



CHAMPIONS

Tucson Conquistadores Classic

Omni Tucson National/Catalina Course | Tucson, Arizona | March 13-19, 2017

First-Round Notes

Course Setup: Par 73 / 71.544 (R1 scoring average: 71.544; Cumulative: 71.544)

Weather: Sunny and hot with highs in the mid-90s. SW wind 5-10 mph.

	Player	To Par	Scores
1.	Fred Couples	-8	31-34 - 65
T2.	Tom Lehman	-7	33-33 - 66
T2.	Jeff Maggert	-7	34-32 - 66
T4.	Stephen Ames	-6	33-34 - 67
T4.	Billy Mayfair	-6	34-33 - 67
T4.	John Cook	-6	35-32 - 67
T4.	Steve Stricker	-6	32-35 - 67

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Tee Times](#)
- PGATOURmedia.com (transcripts and other resources available for download)

Fred Couples, 31-34 - 65 (-8)

- His opening-round 8-under-par 65 was his ninth consecutive round in the 60s in as many starts in 2017. Has a scoring average of 66.33 so far this year.
- Round included nine birdies and one bogey (No. 18/three putt).
- In his lone appearance in this event in 2015, he finished T59.
- Made 10 starts in Tucson in his PGA TOUR career with best finish a T4 in 1983.
- Made just three starts a year ago due to issues with his back.
- A member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, he won 15 titles on the PGA TOUR and 12 on PGA TOUR Champions, including the 2017 Chubb Classic.

Tom Lehman, 33-33 - 66 (-7)

- His 7-under-par 66 included eight birdies and just one bogey (No. 3).
- Is playing in just his second event of the season after being sidelined early in the campaign while recovering from left elbow surgery last November. He finished T57 at the Chubb Classic.
- Finished T18 in 2015 and T60 a year ago here at Omni Tucson National.
- Was a five-time winner on the PGA TOUR, including the 1996 Open Championship and a nine-time winner on PGA TOUR Champions.
- Won the Charles Schwab Cup in 2011 & 2012 and was PGA TOUR Champions Player of the Year the same years. Former Player of the Year on all three Tours.

Jeff Maggert, 34-32 - 66 (-7)

- Opened with a bogey-free 7-under-par 66.
- Finished T9 in 2015 and T11 a year ago here in Tucson. His 8-under-par 64 in the final round last year is the lowest final round in the two-year history of the event.
- Competed 11 times in Tucson on the PGA TOUR with a second-place effort in 1993 his best finish where he finished two shy of Larry Mize.
- After winning four times in 2015 and finishing second on the money list, he slipped to 24th on the money list in 2016 without a win.
- Won two major titles in 2015, including the U.S. Senior Open and the Regions Tradition.
- Owns three wins on the PGA TOUR, the last coming in 2006 at the FedEx St. Jude Classic.
- The Texas A&M product resides in Houston.

Other notes

- **Steve Stricker** made his long-awaited debut on PGA TOUR Champions on Friday, posting a bogey-free 6-under-par 67. Playing in the same group as Jerry Kelly and Fred Couples, Stricker opened with three consecutive birdies but was only able to add three more birdies over his final 15 holes. He is currently T4. *"I was a little more nervous than what I expected to be or thought I was going to be. I got off to a good start, birdied the first three and settled down a little bit, but I was excited to get it going finally. It's been a lot of hype that I'm really not accustomed to, you know, and I just kind of wanted to get it going and start playing. So it was good to get the first round under my belt."*
- Joining Steve Stricker in making his debut on PGA TOUR Champions was **Bob Estes**. He posted a 3-under-par 70.
- The trio of **Fred Couples**, **Steve Stricker** and **Jerry Kelly** were a combined 17-under-par for the day and had 19 birdies among them, including nine by Couples.
- **Bernhard Langer's** 2-under-par 71 was his 30th consecutive sub-par round dating back to last year. He is now tied with Colin Montgomerie with 30 consecutive and they are each one shy of the current record of 31 by Gil Morgan in 2000. Montgomerie is not competing this week.
- One of the day's best showings in Friday's first round was turned in by **Tom Lehman**, who fired a 7-under-par 66 in just his second start of the campaign. Lehman underwent elbow surgery last November and his only other start this year was at the Chubb Classic last month where he was T57.
- Much of **Tom Lehman's** success today was the result of his play on the par-5s. He birdied all five of the par-5 holes and was the only player to do so.
- Another player returning from injury was **Corey Pavin**, who had been sidelined since last May's Insuperity Invitational following right elbow surgery. Pavin shot a 3-under-par 70.
- **Woody Austin**, the 2016 tournament champion, shot a 3-under-par 70, while Marco Dawson, the 2015 champion, posted an even-par 73.
- The 18th hole at Omni Tucson National is one of the most difficult finishing holes on Tour. It certainly proved it again on Friday, ranking as the most difficult hole in the opening round. The field scoring average was 4.291 (+.291) with just eight birdies. There were 17 bogeys and seven doubles.
- While No. 18 was the hardest, No. 2 was the easiest with an average score of 4.418 (-.582). The hole yielded five eagles and 40 birdies.
- Friday's scoring average was 71.544 (-1.456 under par) with 19 rounds in the 60s and 52 below par. The 52 players under par were the most in a single round at this event. The previous best was 51 in the second round in 2016.
- **Tom Pernice, Jr.**, one-putted 14 of 18 holes to lead all players. Eight of those came on his front nine when he needed just 10 putts and he had just 22 putts overall for the round.