



**2015 The Honda Classic** (The 15th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

# Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.Feb. 26 - March 1, 2014Purse: \$6,100,000 (\$1,098,000/winner)PGA National (Champion Course)Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,140

## FINAL Second-Round Notes – Saturday, February 28, 2015

Weather: Cloudy, with rain off and on throughout the day. High of 73 degrees, with N/NE winds 10-20 mph.

Due to a dangerous weather situation, the second round was delayed Friday for two hours, eight minutes, from 8:23 a.m. until 10:31 a.m. Play was suspended for a second time at 10:55 a.m., due to lightning in the area. The second round resumed again at 12:31 p.m. The second suspension lasted one hour, 36 minutes.

Due to darkness, Friday's second round was suspended for the day at 6:12 p.m., with the entire afternoon wave remaining on the course. Players were back in position to complete their round at 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning. The second round ended at 11:39 a.m. and the third round began at 12:00 p.m.

The Honda Classic is the seventh event of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season to face a weather- or darkness-related suspension.

Since moving to PGA National in 2007, this marks the third time the event has been subject to a weather suspension; R4/2011 and R4/2012.

#### Second-Round Leaderboard

Padraig Harrington	67-66—133 (-7)
Patrick Reed	67-67—134 (-6)
Ian Poulter	71-64—135 (-5)
Brendan Steele	66-69-135 (-5)

#### Padraig Harrington

When the second round resumed at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, 2005 Honda Classic champion Padraig Harrington returned to his seventh hole (No. 16) of the round. Harrington would post a 4-under 66 and get to 7-under 133.

Harrington has previously had a 36-hole lead/co-lead five times, most recently the 2010 Valspar Championship (finished T8). None of his 36-hole leads/co-leads materialized into victory.

En route to his 2005 Honda Classic win, Harrington began the third round 10 strokes back at 2-under (Country Club at Mirasol).

Playing on a sponsor exemption, Harrington is making his seventh start in The Honda Classic, and is coming off a missed cut last year.

Following his first TOUR win at The Honda Classic in 2005, Harrington went on to win the 2005 Barclays, 2007-2008 Open Championship and 2008 PGA Championship (Five TOUR wins). The 2015 Honda Classic marks his 119<sup>th</sup> start since that last victory at Oakland Hills Country Club.

Harrington has made three cuts in eight starts this season, with a T56 at last week's Northern Trust Open being his best finish.

Harrington is in search of first top-10 finish since a T10 at the 2013 FedEx St. Jude Classic.

#### Second-Round Lead Notes

Since moving to PGA National in 2007, the only winners of the event to have had a hand on the 36-hole lead were Y.E. Yang in 2009 and Camilo Villegas in 2010.



Through 14 events on the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, the only second-round leader/co-leader to parlay that position into a win was Brandt Snedeker at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am two weeks ago.

After 36 holes last year, Rory McIlroy led by one at 11-under 129 over Brendon de Jonge.

## Patrick Reed

Patrick Reed rebounded from a double-bogey six at his second hole of the day, No. 11, with five birdies to post a second-consecutive, 3-under 67.

Reed returns to Trump National Doral next week to defend his title at the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship.

Reed is making his third-consecutive start at The Honda Classic, having previously finished T58 in 2013 and T24 last year.

Reed is making his seventh start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, where he claimed his fourth TOUR title in playoff fashion at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

## **Brendan Steele**

Brendan Steele made it through just four holes in round two Friday before darkness suspended play for the day, but he did so in stellar fashion, making birdie on all four holes. On Saturday morning, Steele played Nos. 5-9 bogey-birdie-bogey-bogey-birdie. His first par of the round didn't come until the par-4 10<sup>th</sup>.

Steele is making his fifth consecutive start in The Honda Classic this week. Although he has never missed a cut at PGA National, he has also never broken par in either weekend round.

Steele is looking for his second career TOUR win this week, having previously won the 2011 Valero Texas Open.

Steele is making his eighth start of the season this week, with a T2 at the Humana Challenge his lone top 10. He is coming off T14 honors at last week's Northern Trust Open, thanks to back-to-back 69s on the weekend.

## Luke Donald

2006 Honda Classic champion Luke Donald offset two bogeys with five birdies in round three, good for a 3-under 67. At four-under through 36 holes, he trails clubhouse lead by two strokes.

Donald is making his eighth start in the Honda Classic this week, having finished in the top 10 in each of his last three starts at PGA National; 2008/2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011/T10 and 2014/T8.

Donald is in search of his sixth career PGA TOUR win this week, and first since the 2012 Valspar Championship.

Donald is making his sixth start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week and is coming off three straight missed cuts at the Humana Challenge, Farmers Insurance Open and last week's Northern Trust Open.

## Phil Mickelson

Following a 1-over 71, Phil Mickelson began his second round Friday at 3:50 p.m. He was able to get in seven holes before play was suspended for the day. Mickelson would post a 3-under 67 and will take a 2-under 138 into the third round.

## **Rory McIlroy**

Rory McIlroy followed a 2-over 73 in round one with a 74 in Friday's second round, costing him a job for the weekend.

Since posting over-par scores in all four rounds of the 2011 Honda Classic, this marks just the second he has opened a PGA TOUR event (outside the majors) with consecutive, over-par scores. McIlroy began the 2013 BMW Championship with rounds of 78-77 (13-over).

This week's Honda Classic was Rory's first missed cut on the PGA TOUR since the 2013 Open Championship, a span of 23 starts.

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## **Russell Henley**

Defending Honda Classic champion Russell Henley struggled in round one with a 3-over 73, but managed an even-par 70 in round two, despite being 4-over through seven holes in the round.

At 3-over 143, Henley will begin the third round 10 strokes back.

## **Miscellaneous Notes**

Four of the world's top-10 ranked players are competing at this year's Honda Classic:PlayerOWGRR2 Score/Pos.Rory McIlroy1MCSergio Garcia6+2/T27Justin Rose8MCMartin Kaymer10+3/T42

The week of The Honda Classic offers the final opportunity to qualify for the following week's World Golf Championships event, the Cadillac Championship down the road at Trump National Doral. Players not previously eligible can qualify by being inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking (players inside the top 50 in the OWGR as of 2/23/15 cannot drop out) or the top 10 or the FedExCup standings following The Honda Classic.

Scoring Averages at the par-70 PGA National:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.690	36.592	72.282	
R2:	35.784	36.597	72.381	72.342

Through two rounds, the par-14<sup>th</sup> has played the toughest, yielding a 4.431 average, with the par-5 18<sup>th</sup> hole (4.698) being the easiest.

"Bear Trap" averages through 36 holes – No. 15  $(3.139/9^{th} \text{ toughest})$ , No. 16  $(4.235/6^{th} \text{ toughest})$ , No. 17  $(3.263/5^{th} \text{ toughest})$ .

Bogey-free Rounds: R1: Jim Herman (65), Daniel Berger (68). R2: None