



## 2015 Sony Open in Hawaii

(9<sup>th</sup> 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

### Third-Round Notes – Saturday, January 17, 2015

#### Weather

Sunny, with a high of 81. Winds S 5-10 mph.

#### 54-hole cut

Because more than 78 players (85) made the 36-hole cut, a 54-hole cut reduced the field to 70 players at 3-under 207.

#### Third-Round Leaderboard

Jimmy Walker	66-66-62—194 (-16)
Matt Kuchar	65-63-68—196 (-14)
Troy Merritt	66-64-67—197 (-13)
Brian Harman	66-67-64—197 (-13)

#### **Jimmy Walker**

Defending champion Jimmy Walker birdied four of his last five holes to post an 8-under 62, his lowest score at Waialae Country Club. Dating to round one of the Shriners Hospital for Children Open, Walker has now posted 11 consecutive rounds in the 60s.

With 30 and 31 putts taken in rounds one and two, respectively, Walker one-putted his last 11 holes in round three, en route to a total of 22 strokes. He ranks fourth in Strokes Gained: Putting (5.28), but leads the field in Strokes Gained: Total (6.35).

In his last 11 competitive rounds now in Hawaii, Walker is an impressive 54-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 12 straight rounds under 70 at Waialae Country Club (22 out of his last 25).

His last 13 straight, competitive rounds in Hawaii have been in the 60s.

This week marks Walker's ninth start in the Sony Open in Hawaii. In addition to last year's win, his other top-10 finish is solo-fourth in 2011.

Walker is making his fifth start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, with last week's playoff loss his best finish among them.

In defense of his Frys.com Open title in October, Walker finished 63<sup>rd</sup>. A week later, he finished T4 at the Shriners Hospital for Children Open.

After three rounds at last year's Sony Open in Hawaii, Walker was two strokes back at 10-under-par.

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

This marks Walker's third 54-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR. He lost in a playoff last week at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions, following a share of the third-round lead, but won last year's AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am with the 54-hole lead.



### **Third-Round Leader(s) Statistics**

In the last nine years (since 2006), six of the 54-hole leaders/co-leaders have gone on to capture the Sony Open in Hawaii. The following details the last nine years at this event:

<b>Year</b>	<b>54-hole leader/Score</b>	<b>Eventual Champion/Score</b>
2014	Chris Kirk (198/-12)	Jimmy Walker (263/-17)
2013	<b>Russell Henley</b> /Scott Langley (193/-17)	Henley (256/-24)
2012	Jeff Maggert, Matt Every (198/-12)	Johnson Wagner (267/-13)
2011	<b>Mark Wilson</b> (197/-13)	Wilson (264/-16)
2010	<b>Ryan Palmer</b> /Robert Allenby (199/-11)	Palmer (265/-15)
2009	<b>Zach Johnson</b> (200/-10)	Johnson (265/-15)
2008	<b>K.J. Choi</b> (195/-15)	Choi (266/-14)
2007	Charles Howell III (197/-13)	Paul Goydos (266/-14)
2006	<b>David Toms</b> /Chad Campbell (196/-14)	Toms (261/-19)

In the first eight events of the 2014-15 season, three players have parlayed a third-round lead/co-lead into victory, mostly recently being Ryan Moore at the CIMB Classic.

#### **Matt Kuchar**

Making his 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Kuchar has fared well in the Aloha State. Since 2011, he is 101-under-par collectively between the Hyundai Tournament of Champions and Sony Open in Hawaii.

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

Fourteen of Kuchar's last 15 rounds in the Sony Open in Hawaii have been below-par scores. In round three of 2013, he posted a 2-under 68.

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.

#### **Brian Harman**

University of Georgia Bulldog Brian Harman bettered opening scores of 66-67 with a bogey-free, 6-under 64 in round three.

Harman hit 9/14 fairways in round one and 8/14 in round two, but found just 4/14 in round three (28.6 percent).

Harman is making his fourth consecutive start in the Sony Open in Hawaii this week; 2014 (T32), 2013 (MC) and 2012 (T59).

Harman's 64 in round three is his lowest in 13 competitive rounds at Waialae Country Club by two strokes.

He has now posted seven consecutive rounds in the 60s in the event.

Harman is making his fourth start of the season, and is coming off a T17 finish at last week's Hyundai Tournament of Champions (34-man field).

Harman broke into the winner's circle for the first time at last year's John Deere Classic. As a result, he finished 36<sup>th</sup> in FedExCup standings.

Should Harman win this week's Sony Open in Hawaii, he would become the first left-handed player to win the Hawaii event.



**Troy Merritt**

Boise State University's Troy Merritt birdied his final hole in round three to post a 3-under 67 and draw within three of Jimmy Walker's 16-under lead.

Merritt makes a return to the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season by virtue of his 101<sup>st</sup>-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.

**Tim Clark**

Tim Clark, who finished runner-up in two of his last three starts at the Sony Open (2011, 2013), birdied two of his last three holes to post a 2-under 68 and get to within four of Jimmy Walker's 16-under lead.

Clark has a history of improving from round to round at Waialae Country Club. Through 17 competitive rounds in the event coming into this week, 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.

**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 198 through 54 holes.

Four of this season's eight winners are in the field this week: Robert Streb/The McGladrey Classic (-9/T19), Sang-Moon Bae/Frys.com Open (-3/T61), Nick Taylor/Sanderson Farms Championship (-4/T56) and Ben Martin/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (-4/T56).

Past champions in the field: Jimmy Walker/2014 (-16/1), Ryan Palmer/2010 (-9/T19), Zach Johnson/2009 (-5/T49), K.J. Choi/2008, (-10/T8), Mark Wilson/2011 (MDF), Paul Goydos/2007 (MC), Johnson Wagner/2012 (MC), Vijay Singh/2005 (MC), Russell Henley/2013 (-4/T44) and Jerry Kelly/ 2002 (-5/T30).

There were five players in this week's field over the age of 50; Kenny Perry (-6/T40), 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.

**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).

R3 - Brian Harman (64), Harris English (65), Stewart Cink (65), Scott Langley (67) and Chad Collins (69).

**Scoring Averages at the par-70 Waialae Country Club:**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
R1	34.806	34.701	69.507	---
R2	34.175	34.161	68.336	68.923
R3	34.365	34.482	68.847	68.906

The par-4 13<sup>th</sup> hole played the toughest in round three, yielding a 4.353 average. The par-5 ninth hole remains the easiest, yielding a third-round average of 4.294.

