



**2016 Sony Open in Hawaii**  
(9<sup>th</sup> of 47 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

**Honolulu, HI**  
**Waialae Country Club**

**January 14-17, 2016**  
**Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,044**

**Purse: \$5,800,000 (\$1,044,000)**  
**500 FedExCup points to winner**

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, January 14, 2016**

**Weather**

Sunny. High of 83. Winds WSW 5-10 mph.

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Ricky Barnes	63 (-7)
Vijay Singh	63 (-7)
Morgan Hoffmann	63 (-7)
Kevin Kisner	63 (-7)
Brandt Snedeker	63 (-7)
Si Woo Kim	64 (-6)
Zach Johnson	64 (-6)
Charles Howell III	64 (-6)

Ricky Barnes, Vijay Singh, Morgan Hoffmann, Kevin Kisner and Brandt Snedeker carded matching 7-under 63s to share the first-round lead at the Sony Open in Hawaii. By comparison, the best opening-round score at the event is 62, set on six occasions and most recently by Paul Casey and Webb Simpson in 2015.

Five players sharing the first-round lead is the most at the Sony Open since 2010, when six (Ryan Palmer, Zach Johnson, Davis Love III, Troy Merritt, Robert Allenby, John Merrick) shared the 18-hole lead at 5-under 65.

Five players sharing the lead after the first round is the most on TOUR since six players shared the first-round lead at the 2015 Northern Trust Open, including eventual champion James Hahn.

**Leaders' history at Sony Open in Hawaii (not counting 2016)**

Ricky Barnes	6 starts (2009-MC, 2010-T62, 2012-MC, 2013-T20, 2014-T38, 2015-MC)
Vijay Singh	18 starts/4 top 10s (1996-T8, 2004-T10, 2005-Won, 2006-6)
Morgan Hoffmann	3 starts (2013-T67, 2014-T65, 2015-T51)
Kevin Kisner	4 starts (2011-MC, 2012-MC, 2014-MC, 2015-84)
Brandt Snedeker	2 starts (2007-MC, 2008-T69)

**Leaders' history holding the first-round lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR (not counting 2016 Sony Open)**

Ricky Barnes	0 of 1 (2013 Zurich Classic of New Orleans, finished T42)
Vijay Singh	5 of 23 (most recent, 2015 Northern Trust Open, finished 12 <sup>th</sup> )
Morgan Hoffmann	0 of 1 (2015 Arnold Palmer Invitational, finished 4 <sup>th</sup> )
Kevin Kisner	1 of 1 (2015 RSM Classic, won)
Brandt Snedeker	0 of 3 (most recent, 2013 BMW Championship, finished T8)

**Vijay Singh**

Vijay Singh will be 52 years, 10 months and 26 days old Sunday, which would make him the PGA TOUR's oldest winner. Sam Snead holds the current honor, winning the 1965 Wyndham Championship at the age of 52 years, 10 months and 8 days. He is making his 19<sup>th</sup> start at the Sony Open in Hawaii, with his win in 2005 one of four top-10 finishes.

**Ricky Barnes, Morgan Hoffmann**

Ricky Barnes and Morgan Hoffmann are hoping to become the 10<sup>th</sup> player to make the Sony Open in Hawaii their first PGA TOUR win: Ted Makalena (1966), Grier Jones (1972), John Schlee (1973), Gary Groh (1975), Isao Aoki (1983), David Ishii (1990), John Morse (1995), Jerry Kelly (2002), Russell Henley (2013).

**Kevin Kisner**

The RSM Classic champion and current FedExCup leader Kevin Kisner is seeking to become the first multiple winner of the season. Here's a look at his last three starts on TOUR: 2<sup>nd</sup>-2015 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, Won-The RSM Classic, 9<sup>th</sup>-2016 Hyundai Tournament of Champions.



Kisner, including a 7-under 63 Thursday, is a collective 81-under par in six starts this season. Overall, 19 of his 21 rounds have been under-par, with the only exceptions an even-par 71 in the second round of the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and a 1-over 73 in the final round of the CIMB Classic.

**Brandt Snedeker**

Brandt Snedeker's 63 Thursday topped his previous best score at Waialae by five strokes (first-round 68 in 2008). His only other three rounds at the Sony Open in Hawaii were over-par scores.

**First-Round Leader Statistics**

The last first-round leader to go on and win the Sony Open was Ryan Palmer in 2010. A year ago, Paul Casey and Webb Simpson shared the first-round lead at 8-under 62, while eventual champion Jimmy Walker opened with a 4-under 66 and was T12.

In the first eight events of the 2015-16 season, the first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win just once (Kevin Kisner/The RSM Classic).

**Jimmy Walker**

Two-time defending champion Jimmy Walker opened with a 1-under 69 in his bid to become the first player to win three consecutive Sony Open in Hawaii titles. He is one of four players with back-to-back wins at the event – Hubert Green (1978-79), Corey Pavin (1986-87), Ernie Els (2003-04), Walker (2014-15). The last player to win the same event three consecutive years is Steve Stricker at the John Deere Classic (2009-11).

This season marks Walker's 10<sup>th</sup> start at the Sony Open in Hawaii. In addition to his two wins, his other top-10 finish was a fourth place finish in 2011.

Walker's final-round 7-under 63 a year ago was good for a tournament-record nine-stroke win. The previous record for largest margin of victory, seven strokes, belonged to Paul Azinger (2000) and John Huston (1998).

With his final-round 63 in 2015 – and opening-round 69 this week – Walker has extended his streak of rounds in the 60s at Waialae Country Club to 14. Since 2014, Walker is 84-under par in Hawaii's two PGA TOUR events (-43/Hyundai Tournament of Champions, -41/Sony Open in Hawaii).

**Additional Player notes**

Charles Howell III owns eight top-10 finishes and no missed cuts in 14 previous starts at the Sony Open in Hawaii (T8-2014, T3-2013, T2-2012, T5-2010, 4-2009, T2-2007, T3-2005, T4-2002). He opened this week with a 6-under 64, his best start at this event in 15 starts.

Web.com Tour member Haotong Li, who finished T7 at the 2015 HSBC Champions, is playing this week on a sponsor's invitation and opened with a 1-under 69. This marks his fourth PGA TOUR start, with the other two starts leading to a T35 and T39 at the 2014 and 2013 HSBC Champions, respectively.

Steve Stricker, who is making his first start of the 2015-16 Season, owns four top-4 or better finishes in 13 starts at the Sony Open in Hawaii (3<sup>rd</sup>-2010, T4-2008, T4-2007, 3-1996). He opened Thursday with a 1-under 69.

**Miscellaneous Notes**

Past champions: Vijay Singh (63), Zach Johnson (64), Jerry Kelly (65), Ryan Palmer (66), K.J. Choi (67), Johnson Wagner (67), Jimmy Walker (69), Russell Henley (69), Mark Wilson (72)

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Ricky Barnes (63), Vijay Singh (63), Charles Howell III (64), Shane Bertsch (65), David Hearn (65), Jerry Kelly (65), David Lingmerth (65), Robert Garrigus (67)

Scoring Averages at the par-70 Waialae Country Club:

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
R1	34.500	34.333	68.833	---

The par-4 first hole played the toughest during the first round, yielding a 4.299 average. The par-5 ninth hole was the easiest at 4.069.