



2015 Sanderson Farms Championship

(The fifth of 43 events in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season)

Jackson, Miss.
CC of Jackson

November 5-8, 2015
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,354

FedExCup Points: 300/winner
Purse: \$4,100,000 (\$738,000/winner)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, July 31, 2014

Weather: Cloudy, with showers off and on throughout the day. High of 81 degrees. Winds SSW 7-14 mph.

Round one play was suspended Thursday due to darkness at 5:14 p.m. with nine players on the course. Those remaining players resumed play at 7:30 a.m. Friday and concluded at 8:00 a.m. The second round began as scheduled at 6:40 a.m.

Due to wet course conditions, preferred lies in closely-mown areas were in effect for round one.

First-Round Leaderboard

Roberto Castro 62 (-10)
Aaron Baddeley 64 (-8)
Bryce Molder 64 (-8)

Roberto Castro

Following a 10th-place finish on the Web.com Tour priority list, Roberto Castro makes a return to the PGA TOUR this season for a fifth-consecutive season.

In round one today, Castro made 10 birdies and no bogeys en route to his PGA TOUR career-low 62.

At last year's Web.com Tour Championship, Castro was T56 through 54 holes, before firing a course-record-tying, 8-under 62 on the Dye Valley Course at TPC Sawgrass to finish T10. Castro also tied the TPC Sawgrass' Stadium Course record with a 9-under 63 in round one of the 2013 PLAYERS Championship (T19). Greg Norman and Fred Couples were the others to have posted a 63 on the Stadium Course.

In the tournament's short history at the Country Club of Jackson, which began last year, 7-under 65 was the tournament course record; Sebastian Cappelen (R1/2014) and Peter Uihlein (R4/2014).

While he hit just eight of 14 fairways in regulation in round one, Castro hit 16 of 17 greens (No. 10, long and left). He took 25 putts to complete his round.

Castro, who first joined the PGA TOUR in 2012, is making his 103rd start on TOUR this week. His best finish is solo-second at the 2013 Quicken Loans National.

Castro has previously held an 18-hole lead/co-lead three times, most recently at the 2013 Quicken Loans National. His second-place finish there marked the only time of the three that he finished inside the top 15 after holding a share of the opening-round lead.

Since joining the TOUR in 2012, last season marked Castro's first to have not collected at least one top-10 finish. His strongest showing was a share of 23rd at the Barbasol Championship.

Like Bryce Molder, over whom he leads by two, Castro is a Georgia Tech grad. The 2007 Industrial Engineering major graduated six years after Molder.

First-Round Lead Notes

Through three events so far this season, no first-round leader has been able to convert for the win.

First-round leaders at the Sanderson Farms Championship since 2000 who've held on for the win: Bill Haas (2010), D.J. Trahan (2006), John Huston (2003) and Steve Lowery (2000).

Bryce Molder

With birdies on seven of his first 10 holes, Scottsdale, Ariz. resident Bryce Molder posted a bogey-free, 8-under 64, tying his career low round in relation to par from round two of the 2010 Colonial National Invitational Tournament (8-under 62).

Molder is making his fourth start in the Sanderson Farms Championship and first since finishing 71st in 2007.

Molder, who finished 70th in 2014-15 FedExCup points, is making his third start of the 2015-16 Season. He missed the cut in his first two starts at the Frys.com Open and Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Thanks to a pair of top-10 finishes at the Frys.com Open (T3) and The Greenbrier Classic (T6), along with four additional top-25 finishes, Molder made it through three of the four FedExCup Playoffs last season.

Molder is in search of his second career PGA TOUR win (2011 Frys.com Open), an event he won on the sixth hole of sudden death over Briny Baird.

While at Georgia Tech, Molder was a four-time first-team All-American golfer and earned Collegiate Golfer of the Year honors for 2000-2001.

Aaron Baddeley

Beginning on the 10th hole, Australia's Aaron Baddeley made three birdies and an eagle-two (No. 15) on his first seven holes to make the turn in 5-under 31. He added birdies at Nos. 3-5 on his inward nine to post a bogey-free, 8-under 64.

Baddeley's 64 is his lowest round since posting a 7-under 64 in round three of last year's Barbasol Championship (T10). In relation to par, today's 8-under score is his best since opening with an 8-under 64 at the 2013 CareerBuilder Challenge in Palm Springs (T27).

Baddeley had 11 one-putts en route to a total of just 23 strokes with the flat stick, totaling 110' of made putts. He holed a wedge from 38 yards for an eagle-two at the 15th hole.

Baddeley's lone top-10 finish last season was a T10 at the Barbasol Championship.

Baddeley is competing in this week's field out of the Past Champion category. He finished 157th in last season's FedExCup points standings, marking his first time finishing outside the top 125.

Baddeley is making his second start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season this week. At the Frys.com Open, he posted four-consecutive rounds of 1-under 71 to finish T55.

Baddeley is looking for his fourth career PGA TOUR win this week. He won the 2006 RBC Heritage, 2007 Waste Management Phoenix Open and 2011 Northern Trust Open.

In two previous starts at the Sanderson Farms Championship, Baddeley finished T17 in 2005 and missed the cut in 2010, both at Annandale GC.

Adam Hadwin

Canadian Adam Hadwin birdied eight of his first 11 holes (Nos. 10-12, 14, 17-2) en route to a 7-under 65. His lone bogeys came at the par-416th and par-3 4th holes.

In his only other start in the Sanderson Farms Championship, Hadwin opened last year's event with a 2-under 70, but struggled on the weekend with over-par scores of 75-74 to finish T73.

Hadwin makes his return to the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of his 107th-place finish on last year's FedExCup points list. Of his three top-10 finishes on TOUR last season, his best was a T5 at the Colonial National Invitational Tournament. He also finished T7 in his native Canada at the RBC Canadian Open.

Hadwin is a two-time winner on the Web.com Tour (2014, Chile Classic, 2014 Chiquita Classic) and two-time winner on the Mackenzie Tour in Canada (2010 Desert Dunes Classic, 2011 Pacific Colombia Tour Championship).

Still in search of his first career win on the PGA TOUR, Hadwin's closest was T4 honors at the 2011 RBC Canadian Open.

Andres Romero

In his first start back since breaking his wrist at the 2015 Barracuda Championship, Argentina's Andres Romero opened with a 6-under 66, highlighted by an eagle-three at the par-5 11th.

Romero has only this week's event to earn 146 FedExCup points or earn \$125,217 to satisfy his Minor Medical Extension and remain exempt for the remainder of the 2015-16 season.

Romero is making his first start in the Sanderson Farms Championship this week.

Romero, an eight-time winner on international soil, remains in search of his second career win on the PGA TOUR (2008 Zurich Classic of New Orleans).

Miscellaneous

Defending Sanderson Farms Champion **Nick Taylor** opened with a 3-under 69 and is seven strokes off the pace. After last year's first round, he was two strokes back with a 5-under 67.

With his win at last year's Sanderson Farms Championship, Taylor became the first alumni of the Mackenzie Tour to win on the

PGA TOUR since 2013, when it came under the PGA TOUR umbrella.

Taylor is one of two Mackenzie Tour alumni (Tony Finau) to be nominated for PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year in 2014-15.

Taylor played three full seasons on the Mackenzie Tour, accumulating 10 top-10s. In 2013, he finished seventh on the Order of Merit to earn a direct pass into the final stage of the Web.com Tour Q-School.

With his win in Jackson last year, Taylor became the eighth player to have made the Sanderson Farms Championship his first win on TOUR, joining Chris Kirk (2011), DJ Trahan (2006), Luke Donald (2002), Cameron Beckman (2001), Willie Wood (1996), Ed Dougherty (1995) and Brian Henninger (1994).

The Mackenzie Tour announced this week that SportBox Entertainment Group in partnership with the Graham and Ruby DeLaet Foundation will serve as the host organization of the SIGA Dakota Dunes Open, Saskatchewan's Mackenzie Tour event, transitioning from eight years under VMC Sports & Entertainment Group. DeLaet opened with a 6-under 66 in today's first round.

DeLaet's wife Ruby will be induced on Tuesday of next week to give birth to the couple's twins.

The Sanderson Farms Championship has been a precursor to success for many players. Eight players in last year's field won in 2014-15 including **Nick Taylor** (Sanderson Farms Championship), **Ben Martin** (Shriners Hospitals for Children Open), **Robert Streb** (The McGladrey Classic), **James Hahn** (Northern Trust Open), **Padraig Harrington** (The Honda Classic), **Alex Cejka** (Puerto Rico Open), **Scott Piercy** (Barbasol Championship) and **Danny Lee** (The Greenbrier Classic).

All four players nominated for 2014-15 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year were in the Sanderson Farms Championship field last year: **Daniel Berger** (Rookie of the Year), **Tony Finau**, **Nick Taylor** and **Justin Thomas** (won last week's CIMB Classic).

For the fifth time, **Austin Cook** Monday Qualified into a PGA TOUR event, earning a spot in this week's Sanderson Farms Championship. Cook Monday-qualified for the 2014 FedEx St. Jude Classic, his first-ever PGA TOUR start, where he finished T13. He has recorded six top-25 finishes in eight career PGA TOUR starts. The University of Arkansas product is exempt into the final stage of the Web.com Tour Qualifying School (Dec. 10-13) thanks to his finish at the four Web.com Tour Finals events. Cook opened with a 3-under 69.

There are six former Sanderson Farms Championship winners in the field: Nick Taylor/2014 (69), Scott Stallings/2012 (67), Will McKenzie/2008 (71), D.J. Trahan/2006 (67), Heath Slocum/2005 (72) and Cameron Beckman/2001 (70).

Since its 1986 inception, only two players have won the Sanderson Farms Championship more than once; Brian Henninger (1994, 1999) and Fred Funk (1998, 2004).

Troy Matteson withdrew before round one and was replaced in the field by Frank Lickliter II (70). Mark Hensby withdrew before the first round.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Aaron Baddeley (64), Ricky Barnes (68), Cameron Beckman (70), Roberto Castro (62), Brian Davis (65), Steve Flesch (68), Martin Flores (67), Brice Garnett (68), Robert Garrigus (67), Andrew Landry (70), Scott Langley (68), Bryce Molder (64), Henrik Norlander (69), Brett Stegmaier (68), Vaughn Taylor (68), Tyrone Van Aswegen (67), Boo Weekley (68).

Scoring averages at the par-72 Country Club of Jackson:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	35.137	34.732	69.869	