



2016 The Honda Classic

(The 15th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Feb. 25 – 28, 2016

Purse: \$6,100,000 (\$1,098,000/winner)

PGA National (Champion Course)

Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,140

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, February 27, 2016

Weather: Sunny, with a high of 70 degrees. Winds N 10-15 mph, with gusts to 20 mph.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Adam Scott	70-65-66—201 (-9)
Sergio Garcia	65-69-67—201 (-9)
Blayne Barber	70-66-69—205 (-5)

Adam Scott

Following his bogey-free, 5-under 65 in round two, Adam Scott carded birdies on Nos. 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13, before a costly, quadruple-bogey seven on the par-3 15th hole claimed four of seven strokes back. Scott made par at No. 15 in rounds one and two.

Following another birdie at the par-3 17th hole, Scott reclaimed the lead at 9-under par. A birdie at the 54th hole by Garcia would tie the two heading into Sunday's final round.

This marks Scott's 11th time of holding a lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR after 54 holes. Of the previous 10, he has converted for the win six times. His most recent 54-hole lead also ultimately proved most painful. At the 2014 Arnold Palmer Invitational, Scott held a three-stroke lead after 54 holes, before a final-round, 4-over 76 resulted in a third-place finish.

Scott's seven on the par-3 15th hole isn't his worst score on the hole. In round one of 2011, Scott took an eight on the hole and eventually missed the cut.

Scott has yet to record a top-10 at The Honda Classic, but he finished T12 in 2014 and T11 in his tournament debut in 2001.

Following a 2014 season in which he won once, claimed 10 top-10 finishes, finished 12th in the FedExCup and overtook the World's No. 1 ranking, Scott managed just three top-10 finishes last season en route to a 106th-place finish in FedExCup points.

Scott is making his fifth start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season this week and is coming off a T2 finish at last week's Northern Trust Open. In his first start of the season, he finished solo-second at the CIMB Classic.

Scott, an 11-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is looking for his first win since the 2014 DEAN & DELUCA Invitational (Colonial Country Club).

Among Scott's arsenal of PGA TOUR wins is one in the state of Florida, the 2004 PLAYERS Championship. Garcia also has one win in Florida – and it was also THE PLAYERS Championship (2008).

In round three, Scott hit 11/14 fairways in regulation and 15/18 greens. He needed 27 putts to complete his round.

Sergio Garcia

Sergio finished bogey-birdie to post a 3-under 67 and 9-under 201 with Adam Scott.

This marks the 13th time Garcia has held a 54-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR. Of the previous 12, he has converted for the win just three times. Of the last 54-hole leads/co-leads he has had, none have resulted in victory. Like Adam Scott's, Garcia's most recent 54-hole lead proved most painful. After the third round of the 2014 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational, he led by three strokes, before a final-round, 1-over 71 resulted in runner-up honors to Rory McIlroy.

Garcia is making his sixth start in The Honda Classic, with a T8 in 2014 his only top-10 finish. This marks the first time he has opened with three-consecutive rounds in the 60s.

Garcia, an eight-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is in search of his first win since the 2012 Wyndham Championship. Garcia came close to the winner's circle last year in Florida at THE PLAYERS Championship. In a three-hole aggregate playoff with Kevin Kisner and Rickie Fowler, he ended up sharing second with Kisner.

In his only start on the European Tour this season, Garcia finished T7 at the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters.

Garcia didn't make a bogey on the back nine of the Champion Course in either of the first two rounds. His two blemishes on that nine-hole stretch in round three came at the par-4 13th and par-3 17th.

Third-Round Lead Notes

Though six of the nine 54-hole leaders/co-leaders of The Honda Classic have held on for the win since moving to PGA National in 2007, neither of the last two have been able to do so (2014/Rory McIlroy, 2015/Ian Poulter). Prior to that, Ernie Els came from three strokes back in the final round of 2008 to win.

Through 14 events on the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, six players have parlayed that position into a win. Most recently, Bubba Watson achieved this feat at the Northern Trust Open.

After 54 holes last year, Ian Poulter led by three strokes at 9-under 201.

Blayne Barber

Blayne Barber is in search of his maiden PGA TOUR victory. Twelve players have made The Honda Classic their first career TOUR title. Since 2000, five players have achieved the feat; Matt Kuchar (2002), Padraig Harrington (2005), Mark Wilson (2007), Y.E. Yang (2009) and Michael Thompson (2013).

With a win this week, Barber would become the seventh first-time winner on the PGA TOUR this season, and first in the calendar year.

At 5-under 205, Barber will begin the final round trailing by four strokes.

Barber is a 2014 Web.com Tour graduate. He has one victory on the Web.com Tour: 2014 South Georgia Classic presented by First State Bank and Trust Company.

This marks Barber's second start at The Honda Classic, having made his tournament debut last year (58th). In nine events this season, Barber has five missed cuts and has yet to finish in the top 10.

On two previous occasions, Barber has headed into the final round within the top three on the leaderboard. Most recently, he was T3 after 54 holes at the 2015 Zurich Classic of New Orleans, which resulted in a career-best T8 finish.

Justin Thomas

After a pair of 69s to open his week, Justin Thomas birdied his first three holes in round three en route to a 2-under 68 to get to 4-under 206 and within five strokes of the lead.

Thomas hit 10/14 fairways in regulation for the second straight day, hit 12/18 greens and needed 29 putts to complete his round.

In his first start in The Honda Classic last year, Thomas missed the cut, following rounds of 71-76.

Thomas, a rookie on the PGA TOUR last season, collected seven top-10 finishes en route to a 32nd-place in the FedExCup standings.

Thomas is making his ninth start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, which produced his first career TOUR win at the CIMB Classic in November in his second start of the season. In his last three starts, he succumbed to missed cuts at the Sony Open in Hawaii and Waste Management Phoenix Open and finished T54 at last week's Northern Trust Open.

Rickie Fowler

Rickie Fowler managed to play his first 36 holes without a bogey on his card, but played the third round without a birdie.

Fowler’s blemish-free streak ended early in round three, with bogeys at Nos. 3, 6 and 9. Interestingly, those were the same three holes he birdied on the front nine in round two.

Fowler would take an additional bogey at the par-4 14th hole to finish with a 4-over 74. His highest score in the event, a 76, came in the first round of 2011 (MC).

In 21 rounds in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, Fowler has just three over-par rounds: R1/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (T25), R1/Farmers Insurance Open (MC) and R3/The Honda Classic.

Fowler, a Jupiter, Fla. resident, is making his seventh-consecutive start at The Honda Classic, with his best finish being T7 in 2012.

Additional player notes

Defending champion Padraig Harrington posted a third-round, 2-over 72 and is 12 strokes back at 3-over 213.

Phil Mickelson followed a second-round, 4-over 74, his highest round at PGA National, with an even-par 70 in round three and will begin the final round at 3-over 213 and 12 strokes back.

Miscellaneous Notes

The week of The Honda Classic offers the final opportunity to qualify for next week’s World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship. Players not previously eligible can qualify by being inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking (players inside the top 50 in the OWGR as of 2/22/16 cannot drop out) or the top 10 or the FedExCup standings following The Honda Classic.

Scoring Averages at the par-70 PGA National:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.650	36.657	72.307	---
R2:	35.350	36.311	71.661	72.001
R3:	35.274	36.053	71.327	71.856

The par-4 6th hole played the toughest during the third round, yielding a 4.403 average, with the par-5 third hole (4.481) being the easiest.

Total balls in the water in the Bear Trap				
Hole	R1	R2	R3	R4
15	15	17	10	
16	11	7	4	
17	3	5	5	
Cumulative:	29	29	19	

“Bear Trap” averages –

R1: No. 15 (3.171/T7 toughest), No. 16 (4.157/T7 toughest), No. 17 (2.950/15th toughest)

R2: No. 15 (3.151/8th toughest), No. 16 (4.204/7th toughest), No. 17 (2.996/13th toughest)

R3: No. 15 (3.351/2nd toughest), No. 16 (4.104/9th toughest), No. 17 (3.273/T3 toughest)

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Rickie Fowler (66)

R2: Rickie Fowler (66) and Adam Scott (65)

R3: Tom Hoge (68)