



# 2015 Zurich Classic of New Orleans

(The 24<sup>th</sup> of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Avondale, La. April 20-26, 2015 FedExCup Points: 500
TPC Louisiana Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425 Purse: \$6,900,000/\$1,242,000

COMPLETED Second-Round Notes – Saturday, April 25, 2015

#### Weather

Mostly cloudy, with a high of 83 degrees. Winds SSW 10-20 mph. Due to an impending afternoon storm on Friday, play was suspended for the day at 4:30 p.m. The entire afternoon wave of players were back in position Saturday morning, beginning play at 7:59 a.m. The second round was completed at 10:15 a.m., with the third round consisting of threesomes off of split tees beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Due to wet conditions, preferred lies in closely-mown areas were in effect for the first three rounds.

#### 36-hole cut

71 players at 5-under 139 from a field of 156 professionals, marking the lowest cut in relation to par since the 2008 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (6-under 138).

#### **Second-Round Leaderboard**

 Jason Day
 67-65—132 (-12)

 Hudson Swafford
 67-66—133 (-11)

 Daniel Berger
 66-67—133 (-11)

 Chris Stroud
 67-66—133 (-11)

### **Jason Day**

Jason Day followed an opening-round 5-under 67 with a 7-under 65 to move into sole possession of the lead at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans. At 12-under 132, he'll carry a one-stroke lead into the final two rounds over Hudson Swafford, Daniel Berger and Chris Stroud.

This marks the sixth time Day has held the lead/co-lead following the second round on the PGA TOUR:

2009 Puerto Rico Open (finished T2)

2010 Barclays (finished T5)

2010 Deutsche Bank Championship (finished T2)

2013 Masters Tournament (finished third)

2014 Deutsche Bank Championship (finished T7)

2015 Zurich Classic of New Orleans (TBD)

Day is making a return to New Orleans and the event for the third time (T32-2009, MC-2008).

Day, a perfect 8 for 8 in made cuts this season, is in search of his second win of the year (Farmers Insurance Open). Most recently, he finished T28 at the Masters Tournament with rounds of 67-74-71-75.

Day through two rounds: 19 of 28 fairways hit, 27 of 36 greens hit, 52 putts.

## **Second-Round Lead Notes**

The second-round leader/co-leader has won four of the last six times in New Orleans (Jerry Kelly/2009, Jason Bohn/2010, Bubba Watson/2011 and Jason Dufner/2012). Last year, Seung-Yul was four strokes back at 11-under 133 after 36 holes. In 2013, Billy Horschel was six strokes off the lead after round two.

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

## **Hudson Swafford**

Bogey-free through 36 holes, University of Georgia alum Hudson Swafford heads into the weekend in search of his first career PGA TOUR win in his 44<sup>th</sup> start. His best finish is T8 at this season's Frys.com Open.

Swafford is among those players in this week's field vying for one of the few remaining spots in the PLAYERS Championship field in two weeks.

Swafford is making his 17<sup>th</sup> start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR, one in which he began strong. His top-10 finish at the Frys.com Open in his first start of the season was followed by a T18 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and a T12 at The McGladrey Classic in the two ensuing, respective weeks.

Swafford has not played especially well headed into this week, having missed four cuts in his last seven starts. He comes to TPC Louisiana on the heels of a T44 finish at last week's RBC Heritage.

On the Web.com Tour, Swafford won once, the 2012 Stadion Classic at UGA.

In his rookie season on the PGA TOUR last year, Swafford missed the cut at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, following rounds of 73-72—145.

In round two, Swafford hit nine of 14 fairways (64.3 percent) and 15 of 18 greens for the second straight day (83.3 percent). He needed 27 putts to complete his round.

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

With just one bogey through two rounds (No. 3 in round one), Daniel Berger enters the final two rounds T2 and trailing Jason Day by one stroke.

Chris Stroud, currently T2, enjoyed his best finish of the season earlier this month at the Shell Houston Open (T17). His last top-10 finish was T4 at the 2014 Greenbrier Classic.

Marc Leishman made eight birdies in a 10-hole stretch en route to a second-round 9-under 63, two shy of the Zurich Classic record of 61 set by Paul Stankowski in 2001 (R1). He birdied Nos. 2, 3, 7, 9-13, 15 and 16.

With a 3-putt at his first hole of round two (No. 10), Freddie Jacobson's streak without a 3-putt ended at 542.

Making just his second start on the Zurich Classic of New Orleans and first since missing the cut in 2008, Dustin Johnson (T23) is at 7-under through 36 holes (67-70).

World No. 9 Justin Rose followed a 3-under 69 in Thursday's first round with a 6-under 66 Friday to move to T13. This is his seventh-consecutive start in the Zurich Classic of New Orleans and 10<sup>th</sup> overall. Rose now extends his string of consecutive, sub-par scores at TPC Louisiana to 12. Dating to 2012, Rose is now 47-underpar at TPC Louisiana.

Shreveport resident and former LSU All-America David Toms (T49) is making his 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 (T36), Curtis Thompson (MC) and Andrew Loupe (MC) are also in this week's field. Thompson is the younger brother of Nicholas Thompson (MC).

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: Jerry Kelly/2009 (T5), K.J. Choi/2002 (T23), Billy Horschel/2013 (T49), David Toms/2001 (T49), Jason Bohn/2010 (MC), Andres Romero/2008 (MC), Nick Watney/ 2007 (MC) and Seung-Yul Noh/2014 (WD).

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.

Defending Zurich Classic of New Orleans champion Seung-Yul Noh withdrew after eight holes in round two with a back injury. Other players who withdrew during the second round: Robert Garrigus, Robert Allenby, S.J. Park, Richard Sterne, Bill Lunde.

#### **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).

R2: Jerry Kelly (64), Jason Day (65), Cameron Tringale (65), Carl Pettersson (66), Tommy Gainey (66), Hudson Swafford (66), Retief Goosen (66), Tommy Gainey (66), Morgan Hoffmann (66), Justin Rose (66), John Senden (67), Bryce Molder (67), John Senden (67), Daniel Berger (67), Steven Bowditch (67), Andrew Putnam (68), Harris English (68), Nicholas Thompson (68), Bernd Wiesberger (68), Harris English (68), Rickie Fowler (68), Scott Brown (68), Nick Taylor (69), Michael Putnam (69), Keegan Bradley (70), Russell Knox (70), Brian Davis (71).

Scoring Averages:	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.417	35.468	70.885	
R2:	34.547	35.053	69.600	70.255

The par-4 12<sup>th</sup> hole played the most difficult through two rounds (4.134). The easiest hole has been the par-5 seventh at 4.542.