, Simpson amassed nine top-10 finishes in 25 starts, highlighted by the win in Las Vegas.

Simpson has previously held a lead/co-lead after 18 holes five times, most recently at the 2014 Hyundai Tournament of Champions (finished T3). He has never parlayed an 18-hole lead into victory.

First-Round Leader(s) Statistics

The last first-round leader to go on and win the Sony Open was Ryan Palmer in 2010.

In the first eight events of the 2014-15 season, Frys.com Open champion Sang-Moon Bae is the only first-round leader/co-leader to carry that lead on to victory. Incidentally, Bae led after last year's first round of the Sony Open in Hawaii by one over Chris Kirk following a 7-under 63. He finished T32.

Camilo Villegas

Camilo Villegas birdied six of his first nine holes en route to a bogey-free, 7-under 63. On his inward nine (Nos. 10-18), he made eight pars and one birdie (No. 16).

Villegas found just five of 14 fairways in regulation (35.7 percent), but missed just four greens.

Villegas is making his third start at this week's Sony Open in Hawaii and first since a missed cut in 2011.

Villegas broke a four-year winless drought in 2014 with his fourth career PGA TOUR win at the Wyndham Championship.

Additional Player Notes

Defending champion Jimmy Walker opened with a 4-under 66. In his last nine competitive rounds now in Hawaii, Walker is an impressive 42-under-par. At last year's Sony Open in Hawaii, he played the four rounds in 17-under. At 21-under last week at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions, Walker finished second to Patrick Reed in sudden death.

On his way to a 1-under 69, Geoff Ogilvy made a hole-in-one on the fourth hole with a 5-iron from 211 yards. It was his first ace on the PGA TOUR.

Tim Clark, who finished runner-up in two of his last three starts at the Sony Open (2011, 2013), opened with a 5-under 65 and is three strokes back.

Sixteen-year-old Kyle Suppa, winner of the 2014 Hawaii State Amateur Stroke Play Championship, posted a bogey-free 1-under 69.

Miscellaneous Notes

Eighteen of the 24 PGA TOUR rookies are competing in the Sony Open in Hawaii, with Jonathan Randolph having posted the lowest score among them in round one (65).



Four of this season's eight winners are in the field this week: Robert Streb/The McGladrey Classic (63), Sang-Moon Bae/Frys.com Open (67), Nick Taylor/Sanderson Farms Championship (70), Ben Martin/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (71).

Past champions in the field: Jimmy Walker/2014 (65), Ryan Palmer/2010 (69), Zach Johnson/2009 (68), K.J. Choi/2008, (68), Mark Wilson/2011 (69), Paul Goydos/2007 (69), Johnson Wagner/2012 (70), Vijay Singh/2005 (71), Russell Henley/2013 (72) and Jerry Kelly/ 2002 (73).

Only Hubert Green (1978-'79), Corey Pavin (1986-'87) and Ernie Els (2003-'04) have won the Sony Open in successive years.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Camilo Villegas (63), Jonathan Randolph (65), Chris Kirk (66), Justin Thomas (67), Scott Piercy (67), Stuart Appleby (68), and Kyle Suppa (69).

Scoring Averages at the par-70 Waialae Country Club:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	34.806	34.701	69.507	---

The par-4 first hole played the toughest during the first round, yielding a 4.222 average. The par-5 ninth hole was the easiest at 4.306.