



2018 Barbasol Championship
 (The 39th of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Nicholasville, Kentucky
Keene Trace Golf Club (Champions) Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,328

July 19-22, 2018

Purse: \$3,500,000 (\$630,000)

FedExCup: 300 (winner)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, July 19, 2018

Weather: Mostly Sunny, with a high of 86. Wind ESE 6-12 mph. Due to wet course conditions, preferred lies in closely-mown areas were utilized.

Due to the threat of inclement weather, round two tee times have been moved up by 80 minutes and will begin at 7:00 a.m.

First-Round Leaderboard

Troy Merritt	62 (-10)
Billy Horschel	65 (-7)
Andres Romero	65 (-7)
Joel Dahmen	65 (-7)

Five Things To Know

- Troy Merritt opens with best opening-round score in four-year history of Barbasol Championship
- Becoming the sixth female to compete on the PGA TOUR, Brittany Lincicome opens with 6-over 78
- Following back-to-back top-5 finishes in last two TOUR starts, Joel Dahmen opens with 7-under 65
- Following last week's T7 at John Deere Classic, Andres Romero opens with 65
- Making PGA TOUR debuts are 2018 University of Kentucky grads Cooper Musselman (70/T59), Chip McDaniel (74/T111)

Troy Merritt (-10/1st)

Age: 32 (October 25, 1985)

Joined TOUR: 2010

Entering this week

#131	FedExCup
#327	OWGR
1	PGA TOUR wins
177	PGA TOUR starts
22	PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18
2	Top-10s in 2017-18
2	Starts at Barbasol Championship
0/1	Wins when holding 18-hole lead/co-lead

- Beginning on No. 10, made eight birdies and an eagle-three at No. 5, good for a bogey-free 62
- 62 falls one stroke shy of career low
- Prior to today's 62, Sam Saunders held the record for lowest opening-round score in tournament history (64/2015)
- Dating to round two of last week's John Deere Classic (T43), has played last four competitive rounds in 21-under par
- On only other occasion of being at the top of an 18-hole leaderboard on the PGA TOUR (T1), finished T20 at the 2010 Sony Open in Hawaii
- Is making his third start in the Barbasol Championship (2016/T20, 2017/T35)
- Is making his 23rd start of the 2017-18 season, with top-10 finishes at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (T8) and Zurich Classic of New Orleans (with teammate Brendon de Jonge to finish T10)
- Winner of the 2015 Quicken Loans National

Billy Horschel (-7/T2)

- In his first start at the Barbasol Championship, 2014 FedExCup Champion birdied his last two holes, Nos. 17 and 18, to open with a 7-under 65

- 65 marks his lowest score on the PGA TOUR in relation to par since round one of the 2016 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (7-under 64)
- Most recent of four individual PGA TOUR titles came at the 2017 AT&T Byron Nelson. He won this season's Zurich Classic of New Orleans in a team format with Scott Piercy (official victory).
- On the strength of four top-10 finishes this season, comes into the week ranked 45th in the FedExCup standings

Joel Dahmen (-7/T2)

- Bogey-free 65 in his second start at the Barbasol Championship (MC/2017)
- Last three starts: Quicken Loans National/T23, A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier/T5, John Deere Classic/T2

Andres Romero (-7/T2)

- Argentinian made eight birdies against one bogey to open with a 7-under 65
- Posted first- and third-round 7-under 64s at last week's John Deere Classic to finish T7
- Last week marked his first top-10 finish since the 2016 Puerto Rico Open (T5)
- Is making just his fourth start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season and is No. 194 in FedExCup standings
- Winner of the 2008 Zurich Classic of New Orleans and now playing on TOUR out of the Past Champion category
- Finished one shot out of a playoff at the 2007 Open Championship at Carnoustie (3rd) to collect \$596,414 and collect his PGA TOUR rookie card for the 2008 season

Hunter Mahan (-6/T5)

- Made seven birdies against one bogey in his third Barbasol Championship start
- Marks his eighth sub-par score in last nine rounds on the PGA TOUR
- Is competing on the PGA TOUR this season out of the Past Champion category
- Six-time PGA TOUR winner is looking for first win since the 2014 THE NORTHERN TRUST
- Remains in search of his first top-10 finish since the 2015 Dell Technologies Championship (T4)

Brittany Lincicome (+6/T129)

- Opened with a 6-over 78 to become the sixth female to compete in a PGA TOUR event (Babe Zaharias, Shirley Spork, Annika Sorenstam, Suzy Whaley, Michelle Wie)
- Beginning on No. 10, made one birdie, two bogeys, a double bogey at the par-3 18th and a triple at the par-3 seventh.

Miscellaneous Notes

The 2018 Barbasol Championship marks the PGA TOUR's first return to Kentucky since the 2014 PGA Championship was held at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville.

The last annual PGA TOUR event to be contested in Kentucky was the Kentucky Derby Open (1957-59).

For the first three years, the tournament was contested at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Grand National (Lake Course) in Auburn/Opelika, Alabama.

Course Statistics

Toughest Hole	Easiest Hole
R1: Par-3 7 th (3.235)	Par-5 2 nd (4.364)

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.318	35.000	70.318	---
	Early	Late		
R1:	70.65	69.98		

Bogey-free rounds

R1: Troy Merritt (62), Joel Dahmen (65), Jonathan Byrd (66), Shawn Stefani (66), Tyler Duncan (66), Robert Streb (67), D.J. Trahan (67), Wesley Bryan (69), J.J. Henry (69), Peter Malnati (69), Duffy Waldorf (69), Rob Oppenheim (71)