

2014-15 Sony Open in Hawaii Broadcast Window & Pre-Tournament Notes



ShotLink Keys to Victory for Jimmy Walker

Jimmy Walker collected his 2nd PGA TOUR victory at the Sony Open in Hawaii. After needing 188 starts to earn his first victory on TOUR, Walker had 2 victories in his last 6 TOUR starts after the 2014 Sony Open.

Combining Distance and Accuracy: In his first win at the **Frys.com Open**, Jimmy ranked 22nd in driving distance (301.9 yards), 71st in driving accuracy (last in the field for players making the cut) hitting just 22 of 56 fairways in regulation (39.3%). However, at the **Sony Open in Hawaii** Walker lead the field in driving distance averaging **319.5 yards** off the tee and hit 30 of 56 fairways (53.57%) ranking T-22nd in the field. His average of 319.5 yards off the tee was 25 yards longer than the field average of 294.5 yards.

Jimmy Walker's Best Total Driving Ranks in an Event

Year	Event	Rank
2014	Sony Open in Hawaii	4th
2014	Deutsche Bank Champ.	4th
2005	RBC Heritage	4th
2014	TOUR Champ.	6th
2012	The Honda Classic	8th

Walker ranked 4th in total driving at the Sony Open. This marked only the 3rd (5 total times as of last week) time in his career where he has ranked inside the top 10 in this category.

Walker had an outstanding final round 63 making birdies on 4 of his last 6 holes for an inward nine of 30. His final round 63 was over 5 strokes better than the final round field average of 68.77.

On The Greens: In the first 3 rounds Walker made a total of 5 putts outside of 10 feet. However, in the final round Walker made 4 putts from outside 10 feet for a total of 118' 8" of putts made. His total of 118' 8" of putts made was 26 feet more than his previous best round of 92' 7" in round 2.

Walker gained nearly a stroke more (+0.987) in the final round in strokes gained: putting than his first 3 rounds at the Sony Open. Walker outperformed the field by a total of +5.611 in strokes gained: putting ranking 8th in the field.

Jimmy Walker Total Feet of Putts Made Per Round 2014 Sony Open

Round	Stat
1	87' 0"
2	92' 7"
3	49' 4"
4	118' 8"

Jimmy Walker Strokes Gained: Putting By Round 2014 Sony Open

Round	Stat
1	+1.931
2	+0.312
3	+0.069
4	+3.299
Total	+5.611 (+1.412 per round)

2013-14 Course & Hole Statistics Waialae CC

Toughest Fairways to Hit on TOUR Since 2012 (min 6500 attempts)

Rank	Course	%
1	Waialae CC	48.0%
2	Quail Hollow Club	49.8%
3	Torrey Pines (South)	51.1%
4	Firestone CC (South)	52.6%
5	Riviera CC	52.8%

Since 2012, Waialae CC has been the toughest driving course on TOUR. Only 48% of all drives at the Sony Open have found the fairways (8,795 of 18,326).

Toughest Driving Holes Since 2012 (min 1050 attempts)

Rank	Course	Hole	%
1	Waialae CC	18th	29.8%
2	TPC Four Seasons Resort	1st	35.5%
3	Quail Hollow Club	5th	35.5%
4	Waialae CC	10th	38.1%
5	Quail Hollow Club	1st	38.2%

Since 2012, the 18th hole at Waialae CC has proved to be the toughest fairway to hit on TOUR.

In 1,309 tee shots on the 18th hole, only 29.8% of players have found the fairway (390).

Courses with the Shortest Proximity to Hole Inside 100 Yards (Fairway)

Rank	Course	Avg
1	East Lake GC	12' 11"
2	PGA West (Palmer)	13' 0"
3	CordeValle GC	14' 11"
4	Waialae CC	14' 6"
5	Innisbrook Resort - Copperhead	15' 10"
5	Torrey Pines (South)	15' 10"

Courses with the Longest Proximity to Hole Inside 100 Yards (Rough)

Rank	Course	Avg
1	TPC Sawgrass	32' 0"
2	TPC River Highlands	31' 0"
3	Waialae CC	29' 3"
3	TPC Summerlin	29' 3"
5	Ridgewood CC	27' 10"

Courses with the Easiest Scrambling % (Full Field - Single Course Event)

Rank	Course	%
1	Trump Intrntl GC - Puerto Rico	63.9
2	Waialae CC	62.2
3	Sedgefield CC	62.1
4	Royal Montreal GC(Blue Course)	62.1
5	TPC Southwind	61.2

Courses with the Shortest Scrambling Proximity to Hole

Rank	Course	%
1	PGA West (Palmer)	6' 5"
2	TPC Southwind	7' 0"
3	Harbour Town Golf Links	7' 2"
4	Waialae CC	7' 8"
5	PGA National (Champion)	7' 9"

9th Hole Par 5 at Waialae CC

Stat	Rank	Value
Most Eagles	4th	23
Most Birdies	3rd	265
Par 5 Highest Going for Green %	4th	51.3%
Par 5 Highest Birdie or Better %	2nd	76.2%

The 9th hole at Waialae CC, ranked in the top 5 in a number of categories including most eagle & birdies, highest par 5 going for green percentage and highest par 5 birdie or better percentage.

Broadcast Window Notes

2014-15 Sony Open in Hawaii *(featured groups)*

Jimmy Walker

Defending Champion Jimmy Walker makes his 9th start at the Sony Open in Hawaii. Walker has currently played his last 9 rounds and 14 of his last 15 rounds under par at Waialae CC.

Most Rounds under par at Waialae CC since 2011

Player	# of Rounds Under Par
Overton, Jeff	14
Kirk, Chris	14
Walker, Jimmy	13
Gay, Brian	13
3 tied	12

Since 2011, Jimmy Walker has played 13 of 14 rounds under par at the Sony Open in Hawaii. His 13 rounds under par is T-3rd most behind Chris Kirk and Jeff Overton with 14.

Jimmy Walker is coming off a playoff loss to Patrick Reed at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions. He had a fantastic week from tee to green ranking 3rd in strokes gained: tee-to-green for the week.

Strokes Gained: Tee-to-Green Leaders 2015 Hyundai TOC

Rank	Player	Average
1	Patrick Reed	+1.98
2	Hideki Matsuyama	+1.97
3	Jimmy Walker	+1.80
4	Jason Day	+1.65
5	Charley Hoffman	+1.09

Jimmy Walker was 1 of only 5 players to outperform the field by over a stroke in strokes gained: tee-to-green at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

Russell Henley

2013 Sony Open champion, Russell Henley makes his 3rd appearance at this event and currently ranks 17th in the FedExCup standings.

His 72-hole numerical total of 257 broke the tournament scoring mark of 260 set by John Huston in 1998 and matched by Brad Faxon in 2001.

Henley is just the 5th player on TOUR (stroke play since 1983) to open a tournament with back-to-back rounds of 63 and the first to do so since Steve Stricker at the 2009 Crowne Plaza Invitational. Stricker is the only other player to accomplish this feat and then go onto victory.

Par 4 Scoring: Henley dominated the par 4's at Waialae CC playing them 17 under par for the week and outperforming the field by 17 shots on the par 4's (field avg Even par). Henley's score of 17 under par on the par 4's is the 2nd most under par all-time in par 4 performance in a four round event on the PGA TOUR.

Most Under Par on Par 4's in a 4 Round PGA TOUR Event

Year	Tournament	Player	Finish Position	Status
2003	Valero Texas Open	Armour III, Tommy	Won	-19
1988	Childrens Miracle	Lohr, Bob	Won	-17
2006	BellSouth Classic	Mickelson, Phil	Won	-17
2013	Sony Open in Hawaii	Henley, Russell	Won	-17

Russell Henley is showing early season success, improving in all strokes gained categories. Henley currently ranks 113 positions better in strokes gained: tee-to-green than his 2013-14 rank of 153rd. Henley has also improved his putting ranking 5th on TOUR in strokes gained: putting.

Strokes Gained Ranks (Russell Henley 2013-14 vs. 2014-15 Season)

Category	2013-14	This Season
Tee-to-Green	153rd	40th
Putting	28th	5th
Total	116th	6th

Zach Johnson

2009 Sony Open in Hawaii Champion, Zach Johnson makes his 10th start at this event. Zach is coming off a solo 7th place finish at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

Zach ranked first in both driving accuracy and strokes gained: putting at the Hyundai TOC. Zach hit a total of 53 of a possible 60 fairways at the Plantation Course leading the field in driving accuracy for the 15th time in his PGA TOUR career. Johnson also lead in strokes gained: putting outperforming the field by +1.33 strokes per round with his putter.

Driving Accuracy Leaders 2015 Hyundai TOC

Rank	Player	%
1	Zach Johnson	88.33
2	Ryan Moore	86.67
3	Tim Clark	85
4	Kevin Streelman	80
4	Brendon Todd	80

Strokes Gained: Putting Leaders 2015 Hyundai TOC

Rank	Player	Average
1	Zach Johnson	+1.33
2	Russell Henley	+1.28
3	Robert Streb	+0.78
4	Seung-Yul Noh	+0.63
5	Matt Every	+0.58

Zach Johnson is known not necessarily for his distance off the tee however, he has been one of the most accurate players in driving accuracy in the last 11 seasons. Zach has ranked inside the top 30 in driving accuracy in 10 of the last 11 PGA TOUR seasons and has ranked inside the top 10 in 7 of the 11 seasons. The only year he was ranked outside of the top 30 was his 2nd year on TOUR in 2005 ranking 47th.

Ranked inside Top 10 in Driving Accuracy Since 2004

Player	# of Years Ranked Inside Top 10
Slocum, Heath	8
Johnson, Zach	7
Durant, Joe	7
Furyk, Jim	6

Ranked inside Top 30 in Driving Accuracy Since 2004

Player	# of Years Ranked Inside Top 30
Johnson, Zach	10
Slocum, Heath	10
Furyk, Jim	9
Durant, Joe	8
Mayfair, Billy	8
Davis, Brian	8

Hideki Matsuyama

Hideki Matsuyama makes his 41st career start on TOUR this week. Matsuyama is coming off a T-3rd finish at the Hyundai TOC finishing one shot out of the playoff between Patrick Reed and Jimmy Walker. Hideki carded his 3rd top 10 finish of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season in just 5 starts.

Hideki Matsuyama is showing early season success on the greens improving in a number of categories since last season. Matsuyama is +.703 of a stroke better this season compared to the 2013-14 PGA TOUR season in strokes gained: putting.

Hideki Matsuyama Putting Ranks 2013-14 vs. 2014-15 Season

Stat	2013-14	This Season
Strokes Gained: Putting	156th (-.393)	68th (+.310)
Putting Average	T85	T27
Putting Inside 10 Feet	160th	T35
3-Putt Avoidance	T169	T59

Matsuyama showed consistent control with his distance in approach shots. In 2013-14 PGA TOUR season, he ranked 5th in proximity to the hole and 2nd in fairway proximity averaging over 3 feet closer than the TOUR average in each category.

Hideki Matsuyama 2013-14 Approach to the Green

Stat	Matsuyama	TOUR Avg
Proximity to hole	32' 6" (5th)	35' 10"
Fairway Proximity	28' 2" (2nd)	31' 10"
Approaches 50-125 yards	15' 1" (4th)	18' 10"
Approaches 100-125 yards	15' 1" (1st)	20' 1"
Approaches 150-175 yards	23' 6" (1st)	28' 0"
Approaches >200 yards	43' 11" (2nd)	50' 3"

Angel Cabrera

Angel Cabrera makes his 227th start on TOUR and his 3rd start at the Sony Open in Hawaii. Cabrera's best finish came in 2010, T-25th.

Angel Cabrera led the TOUR for proximity to the hole on approach shots from 175-200 yards in the 2013-14 PGA TOUR season. Cabrera averaged 28' 7" on approach shots from 175-200 yards. His average of 28' 7" was over 5 feet closer than the TOUR average of 34' 1".

2013/14 Proximity to the Hole Leaders from 175-200 Yards

Rank	Player	Value
1	Angel Cabrera	28' 7"
2	Paul Casey	28' 11"
3	Kevin Chappell	29' 1"
3	Justin Rose	29' 1"
3	Chad Campbell	29' 1"
3	John Peterson	29' 1"

Robert Streb

FedExCup standings leader Robert Streb takes a 59 point lead over Sang-Moon Bae headed into the Sony Open. Entering week #8 of the 2014-15 FedExCup Season, all but 1 player has ranked outside of the top 30 in the final FedExCup standings after leading the standings at this point in the season.

FedExCup Finish by Standings Leader Entering Week # 8

Year	Player	FEC Rank Entering Week # 8	FEC Finish
2015	Robert Streb	1st	?
2014	Webb Simpson	1st	25th
2013	Brandt Snedeker	1st	12th
2012	Kyle Stanley	1st	31st
2011	Mark Wilson	1st	22nd
2010	Dustin Johnson	1st	5th
2009	Kenny Perry	1st	9th
2008	Phil Mickelson	1st	7th
2007	Charles Howell III	1st	18th

No player has won the FedExCup by leading after the 7th week of each respected FedExCup season.

The best finish by a player who led entering week # 8 was Dustin Johnson. Dustin finished the season ranked 5th in the FEC standings in 2010.

In 6 starts of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season, Robert Streb leads all players with 4 top 10's. Streb also leads the TOUR in most rounds in the 60's (16 of 24 rounds).

Most Top 10's 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season

Rank	Player	Top 10
1	Robert Streb	4
T2	Sang-Moon Bae	3
T2	Hideki Matsuyama	3
T4	11 Players	2

Most Rounds in 60's 2014-15 PGA TOUR

Rank	Player	Rds in 60's
1	Robert Streb	16
T2	Tony Finau	11
T2	Kyle Reifers	11
T2	Jason Bohn	11

Matt Kuchar

Mat Kuchar makes his 4th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season and is in search of his first top 10. Matt makes his 12th start at the Sony Open in Hawaii and has finished inside the top 10 in his last 3 starts (2011-T5, 2013-T5 & 2014-T8).

FedExCup Ranks Since 2010

Year	FEC Finish
Currently	46th
2014	8th
2013	6th
2012	18th
2011	6th
2010	2nd

Matt Kuchar currently ranks 46th in the FedExCup standings and is in search of his 6th consecutive trip to the TOUR Championship.

Kuchar has ranked inside of the top 10 in the FEC standings in 4 of the last 5 PGA TOUR seasons.

Matt Kuchar Career Driving Accuracy (Since 2007)

Year	Driving Accuracy
2014	67.37% (20th)
2013	58.93% (124th)
2012	65.06% (42nd)
2011	64.75% (52nd)
2010	67.89% (39th)
2009	65.99% (66th)
2008	65.53% (73rd)
2007	66.20% (56th)

Since 2007, Matt Kuchar has not ranked inside the top 25 in driving accuracy on TOUR.

In 2013, Kuchar ranked 124th on TOUR hitting 716 of 1,215 possible fairways. However in 2014, Kuchar made a big improvement in driving accuracy ranking 20th hitting 830 of 1,232 possible fairways.

Most Improved Driving Accuracy Ranks 2013 to 2014

Player	2013 Rank	2014 Rank	Improvement
Shawn Stefani	164th	53rd	+111
Matt Kuchar	124th	20th	+104
John Merrick	104th	15th	+89
Ben Crane	95th	29th	+66
Andrew Svoboda	97th	31st	+66
Chad Campbell	100th	35th	+65

Matt Kuchar is the 2nd most improved in driving accuracy on TOUR since the 2013 PGA TOUR season. Kuchar went from 124th on TOUR in 2013 to 20th in 2014 improving 104 positions in driving accuracy.

Webb Simpson

Webb Simpson makes his 6th appearance at the Sony Open in Hawaii and currently ranks 49th in the race for the FedExCup.

Webb Simpson Tee-to-Green Stats 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season

Stat	Rank	Value
Strokes Gained: T2G	7th	+1.83
Greens In Regulation	4th	81.25%
Total Driving	15th	138
Ball Striking	2nd	19

Webb Simpson currently ranks inside the top 15 in a number of different stats, including strokes gained: tee-to-green. Webb ranks 7th in strokes gained: tee-to-green, outperforming the TOUR by nearly 2 shots per round (+1.83).

Luke Donald

Luke Donald is making his 8th Sony Open in Hawaii appearance and first since 2010. In 7 starts, Donald has 1 top 10, 5 top 25's and 2 missed cuts.

Most under par on Par 3's at Sony Open since 1983

Player	Score to Par
Donald, Luke	-13
Campbell, Chad	-12
Els, Ernie	-11
Levin, Spencer	-11
Charles Howell III	-10
Brent Geiberger	-10

Luke Donald is a combined 13 under par on the par 3's at Waialae CC. Donald's 13 under par is the best at the Sony Open in Hawaii since 1983.

Season Leaders – Strokes Gained: Putting In the ShotLink Era

Year	Season Leader – SG: Putting	SG	TOUR Average
2014	McDowell, Graeme	+0.89	---
2013	Chalmers, Greg	+0.86	---
2012	Snedeker, Brandt	+0.86	---
2011	Donald, Luke	+0.84	---
2010	Donald, Luke	+0.87	---
2009	Donald, Luke	+0.93	---
2008	Pavin, Corey	+0.97	---
2007	Parnevik, Jesper	+0.97	---
2006	Crane, Ben	+0.99	---
2005	Crane, Ben	+0.93	---
2004	Scott, Adam	+0.88	---

Luke Donald is the only player who has led in 3 seasons of Strokes Gained: Putting.

Donald has led 5 events in his career on TOUR in strokes gained: putting (since 2004).

Jason Day

Jason Day is coming off of a T-3rd finish at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions. His final round of 62 at the Plantation Course was his career low on the PGA TOUR. Day's final round 62 included 11 birdies and no bogeys on the par 73 layout.

At the Hyundai TOC, Day ranked 2nd in greens in regulation. For the week, Day hit 64 of 72 GIR's including 17 of 18 in rounds 1 & 4. Day's total of 64 GIR's marked his most greens hit in an event in his PGA TOUR career.

Jason Day Career Best Greens in Regulation in an Event

Year	Tournament	Greens Hit
2015	Hyundai TOC	64
2013	AT&T Pebble Beach	62
2008	Shriners Hospitals for Children Open	57
2011	Hyundai TOC	56
2006	U.S. Bank Championship	56

In 2013, Jason Day struggled with his irons from 150 yards and in. Day ranked outside of the top 70 in proximity to the hole from 75-100 yards, 50-125 yards and 125-150 yards. However, in the 2013/14 PGA TOUR season Jason ranked inside the top 10 in all 3 categories averaging several feet closer to the flagstick in proximity.

Jason Day Proximity to the Hole 2013 vs 2013/14 Season

Stat	2013 Rank	2013 Value	2013/14 Rank	2013/14 Value
75-100 Yards	T70	16' 6"	2nd	12' 11"
50-125 Yards	T87	18' 4"	T9	16' 7"
125-150 Yards	T166	25' 3"	1st	18' 7"

Jason Day Holes Played Per 3-Putt on PGA TOUR

Year	Rank	3-Putts	Total Holes	Holes Played Per 3-Putt
2014	2nd	15	864	58
2013	T45	39	1440	37
2012	134 th	33	990	30
2011	73 rd	38	1314	35
2010	T142	52	1476	28
2009	T70	30	1098	37
2008	T42	39	1458	37

Despite playing fewer holes last year, Jason Day had just 15 total 3-putts in 864 stroke play holes ranking 2nd on TOUR in this category.

His 58 holes per 3-putt marked a career best on the PGA TOUR and was a vast improvement over his 2013 performance of one 3-putt every 37 holes played.

Harris English

Harris English is making his 4th appearance at the Sony Open in Hawaii and is coming off back-to-back top 10 finishes at this event in 2013 (T9) & 2014 (4th). Harris is making his 5th appearance of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season and currently ranks 96th in the FedExCup standings.

Harris English made several improvements in his game in the 2014 PGA TOUR season. English went from 63rd in greens in regulation to 17th in the 2014 PGA TOUR season. English also improved his strokes gained: tee-to-green performance going from gaining a tenth of a stroke to nearly a full stroke on the TOUR in 2014.

Harris English 2013 vs 2014 PGA TOUR Season

Stat	2014 Rank	2014 Stat	2013 Rank	2013 Stat
Driving Distance	T26th	299.2	35th	295.2
Greens in Regulation	17th	68.36%	63rd	66.02%
Strokes Gained: Tee-to-Green	26th	+0.704	87th	+0.077
Scoring Average	20th	70.09	40th	70.44
Total Driving	33rd	132	T64th	164
Ball Striking	19th	50	58th	127

K.J. Choi

2008 Sony Open in Hawaii champion, K.J. Choi makes his 14th appearance recording 1 win, 3 top 10's and 6 top 25 finishes.

K.J. Choi has made solid improvements with his putting since the 2012 PGA TOUR season. K.J. went from 172nd in strokes gained: putting losing -.383 strokes per round to 36th in the 2013 season to 26th in the 2013-14 PGA TOUR season.

K.J. Choi Strokes Gained: Putting since 2012

Year	Rank	Value
2013-14	26th	+.335
2013	36th	+.338
2012	172nd	-.383