



**2016 Zurich Classic of New Orleans**  
(The 25<sup>th</sup> of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

**Avondale, La.**  
**TPC Louisiana**

**April 28-May 1, 2016**  
**Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425**

**FedExCup Points: 500**  
**Purse: \$7,000,000/\$1,260,000**

**FINAL First-Round Notes – Friday, April 29, 2016**

Round two tee times were from 10:50 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. The first round ended at 12:41 p.m. CT.

*Weather: Partly cloudy, with highs in the upper 80s. S wind 15-25 mph, with stronger gusts.*

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Brian Stuard	64 (-8)
Jhonattan Vegas	64 (-8)
Retief Goosen	65 (-7)

**Brian Stuard**

On Thursday, Michigan native Brian Stuard posted his low round of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season with a bogey-free, 8-under 64. Stuard's previous low round this season was 65 in the final round of the Sanderson Farms Championship. His career-low round on the PGA TOUR is 62 from the third round of the 2013 CareerBuilder Challenge.

This marks the second time Stuard has held the first-round lead on the PGA TOUR. He led alone at the 2014 Puerto Rico Open after firing 66 in round one, eventually finishing T43.

Needing only 21 putts in his opening round, Stuard made more than 175 feet of putts using a putter he put in the bag at last week's Valero Texas Open. Stuard also got up and down on each of the seven greens he missed in regulation.

This is Stuard's fourth appearance at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans. After missing the cut in 2010 and 2013, he opened with a pair of 69's last year, eventually finishing T65.

Stuard's best result in six starts on TOUR this season is a T25 at the RSM Classic. He finished T55 at last week's Valero Texas Open.

Stuard is making his 120<sup>th</sup> career PGA TOUR start this week and remains in search of his first victory. He has two runner-up showings among his 10 career top-10 finishes, both coming at the OHL Classic of Mayakoba (2010, 2014).

Stuard is currently ranked No. 184 in the FedExCup standings and No. 513 in the Official World Golf Ranking.

**Jhonattan Vegas**

When the first round was suspended for the day Thursday due to darkness, Jhonattan Vegas was 2-under through five holes. He promptly bogeyed his first hole out Friday morning, No. 6, but played the ensuing eight-hole stretch of Nos. 7-14 in 7-under-par. Vegas opened with an 8-under 64.

This marks Vegas' 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion on which he has been atop the leaderboard after 18 holes. He was tied for the lead after the first round of the 2011 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, before finishing T5.

Vegas is making just his second start in the Zurich Classic, having finished T36 last year.

Vegas is making his 13<sup>th</sup> start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season, with both top-10 finishes coming in two of his first three starts; T10/Safeway Open and T4/Sanderson Farms Championship. Vegas is coming off a missed cut at last week's Valero Texas Open.

Vegas is in search of his second PGA TOUR title this week in his 119<sup>th</sup> TOUR start. He previously won the 2011 CareerBuilder Challenge.

### **First-Round Lead Notes**

The first-round leader has gone on to win the Zurich Classic twice in the last six years (Jason Bohn/2010, Bubba Watson/2011).

Last year, Brendon de Jonge and Boo Weekley fired 64s to share the first-round lead at 8-under.

In the years that TPC Louisiana has been host to the Zurich Classic (2005, 2007-2016), the low first-round score belongs to Ben Martin, who fired a 10-under 62 to take the solo lead in 2014.

Five players have carried a first-round lead/co-lead on to victory this season, most recently Branden Grace at the RBC Heritage.

### **Retief Goosen**

On Thursday, South African Retief Goosen posted his low round of the season with a 7-under 65. It marked his lowest round on TOUR since an 8-under 63 in the opening round of the 2015 Quicken Loans National.

In his seventh appearance at the Zurich Classic, Goosen's 65 matches his low round at TPC Louisiana (65/R2/2014).

Goosen, a seven-time PGA TOUR winner, including two U.S. Open Championships, has not won on the PGA TOUR since the 2009 Valspar Championship.

This season, Goosen's best result came at the Valspar Championship (T11). Of eight previous starts, his only missed cut came at the Farmers Insurance Open.

Goosen's last top-10 finish on the PGA TOUR, his 68<sup>th</sup> overall, came at the 2015 Barracuda Championship in the Modified Stableford format.

With thunderstorms interrupting play during the first round, it's worth noting that Goosen was struck by lightning as an amateur in his native South Africa.

Goosen, a six-time member of the Presidents Cup International Team with a 14-12-3 overall record, also owns 24 international victories.

### **Jason Day**

Jason Day, the No. 1 player in the Official World Golf Ranking, bogeyed his final two holes of the day, but managed to post a 3-under 69. This marks Day's fourth appearance in the Zurich Classic. He finished T4 last year, T32 in 2009 and missed the cut in 2008.

Day is the first player ranked No. 1 in the Official World Golf Rankings to compete in the Zurich Classic since David Duval in 1999 (MC).

With his back-to-back wins at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play, Day joined Adam Scott as a multiple winner this season.

### **Justin Rose**

Defending Zurich Classic champion Justin Rose opened with an even-par 72. The seven-time winner finished T4 in his most recent title defense at the 2015 Quicken Loans National, his best attempt at successfully defending a title. The last player to successfully defend his title at the Zurich Classic was Carlos Franco in 2000.

Dating to 2012, Rose is the only player to have played each of his last 17 rounds at par or better at the Zurich Classic. During this time frame, he is the most under par at 60-under.

Last year, Rose played his last 66 holes without a bogey en route to winning the Zurich Classic. He played his first 10 holes in round one this week bogey-free, before taking a bogey at No. 11, ending his bogey-free stretch at 76 holes.

Rose is making his 11<sup>th</sup> start at the Zurich Classic this week and ninth start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season.

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

Geoff Ogilvy's 5-under 67 to start the Zurich Classic ties his lowest round of the season and marks his lowest opening-round score since posting a 7-under 64 in round one of the 2010 Deutsche Bank Championship (T2).

For the second year in a row, Derek Ernst opened with a 5-under 67 at the Zurich Classic. Last year, after a second-round 77, he missed the cut. Ernst's lone TOUR win came at the 2013 Wells Fargo Championship. He and his wife, Laney, are expecting their first child in July.

Charles Howell III now has a 68.31 scoring average for the first round this season, following his 5-under 67 at the Zurich Classic. In 16 starts this season, Howell has opened with under-par rounds in 14 events. The two times he was not under-par in the opening rounds this season were even-par 72 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and 2-over 72 at The Honda Classic.

2010 Zurich Classic winner Jason Bohn opened with a 1-over 73. This marks his second start back on the PGA TOUR after suffering a heart attack the week of The Honda Classic in February.

Despite the missed weeks to recover, Bohn comes into the week inside the top 30 in FedExCup points, at No. 29. He does so thanks to a solid start to the season last fall, finishing inside the top three in three of his first four starts; T3/Safeway Open, T2/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and P2/OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

A year ago this week, PGA TOUR rookie Smylie Kaufman won his first professional victory at the Web.com Tour's United Leasing & Finance Championship. Kaufman, who earned his maiden PGA TOUR victory earlier this season at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, is making his first start on TOUR since playing in the final group of the Masters (T29). Kaufman played college golf at LSU and is paired with fellow LSU alum David Toms in his Zurich Classic debut this week. In round one, Kaufman opened with a 4-under 68.

Here's a look at how players with local connections fared in round one: David Toms (68), Smylie Kaufman (68), Andrew Loupe (69), Michael Thompson (77), Tim Yelverton (73), Ben Taylor (70) and amateur Zach Wright (72).

**Bogey-free rounds:**

R1: Brian Stuard (64), Retief Goosen (65), J.J. Henry (67), Patton Kizzire (67), Patrick Rodgers (67), D.J. Trahan (67), Danny Lee (68), Rickie Fowler (68), Thomas Aiken (68), Joe Affrunti (69), Cameron Tringale (69), Steve Wheatcroft (69), Hiroshi Iwata (69).

<b>Scoring Averages:</b>	<b>Front</b>	<b>Back</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
R1:	35.553	35.803	71.356	

Carl Pettersson withdrew with tendonitis in his wrist after nine holes of the opening round Thursday. Steve Marino (78) completed the first round just before the 11:59 a.m. weather delay Thursday and then withdrew.

Brian Davis (back) withdrew during the first round Friday.