



2015 Zurich Classic of New Orleans
(The 24th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Avondale, La.
TPC Louisiana

April 20-26, 2015
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425

FedExCup Points: 500
Purse: \$6,900,000/\$1,242,000

FINAL First-Round Notes – Friday, April 24, 2015

Weather

Mostly cloudy on Friday, with an expected high of 82 degrees. Winds E/SE 10-18 mph.

Due to heavy rain, the first round was suspended Thursday for 1 hour, 18 minutes, from 2:12 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. CT. Play was suspended due to darkness for the day at 7:33 p.m., with 12 players remaining on the course. Those players were back in position Friday at 8:00 a.m., with the second round beginning as scheduled at 7:00 a.m. Round one ended at 8:25 a.m.

Due to the excessive amount of rain the course had taken on in the past week, coupled with the likeliness of more this week, preferred lies in closely-mown areas are in effect for rounds one and two.

First-Round Leaderboard

Boo Weekley	64 (-8)
Brendon de Jonge	64 (-8)
David Hearn	65 (-7)
Sean O'Hair	65 (-7)

Brendon de Jonge

Brendon de Jonge opened the 2015 Zurich Classic of New Orleans with an 8-under 64, sharing the first-round clubhouse lead with Boo Weekley. It marks his best round on TOUR since a second-round 64 during the second round of the 2014 McGladrey Classic.

This week marks de Jonge's seventh start at the Zurich Classic, with a T18 in 2012 and T26 in 2011 marking his only two made cuts (missed in 2007, 2009, 2010, 2013). His previous-best score at TPC Louisiana was a final-round 66 in 2012.

This week marks the 225th start on TOUR for de Jonge, with runner-up finishes at the 2012 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and earlier this year at The McGladrey Classic (a playoff loss) marking his career-best finishes.

In round one, de Jonge hit 12 of 14 fairways in regulation (85.7 percent), 15 of 18 greens (83.3 percent) and needed 25 putts.

This marks the fifth time de Jonge has held at least a share of the 18-hole lead on the PGA TOUR. The previous four were also co-leads, eventually finishing T28 at the 2007 U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee, T33 at the 2010 U.S. Open, T3 at the 2013 Sanderson Farms Championship and T13 at the 2011 Sanderson Farms Championship.

Boo Weekley

Making his eighth start at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, Florida panhandle native Boo Weekley opened with an eagle, seven birdies and one bogey (No. 9) en route to an 8-under 64. On the way to his best finish of T6 in 2013, Weekley opened with a 7-under 65.

Weekley's 64 is his lowest score since an 8-under 63 in the final round of the 2013 Valspar Championship.

In round one, Weekley hit 11 of 14 fairways in regulation (78.6 percent) and 14 of 18 greens (77.8 percent). He took 26 putts to complete his round.

Historically, Weekley has been one of the PGA TOUR's best ball strikers, though he has progressively dropped year after year. At season's end from 2011-2014, he was ranked 1st, 5th, 6th and 20th, respectively, in the greens in regulation category. Through 12 events so far this year, Weekley sits No. 102, finding just 62 percent of greens.

Weekley is in search of his fourth career PGA TOUR title this week, and first since the 2013 Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial. Weekley also won the 2007 and 2008 RBC Heritage.

Weekley is making his 13th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR Season, one in which he has collected three top-10 finishes, highlighted by a share of second at the Sanderson Farms Championship in November.

Weekley has struggled coming into this week. In his last four starts, he missed the cut in the first three and finished T75 at last week's RBC Heritage. Today's 64 is just his second, sub-70 score in his last 11 rounds.

This marks Weekley's second first-round lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR. He eventually finished T4 after holding the outright opening-round lead at the 2008 FedEx St. Jude Classic.

First-Round Statistics

The first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win in New Orleans twice in the last five years (Jason Bohn/2010 and Bubba Watson/2011). Last year, Seung-Yul Noh was three strokes back after a 7-under 65.

Only three of 23 first-round leaders on the PGA TOUR this season have been able to convert for the win in stroke-play events. Most recently, Jordan Spieth achieved the feat at the Masters Tournament two weeks ago.

David Hearn

After birdies on six of his first seven holes, Canada's David Hearn posted a 7-under 65. His lone bogey of the day came at the par-3 17th hole.

Hearn is making his sixth start in the Zurich Classic of New Orleans this week and has yet to miss a cut. His best finish is a T21 in 2013.

In 21 rounds in the event now, Hearn has only posted three over-par scores, his last coming in round two of 2012.

Hearn is making his 157th TOUR start this week, and the 16th of the season. His lone top-10 finish this season is a T7 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. Hearn remains in search of his first win on TOUR.

Sean O'Hair

Sean O'Hair continued his excellent play of late with a 7-under 65, one week after closing the RBC Heritage with a final-round 64. O'Hair has recorded both of his top-10 finishes this season in his last four starts, losing in a playoff at the Valspar Championship and finishing sixth last week at Harbour Town Golf Links.

Erik Compton

For the second-straight year, Erik Compton opened with a 6-under 66 at TPC Louisiana. Last year, he followed that opening-round score with 68-72-68, good for a share of fifth place.

In his fourth-consecutive start in the event, Compton made six birdies and no bogeys.

Making his 122nd start on the PGA TOUR and 14th this season, Compton remains in search of his first TOUR win. His closest brush with the winner's circle came at last year's U.S. Open at Pinehurst, where he claimed a share of second place with Rickie Fowler.

Compton is a two-time heart transplant recipient, who took up the game of golf as a teenager as part of his recovery process.

Freddie Jacobson

As his record streak of three-putt avoidance continued, Freddie Jacobson needed just 20 putts in round one en route to a 4-under 68. Jacobson, who needed just a single putt on 14 holes, began the week with 524 straight holes without a three-putt. After yesterday's 68, he is now at 542, a PGA TOUR record.

Miscellaneous Notes

Defending Zurich Classic of New Orleans champion Seung-Yul Noh opened with a 1-over 73. Since 2000, no player has successfully defended his title at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, and just two have followed their win with a top-20 finish the following year.

Jason Day posted a 5-under 67 in round one. Day is making a return to New Orleans and the event for the third time and first since T32 in 2009. He missed the cut in 2008. Day is in search of his second win of the season (Farmers Insurance Open).

Making just his second start on the Zurich Classic of New Orleans and first since missing the cut in 2008, Dustin Johnson opened with a 5-under 67.

World No. 9 Justin Rose posted a 3-under 69 in Thursday's first round, his seventh-consecutive start in the Zurich Classic of New Orleans and 10th overall. Rose now extends his string of consecutive, sub-par scores at TPC Louisiana to 12. Dating to 2012, Rose is now 41-under-par at TPC Louisiana.

Since moving to TPC Louisiana in 2008, Rose's best finish is a T8 from last year. In his first start in the event in 2004, Rose finished T5 at English Turn G&CC.

Shreveport resident and former LSU All-America David Toms (72) is making his 22nd career start at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans. He won in 2001 and has three top-10 finishes in New Orleans.

Former LSU golfers John Peterson (70), Curtis Thompson (73) and Andrew Loupe (74) are also in this week's field. Thompson is the younger brother of Nicholas Thompson (72).

Seven of the past 10 winners of the Zurich Classic of New Orleans made the win their maiden victory on TOUR; Tim Petrovic/2005, Chris Couch/2006, Nick Watney/2007, Andres Romero/2008, Jason Dufner/2012, Billy Horschel/2013 and Seung-Yul Noh/2014.

There are eight past Zurich Classic of New Orleans winners in this week's field: Seung-Yul Noh/2014 (73), Billy Horschel/2013 (71), Jason Bohn/2010 (72), Jerry Kelly/2009 (70), Andres Romero/2008 (71), Nick Watney/ 2007 (70), K.J. Choi/2002 (67) and David Toms/2001 (72).

The Zurich Classic of New Orleans is the penultimate PGA TOUR event for players, not previously eligible, to earn a start in THE PLAYERS in one of three ways: 1) moving into the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking; 2) winning the Zurich Classic of New Orleans; and 3) moving into the top 10 in the FedExCup standings.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Brendon de Jonge (64), Erik Compton (66), Derek Ernst (67), Chad Campbell (67), K.J. Choi (67), Hudson Swafford (67), Chesson Hadley (67), Dustin Johnson (67), Kevin Kisner (69), Bernd Wiesberger (69), Robert Allenby (70), Will Wilcox (70).

Scoring Averages:	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.417	35.468	70.885	---

The par-3 17th hole played the most difficult in round one, with an average of 3.321. The easiest was the par-5 7th hole, with an average of 4.596.