



## 2016 Valero Texas Open

*(The 24th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)*

San Antonio, TX                      April 21-24, 2016  
TPC San Antonio – AT&T Oaks Course

FedExCup Points: 500    Purse: \$6,200,000  
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,435

### Third-Round Notes – Saturday, April 23, 2016

*Weather: Sunny, with a high of 81 degrees. Wind E/SE 6-12 mph.*

*54-hole cut: 71 players at 1-over-par 217.*

#### **Third-Round Leaderboard**

Ricky Barnes	68-70-67 – 205 (-11)
Brendan Steele	64-70-72 – 206 (-10)
Luke Donald	69-70-68 – 207 (-9)
Charley Hoffman	66-71-70 – 207 (-9)

#### **Ricky Barnes**

Following a 4-under 67, Ricky Barnes holds the 54-hole lead for only the third time of his career as he looks for his first career PGA TOUR victory. In 221 TOUR starts before this week, Barnes has 14 career top-10s but has never posted a win.

Barnes' previous-best career finish was a T2 at the 2009 U.S. Open, where he held sole possession of the 54-hole lead but shot a final-round 6-over 76 to fall by two shots to Lucas Glover. The last time Barnes held the 54-hole lead was at the 2015 Barbasol Championship, where he held a share of the lead with Scott Piercy, but finished five shots back in a tie for third after a final-round 70.

Playing in the penultimate group Saturday, Barnes went out in 2-under 34, but stormed into the lead with a birdies on 11, 12, 14 and 17.

His best finish of the 2015-16 season came a week ago with a T9 at the RBC Heritage. Over 15 starts this season, Barnes has three top-25s and currently sits 90<sup>th</sup> in the FedExCup standings.

#### **Second-Round Lead Notes**

Since the tournament moved to TPC San Antonio – Oaks Course in 2010, four of the last six third-round leaders/coleaders of the Valero Texas Open have gone on to hang on for the win, most recently Steven Bowditch and Jimmy Walker in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

This year, nine third-round leaders/co-leaders have held on for the win. The most recent to do it was Jim Herman at the Shell Houston Open.

Through 54 holes last year, the eventual winner Jimmy Walker was 9-under-par with a four-shot lead over Jordan Spieth.

There have not been co-leaders at this event after three rounds since 1993 when Jay Haas, Bob Lohr, Tom Lehman and Dan Forsman shared the lead at Oak Hills. Haas would go on to win the tournament on the second playoff hole against Lohr.

### **Charley Hoffman**

Charley Hoffman was tied for second after 36 holes each of the last two years, but he bested last year's third round 79 by nine shots Saturday with a 2-under 70 to get to within two of the lead at 9-under.

Since moving to TPC San Antonio in 2010, Hoffman is now 40-under-par, despite TPC San Antonio's scoring average being above par every year the tournament has been played here. Hoffman hasn't finished outside the top-13 since the tournament moved to this venue in 2010.

Seeing Hoffman's name at or near the top of the leaderboard at the Valero Texas Open should come as no surprise. Hoffman is making his 11<sup>th</sup>-consecutive start at the Valero Texas Open, where he has claimed four top-10 finishes. He narrowly missed the top-10 last year, finishing T11. Hoffman has never missed a cut and only once finished outside the top 15 (T70/2008). His top-10 finishes; T8/2006, T9/2009, T2/2011 and T3/2013.

Hoffman is making his 13<sup>th</sup> start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, where he remains in search of his first top-10 finish. His best showing to date is a T11 at the Valspar Championship. Hoffman is coming off a T14 at last week's RBC Heritage, where he was one shot back of the lead after 54 holes but faded with a 75 on Sunday.

2015-16 has been a struggle for Hoffman in the final rounds. His final-round stroke average of 74.75 is 5.02 shots worse than his first round average and more than three shots worse than his second or third round scoring average. Among the TOUR, Hoffman ranks 200<sup>th</sup> in final-round scoring average and he hasn't shot better than 73 in his last six final rounds.

### **Luke Donald**

Luke Donald was 1-over through 5 holes Saturday, but poured in birdies at 6, 8, 12, 15, and 17 for a 4-under 68 to climb to 9-under for the tournament. Just a week ago at the RBC Heritage, Donald posted his first top-20 of the season with a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This is the five-time PGA TOUR winner's fourth start at the Valero Texas Open, but first since 2003. Donald has made the cut in each of his previous three starts at TPC San Antonio, but never finished higher than T18 (2002).

The former World No. 1's last PGA TOUR win came at the 2012 Valspar Championship – more than four years ago (79 starts).

### **Brendan Steele**

2011 Valero Texas Open champion Brendan Steele entered the day with the lead, but couldn't gain any ground with an even-par 72 Saturday. Despite not making a birdie until the 14<sup>th</sup> hole, Steele is only one shot back entering the final round after salvaging the round with birdies at 14 and 18 to close.

En route to his first career win here in 2011, Steele held the outright lead by one shot after 54 holes and went on to win by one shot with a final-round 71.

Putting was the story in the first and second round for Steele, needing only 26 putts each day. Steele, who is ranked 167 on the PGA TOUR in putts per round, needed 32 putts Saturday.

Steele has played in each Valero Texas Open since his 2011 victory, where he has played well; 2011/1<sup>st</sup>, 2012/T4, 2013/T46, 2014/MC, 2015/T8.

## **Billy Horschel**

Billy Horschel isn't a believer in the horses for courses theory, but he's always thought that he plays his best on the more difficult tracks. Insert TPC San Antonio – Oaks Course, the second toughest course on the PGA TOUR a year ago and one Horschel has historically played well at with top-three finishes in two of the last three years. He continued that trend Saturday with a bogey-free 67 that included birdies on Nos. 5, 8, 9, 14 and 17 to get to 7-under for the tournament.

The third round 67 is Horschel's career best among 20 previous rounds at TPC San Antonio – Oaks Course. In five career starts at the Valero Texas Open, Horschel has made the cut in four of five starts with a T3 in 2013 and a solo 3<sup>rd</sup> a year ago. After 54 holes a year ago, Horschel was six shots back of Jimmy Walker's lead, but alone in third, where he finished. In 2013, Horschel held a two-shot lead after 54 holes, but shot 71 on Sunday, allowing Martin Laird to come from behind with a 63 on Sunday to win.

## **Miscellaneous Notes**

San Antonio native Patrick Reed became the first player of the week to hit the par-5 18<sup>th</sup> in two. He would two putt for birdie to get to 8-under through 54 holes and within three shots of the lead.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Hiroshi Iwata (71), Spencer Levin (69), Peter Malnati (67), Martin Piller (70), Patrick Reed (65), Brendan Steele (64).

R2: Rob Oppenheim (68), Kyle Stanley (68)

R3: Brice Garnett (69), Kevin Streelman (69), Nick Taylor (66), Billy Horschel (67)

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
R1	36.499	36.032	72.531	--
R2	36.237	36.093	72.330	72.386
R3	36.287	35.325	71.613	72.281

The par-4 4th hole played as the most difficult in round three at 4.438. The par-5 14 and par-4 17 tied for the easiest hole on Saturday at .3 strokes below par.