



2015 Valspar Championship

(The 18th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Tampa Bay, Fla.

March 9-15, 2015

Purse: \$5,900,000 (winner: \$1,062,000)

Innisbrook Resort & GC (Copperhead Course)

Par/Yards: 36-35 - 71/7,340

First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 12, 2015

Weather: Partly cloudy, with a high of 85 degrees. Winds SW 10-15 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

| Position | Name | Score |
|----------|--------------|---------|
| 1 | Brian Davis | 65 (-6) |
| T2 | Ricky Barnes | 66 (-5) |
| T2 | Sean O'Hair | 66 (-5) |

Brian Davis

Following bogeys on his 16th and 17th holes (Nos. 7 and 8), England's Brian Davis chipped in for birdie from just off the green at his last to take sole possession of the lead at 6-under 65.

Davis hit 12 of 13 greens in regulation (92.3 percent), missing slightly right on the par-5 11th hole.

Despite 10 consecutive starts in the Valspar Championship, a top-25 finish in the event has eluded Davis. His strongest showing at Innisbrook is a T28 in 2011. Davis Missed last year's cut.

In his last four rounds on the Copperhead Course before today, Davis is 16-over.

In 33 competitive rounds at the Valspar Championship, Davis' 65 is his lowest score by three strokes.

Davis is making his 13th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, with a T6 at the Sony Open in Hawaii his only top-10 finish. In his last start before this week, Davis posted four, over-par scores at The Honda Classic en route to a T58 finish.

Davis is making his 319th start on the PGA TOUR this week, where he remains in search of his first win. He has collected four solo-second-place finishes, most recently at the 2010 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial.

Davis has previously held an 18-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR five times, most recently being at the 2013 Deutsche Bank Championship (finished eighth).

First-Round Lead Notes

The highest first-round score to lead the Valspar Championship is a 3-under 68 last year (four players).

The only first-round leader of the Valspar Championship to hang on for the win has been K.J. Choi in 2002, when he opened with an 8-under 63.

Last year, John Senden opened with a 1-over 72 was four strokes back after the first round, before winning by one stroke over Kevin Na.

Sean O'Hair

In his 11th-consecutive start at the Valspar Championship, 2008 champion Sean O'Hair birdied five of his last nine holes in round one to post his tournament-low-score of 5-under 66. Today's 66 marks just the second occasion in 10 previous starts to have not opened with an over-par score (69/2008).

Before today, O'Hair's only sub-par score at the Copperhead in his last eight rounds was a 3-under 68 in round two of 2013.

O'Hair played the Copperhead's five par threes in four-under-par. He made birdie at Nos. 4,8,13 and 15. O'Hair took par at No. 17.

O'Hair has experienced a love/hate relationship with the Valspar Championship. Prior to his 2008 victory, he missed the cut in 2006 and 2007. Following the win, he missed each ensuing cut from 2009-2012. He finished 69th and 74th in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

O'Hair is making his 10th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, where he remains in search of his first top-10 finish. His best is a share of 17th place at The McGladrey Classic. O'Hair's only top-10 finish last season was a T10 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

O'Hair, a four-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is in search of his first win since the 2011 RBC Canadian Open. Since that win, he has collected just three top-10 finishes.

O'Hair finished outside the top-125 in FedExCup points and official money earnings in 2013 (170 FedExCup points/172 money) and 2014 (160 FedExCup points/156 money). He made his way back on to the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of his 31st-place finish on the 2014 Web.com Tour priority list.

Ricky Barnes

Ricky Barnes birdied four consecutive holes, Nos. 9-12, en route to a 5-under 66, supplanting his previous-best in the event of 67 in round two of 2011.

Barnes is making his fifth start in the Valspar Championship this week. He missed last year's 54-hole cut, as well as the 36-hole cut in 2013. In his last four rounds on the Copperhead coming into the week, he is 10-over par.

Barnes is making his 12th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, and is coming off a missed cut at last week's Puerto Rico Open. Barnes had posted just one sub-par score in his last 10 rounds on the PGA TOUR before today.

Barnes remains in search of his first career PGA TOUR win in his 191st start. His best finish is a share of second at the 2009 U.S. Open with David Duval and Phil Mickelson.

Henrik Stenson

Making his first start in the Valspar Championship, World No. 3 Henrik Stenson made four birdies and no bogeys en route to a 4-under 67.

Stenson hit nine of 13 fairways in regulation (69.2 percent) and just 11 of 18 greens (61.1 percent). He needed 25 putts to complete his round.

Stenson is making his making just his third start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week. Following a T24 at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions in Shanghai in early November, Stenson finished T4 with Adam Scott at last week's WGC-Cadillac Championship.

Stenson, a four-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is looking for his first victory since the 2013 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola en route to taking the FedExCup title.

Three players have won the Valspar Championship in the first start in the event; Gary Woodland (2011), Retief Goosen (2003) and John Huston (2000, first year of event).

Justin Thomas

PGA TOUR rookie Justin Thomas birdied five of his last eight holes, including his final three, to open with a 4-under 67. He opened with nine straight pars on hole Nos. 10-18.

Thomas missed just two of the Copperhead's 13 fairways (84.6 percent) and two greens (88.9 percent).

Thomas earned his rookie card to the PGA TOUR this season as a result of finishing 5th on the 2014 Web.com Tour priority list. On that Tour last year, Thomas claimed seven top-10 finishes, highlighted by a playoff victory at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship.

Thomas is making his 12th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season this week, having already amassed three top-10 finishes; T4/Sanderson Farms Championship, T6/Sony Open in Hawaii and T7/Humana Challenge.

Today's 67 marks Thomas' first sub-par score in his last five rounds on the PGA TOUR.

Miscellaneous Notes

Shawn Stefani opened with a 3-under 68 in his second start at the Valspar Championship. In 2013, Stefani opened with a 6-under 65 and led Brian Harman by two strokes. Stefani would go on to finish T7, his first of six top-10 finishes in 50 career PGA TOUR starts headed into this week.

Making his PGA TOUR debut this week, the world's No. 1 amateur Ollie Schniederjans made a 29-foot birdie at his last hole of the day, No. 18, to open with an even-par 71.

In 11 previous starts at the Valspar Championship, Jonathan Byrd (74) has collected a tournament record six top-20 finishes. His best among them is a T4 in 2006. He has never missed a cut in the event and finished no worse than T44 (2004, 2005).

K.J. Choi (2002 and 2006) and Retief Goosen (2003 and 2009) are the only multiple winners of the Valspar Championship and both are in the field this week. Choi nearly won for a third time, finishing runner-up to Jim Furyk in 2010.

Ten of the 12 different past champions are in the field this week: John Senden/2014 (74), Kevin Streelman/2013 (68), Luke Donald/2012 (72), Gary Woodland/2011 (74), Jim Furyk/2010 (69), Retief Goosen/2009, 2003 (73), Sean O'Hair/2008 (66), K.J. Choi/2006, 2002 (74), Carl Pettersson/2005 (71) and Vijay Singh/2004 (69).

The last five winners of the Valspar Championship have all finished the season of their win inside the top 25 in FedExCup standings, highlighted by Jim Furyk winning the FedExCup title in 2010.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Henrik Stenson (67), Brendon de Jonge (67), John Peterson (68).

Snake Pit Statistics:

| Hole | Rank | Scoring Average |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 16 | 2 | 4.181 |
| 17 | 6 | 3.097 |
| 18 | 11 | 4.035 |

Scoring Averages at the par-71 Copperhead Course:

| | Front 9 | Back 9 | Total | Cumulative |
|----|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| R1 | 36.083 | 35.250 | 71.333 | -- |

First-round scoring average on the Copperhead Course since 2009:

| | |
|------|--------|
| 2014 | 72.646 |
| 2013 | 73.071 |
| 2012 | 70.667 |
| 2011 | 70.819 |
| 2010 | 72.188 |
| 2009 | 71.625 |

The par-5 first hole was the easiest in round one with an average of 4.625. The toughest hole was the par-4 10th hole, which played to an average of 4.208.