



GENESIS OPEN

2017 Genesis Open

(14th of 43 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Pacific Palisades, CA
Riviera Country Club

February 16-19, 2016

Purse: \$7,000,000 (\$1,260,000)
Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,322

FINAL First-Round Notes – Friday, February 17, 2017

Weather: Due to fog on Thursday, round one was suspended for 12 minutes, from 7:04 until 7:16 a.m. PT and again from 7:38 a.m. until 8:25 a.m. partly cloudy in the afternoon, with a high of 63. Wind SW 5-10 mph.

Due to darkness, play was suspended for the day at 5:34 p.m. PT. Resumption of the first round began in overcast conditions at 7:00 a.m. Friday for the 48 players who did not complete the first round. The first round was completed at 8:37 a.m. in light rain. Round two began at 7:10 a.m. with preferred lies utilized.

First-Round Leaderboard

Sam Saunders	64 (-7)
Dustin Johnson	66 (-5)
J.T. Poston	66 (-5)
Brett Stegmaier	66 (-5)
Daniel Summerhays	66 (-5)
Cameron Percy	66 (-5)
John Huh	66 (-5)

Sam Saunders

In just his first start at the Genesis Open, and playing on a sponsor exemption, Sam Saunders reeled off seven birdies and no bogeys in round one, good for a 64. Saunders hit 12 of 14 fairways in regulation and 12 of 18 greens. He needed 25 putts to complete his round.

Saunders' 7-under 64 ties his career-low score on the PGA TOUR from round one of the 2015 Barbasol Championship (also 7-under).

This will mark the second time of Saunders' career to have possession of an 18-hole lead. His 7-under 64 at the 2015 Barbasol Championship was good for a one stroke lead over Valencia, California's Jason Gore. Saunders finished T32.

Fifty years ago, in 1967, Saunders' grandfather, the late Arnold Palmer won his third and final Genesis Open. Palmer, won eventually won by five strokes over Gay Brewer, posted a 7-under 64 in round two.

Saunders, who finished 148th in the 2016 FedExCup standings, holds conditional status on the PGA TOUR this season. This marks his fifth start of the 2016-17 PGA TOUR Season. He has missed three cuts and finished T57 at The RSM Classic.

Saunders is making his 79th TOUR start this week, with a T2 at the 2015 Puerto Rico Open his strongest showing. By comparison, Arnold Palmer won in his 21st professional start in an official PGA TOUR event at the 1955 RBC Canadian Open.

First-Round Lead Notes

Since 2000, the only players to parlay an 18-hole lead/co-lead into victory at the Genesis Open have been Phil Mickelson in 2009 and Aaron Baddeley in 2011.

Through 13 events this season on the PGA TOUR, only four players have managed to convert a first-round lead/co-lead into a win. The last to do so was Justin Thomas at the Sony Open in Hawaii.

Last year, Camilo Villegas led by three strokes following an 8-under 63. He finished T37.

Dustin Johnson

Beginning on No. 10, Dustin Johnson made six birdies against just one bogey (par-3 fourth hole), good for a 5-under 66.

Johnson is making his 10th start in the Genesis Open this week, where he has collected an impressive six top-10 finishes. In only the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am has he collected more top-10 finishes (7).

Johnson's top-10 finishes at the Genesis Open: 4th/2016, P2/2015, 2nd/2014, T4/2012, T3/2010, T10/2009.

Johnson, a 12-time winner on the PGA TOUR, holds the standing record for longest stretch of winning at least one TOUR event per season, with nine.

J.T. Poston

PGA TOUR rookie J.T. Poston got off to a solid start in round one, making an eagle-three at the first. He would follow that with four birdies against a lone bogey at the par-4 second hole.

Poston found just five of 14 fairways and 11 of 18 greens in round one. He took 25 putts.

Poston made his way to the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of his 26th-place finish on the 2016 Web.com Tour priority list. On that Tour last year, the North Carolina native claimed two runner-up finishes and a third-place showing.

Having never competed on the PGA TOUR prior to this season, Poston is making his 10th career start at this week's Genesis Open. His best showing is a T29 at the Sanderson Farms Championship.

Daniel Summerhays

Making his sixth start at the Genesis Open, Daniel Summerhays' 5-under 66 is a good start to righting the ship of past performances at Riviera Country Club. In his five previous starts, he has missed three cuts and T29 in 2014 and T30 in 2015.

Summerhays' 5-under 66 is just his third sub-par score in 15 rounds at Riviera Country Club now. He also posted 66 in round three of 2014 and round one of 2015.

Summerhays remains in search of his first career PGA TOUR win this week in his 174th start.

Brett Stegmaier

PGA TOUR Sophomore Brett Steigmaier birdied his first four holes en route to a 5-under 66. In his only other start in the Genesis Open, he missed last year's cut.

Stegmaier is making his 10th start of the 2016-17 PGA TOUR Season, with a T21 at The RSM Classic his best showing. In 41 career starts on TOUR, his best showing is a T2 at the 2015 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Cameron Percy

Australian Cameron Percy finished T10 at last week's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am to earn a spot in the field at the Genesis Open this week. He's playing his 104th career PGA TOUR event and seventh of this season. This is his first appearance at the Genesis Open. Percy hit 14 of 18 greens in regulation and got up-and-down at each of the four holes where he missed the green. His only blemish was a 3-putt bogey at No. 10.

John Huh

John Huh fired a bogey-free 5-under 66 in the opening round to record his lowest round at Riviera. In four previous starts at the Genesis Open, Huh's only sub-par round was 4-under 67 in the final round of 2014 when he finished T35. He missed the cut in his other three appearances at this event.

Huh has made the cut in eight of nine starts this season with the CareerBuilder Challenge the only event where he didn't advance to the weekend.

A T10 at Shriners Hospitals for Children Open is Huh's lone top-10 finish in nine starts this season. Huh's lone victory on TOUR was the 2012 OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

Jason Kokrak

Jason Kokrak completed his first round with a final-hole bogey for a 4-under 67. Kokrak held the 36-hole with a 10-under 132 total at last year's Genesis Open and went on to finish T2 behind Bubba Watson, matching his career-best finish on the PGA TOUR. In 2012, Kokrak posted a T2 finish at the Frys.com Open.

Kokrak won twice in 2011 on the Web.Com Tour at the Albertsons Boise Open and the Miccosukee Championship.

Phil Mickelson

Making his 16th start at the Genesis Open, and first since 2013 (T21), 2008 and 2009 champion Phil Mickelson, who began on No. 10, made five birdies, an eagle-three at No. 17 and two bogeys to post the a 4-under 67. Mickelson's second bogey of the day came at his last hole of the day, No. 9.

In addition to the wins at Riviera Country Club, Mickelson also finished second in 2007 and T2 in 2012.

En route to his two wins at Riviera Country Club, Mickelson trailed by three strokes after 18 holes in 2008, but led by one after opening with an 8-under 63 in 2009.

Mickelson is making his sixth start of the 2016-17 PGA TOUR Season this week, with a T8 at the season-opening Safeway Open his lone top-10 finish.

Mickelson, a 42-time winner on the PGA TOUR, remains in search of his first win since the 2013 Open Championship.

Of his 42 PGA TOUR titles, the California native has won 11 times in his home state.

Billy Hurley III

Beginning on No. 10, 2004 U.S. Naval Academy graduate Billy Hurley III birdied his first two holes right out of the gate en route to a 4-under 67. He would add four more birdies at Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 7 against just two bogeys at Nos. 15 and 9, par-4s.

Hurley is making his fourth start at the Genesis Open, where he hasn't experienced much success. He missed the cut in 2012 and 2015 and finished T52 in 2014. Today's 67 is just his third sub-par score in nine rounds now at Riviera Country Club.

Hurley broke into the winner's circle for the first time on the PGA TOUR last season at the Quicken Loans National. This week's Genesis Open marks his 120th start on TOUR.

Despite the low score which would indicate otherwise, Hurley found just seven of Riviera Country Club's 14 fairways in regulation and 10 of 18 greens. He needed 25 putts to complete his round.

Sahith Theegala,

Pepperdine University amateur golfer from Chino Hills, Calif., Sahith Theegala, 19, was 3-under-par through 12 holes when play was suspended Thursday. He returned Friday to post an additional birdie at No. 5, along with five pars, to shoot 4-under 67.

Theegala won the Collegiate Showcase at Riviera on Monday of tournament week to earn a spot into this week's field. He shot a 2-under 69 to beat UCLA's Tyler Collier by one stroke. The sophomore has a team-best 70.78 scoring average after six events this season. Last summer, he made it to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Amateur at Oakland Hills. This is the third year of the Collegiate Showcase. Last year, Illinois' Charlie Danielson won, eventually finishing T72 in the Genesis Open. This week's Genesis Open is Theegala's PGA TOUR debut.

Additional Notes

FedExCup points leader Hideki Matsuyama posted a 3-under 68, last week's winner of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Jordan Spieth finished with a 2-under 69 and No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking Jason Day recorded an opening-round 1-under 70.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Sam Saunders (64), Daniel Summerhays (66), Branden Grace (67), John Huh (66), Adam Scott (68), Adam Hadwin (68), Shawn Stefani (69), Wesley Bryan (69).

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	34.993	36.000	70.993	-