



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

Second-Round Notes – Friday, January 16, 2015

Weather

Overcast, with a high of 80. Winds SW 7-14 mph.

36-hole cut

84 professionals and one amateur at 2-under 138. Because more than 78 players made the 36-hole cut, a 54-hole cut will reduce the field to the low 70 and ties.

By comparison, the most number of players to make the 36-hole cut this season is 88 (The McGladrey Classic).

This is the largest number of players tied for the 36-hole lead at the Sony Open in Hawaii since 1996, when four were tied at the top.

Second-Round Leaderboard

Matt Kuchar	65-63—128 (-12)
Webb Simpson	62-66—128 (-12)
Justin Thomas	67-61—129 (-12)

Matt Kuchar

Making his 12th start at the Sony Open in Hawaii, Matt Kuchar's name near the top of the leaderboard should come as little surprise. In his last three starts of 2011, 2013 and 2014, Kuchar finished T5, T5 and T8, respectively.

With the exceptions of 2005, 2006 and 2012, Kuchar has competed in the event each year since his rookie year of 2001.

A top-10 machine, Kuchar claimed 11 in 2014, highlighted by his seventh career PGA TOUR title at the RBC Heritage. A top 10 this week would be his 69th in his 329th start on the PGA TOUR.

Thirteen of Kuchar's last 14 rounds in the Sony Open in Hawaii have been below-par scores. In round three of 2013, he posted an even-par 70.

This week's Sony Open in Hawaii is Kuchar's third start of the season in a full-field event (T21/Frys.com Open, T22/The McGladrey Classic). He finished T17 at last week's Hyundai Tournament of Champions in the 34-man field.

Kuchar has previously held a lead/co-lead after 36 holes eight times. The only one he managed to convert into victory was the 2012 PLAYERS Championship.

Webb Simpson

Making his sixth start at the Sony Open in Hawaii and using a conventional putter, Webb Simpson posted a 4-under 66 to claim a share of the 36-hole lead with Matt Kuchar and Justin Thomas.

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 36 holes four times. His most recent 36-hole lead was at the 2013 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, the only one he managed to convert into victory.

Justin Thomas

PGA TOUR Rookie Justin Thomas finished birdie-birdie-eagle on hole Nos. 7-9, to post a bogey-free, 9-under 61 and get to 12-under 128. The 61 is a career low. His 61 is one stroke shy of the tournament record (Davis Love III/R2/1994).

Thomas is making his sixth start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, and 17th overall. He competed in his first four as an amateur. His best finish this season is a T4 at the Sanderson Farms Championship last October.

Thomas made his way onto the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of his fifth place finish on the 2014 Web.com Tour priority list. On that Tour last season, he collected seven top-10 finishes, highlighted by a win at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship.

This marks Thomas’ first time to hold a lead/co-lead after 36 holes.

Second-Round Leader(s) Statistics

In the last eight years (since 2007), four of the 36-hole leaders/co-leaders have gone on to capture the Sony Open in Hawaii. The following details the last eight years at this event:

Year	36-hole leader/Score	Eventual Champion/Score
2014	Stuard	Walker (263/-17)
2013	Henley (126/-14)	Henley (256/-24)
2012	Every (130/-10)	Wagner (267/-13)
2011	Appleby, Maruyama (130/-10)	Wilson (264/-16)
2010	Palmer (131/-9)	Palmer (265/-15)
2009	Green, Pernice, Jr. (132/-8)	Z. Johnson (265/-15)
2008	Choi (129/-11)	Choi (266/-14)
2007	Donald, Goydos (129/-11)	Goydos (266/-14)

In the first eight events of the 2014-15 season, no second-round leader has managed to hang on for the win.

Tim Clark

Tim Clark, who finished runner-up in two of his last three starts at the Sony Open (2011, 2013), followed an opening-round, 5-under 65 with another in round two. Clark withdrew after last year’s first round with tendonitis in his left elbow.

Clark has a history of improving from round to round at Waialae Country Club. Through 17 competitive rounds in the event, his scoring average - by round – is 69.40, 67.75, 67.00 and 65.00 for the final round.

Last season, Clark claimed three top-10 finishes in 26 starts, highlighted by his second-career PGA TOUR title at the RBC Canadian Open. Clark also won the 2010 PLAYERS Championship.

Troy Merritt

Boise State University’s Troy Merritt makes a return to the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season by virtue of his 101st-place finish in last season’s FedExCup points.

Merritt is making his fourth start at the Sony Open in Hawaii this week. He finished T20 in his rookie year of 2010, but missed the cut in 2011 and 2014.

After missed cuts in his first six starts on the PGA TOUR last season, as well as two additional cuts coming into the FedEx St. Jude Classic, Merritt claimed his career-best finish with runner-up honors in Memphis. He remains in search of his first TOUR title.



Merritt's lone bogey through 36 holes came at the par-4 sixth hole in round one. He hit 10/14 fairways in regulation (71.4 percent), an improvement from 7/14 in round one. For the second straight day, Merritt hit 12/18 greens (66.7 percent).

Additional Player Notes

Defending champion Jimmy Walker opened with a pair of 4-under 66s and is four off the lead headed into round three. In his last 10 competitive rounds now in Hawaii, Walker is an impressive 46-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.

Dating back to the second round of the 2012 Sony Open in Hawaii, Walker has recorded 11 straight rounds under 70 at Waialae Country Club (21 out of his last 24). His final-round 63 last season was a career-best in Hawaii. In 2013, Walker shot a bogey-free 64 in the final round.

Walker celebrated his 36th birthday during round two.

2002 Sony Open in Hawaii winner Jerry Kelly made nine birdies and one bogey in round two, good for an 8-under 62. Of 61 competitive rounds in the event now, today's 62 is his best score by three strokes.

After eight straight pars, James Hahn birdied six of his last 10 holes, good for a bogey-free 64. In round one, Hahn made nine straight pars, before posting three bogeys, two birdies and an eagle on his inward nine (69). At 7-under 133, Hahn will begin the weekend five strokes back.

At the age of 16 years, 8 months, 3 days, Kyle Suppa, winner of the 2014 Hawaii State Amateur Stroke Play Championship, posted a second-consecutive, 1-under 69 to make the cut on the number. The youngest player to ever make a cut on the PGA TOUR was Guan Tianlang at the 2013 Masters (14 years, 5 months, 17 days). When Tadd Fujikawa made the cut at the 2007 Sony Open in Hawaii at the age of 16 years, 4 days, he became the second-youngest player to ever make a cut on the PGA TOUR.

Miscellaneous Notes

Eighteen of the 24 PGA TOUR rookies are competing in the Sony Open in Hawaii, with Justin Thomas leading the pack at 12-under 128 through 36 holes.

Four of this season's eight winners are in the field this week: Robert Streb/The McGladrey Classic (-8/T8), Sang-Moon Bae/Frys.com Open (-3/T56), Nick Taylor/Sanderson Farms Championship (-2/T69) and Ben Martin/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (-2/T69).

Past champions in the field: Jimmy Walker/2014 (-8/T8), Ryan Palmer/2010 (-8/T8), Zach Johnson/2009 (-3/T56), K.J. Choi/2008, (-5/T30), Mark Wilson/2011 (-3/T56), Paul Goydos/2007 (MC), Johnson Wagner/2012 (MC), Vijay Singh/2005 (MC), Russell Henley/2013 (-4/T44) and Jerry Kelly/ 2002 (-5/T30).

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

There are five players in this week's field over the age of 50; Kenny Perry (-3/T56), Fred Funk (MC), Paul Goydos (MC), Davis Love III (MC) and Vijay Singh (MC). All but Singh are competing in next week's Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai on the Champions Tour.

Matt Every was disqualified during the second round for an equipment infraction.

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).

R2 – Justin Thomas (61), Matt Kuchar (63), Russell Henley (64), James Hahn (64), Troy Merritt (64), Daniel Berger (65), Chad Collins (65), Russell Knox (65), Brendon de Jonge (65), Charles Howell III (66), Hideki Matsuyama (66), Chris Kirk (67) and Scott Langley (68).

Scoring Averages at the par-70 Waialae Country Club:



	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	34.806	34.701	69.507	---
R2	34.175	34.161	68.336	68.923

The par-4 first hole played the toughest during the second round, yielding a 4.245 average. The par-5 ninth hole was the easiest at 4.084.