



## 2017 Hero World Challenge

**Albany Golf Course**  
**Albany, Bahamas**

**November 30-December 3, 2017**  
**Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,309**

**Purse: \$3,500,000**

### **First-Round Notes – Thursday, November 30, 2017**

*Weather: Partly cloudy and breezy. High of 84. Wind NE 12-18 mph, gusting to 25 mph.*

#### **First-Round Leaderboard**

Tommy Fleetwood	66 (-6)
Matt Kuchar	67 (-5)
Rickie Fowler	67 (-5)
Jordan Spieth	68 (-4)
Dustin Johnson	68 (-4)
Justin Rose	68 (-4)
Kevin Chappell	68 (-4)

#### **Tommy Fleetwood**

Tommy Fleetwood carded a 6-under 66 to take a one-stroke lead over Matt Kuchar and Rickie Fowler after day one of the Hero World Challenge.

In 23 official PGA TOUR events, Fleetwood's only lead after a round came at the 2017 U.S. Open when he shared the second-round lead with Paul Casey, Brian Harman and Brooks Koepka en route to a fourth-place finish.

Fleetwood, currently in his first season as a member of the PGA TOUR, is making his first start at the Hero World Challenge.

Fleetwood's R1 statistics: 15/18 greens, 10/13 fairways, 1/1 sand save, 28 putts.

#### **First-Round Leader Results at the Hero World Challenge**

In 2016, J.B. Holmes opened with an 8-under 64 for a one-stroke lead over eventual champion Hideki Matsuyama.

In the 18 previous playings of the Hero World Challenge, the first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win just four times (Davis Love III/2003, Tiger Woods/2004, Zach Johnson/2013, Jordan Spieth/2014).

#### **Tiger Woods**

Host Tiger Woods (T8), the winner of 79 career PGA TOUR titles including 14 major championships, made his return to competitive golf Thursday with a 3-under 69 at the Hero World Challenge.

A missed cut at the 2017 Farmers Insurance Open marks Woods' last start on the PGA TOUR. His last round in a tournament was an opening-round 77 before withdrawing from the Omega Dubai Desert Classic (February 2).

Woods owns five victories (2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2011) and five runner-up finishes (most recent to Zach Johnson in 2013) in 15 prior Hero World Challenge starts. Last year, Woods led the field with 24 birdies en route to a 15<sup>th</sup> place finish.

Woods R1 statistics: 12/18 greens, 7/13 fairways, 0/1 sand save, 28 putts.

Woods was paired Thursday with 2017 FedExCup champion and PGA TOUR Player of the Year Justin Thomas, who also opened with a 3-under 69.

#### **Additional Player Notes**

Rickie Fowler (T2) posted a 5-under 67 and led the field with seven birdies in round one.

2014 World Challenge champion Jordan Spieth (T4) opened with a 4-under 68. He won in 2014 by a record 10 strokes over Henrik Stenson with a tournament-record 26-under 262, becoming the first player to win the event in wire-to-wire fashion.

Henrik Stenson (T12), with wife Emma serving as his caddie this week, recorded a 2-under 70. In four prior starts at the Hero World Challenge, Stenson has never failed to finish inside the top five, including runner-up finishes in his last two starts (2014, 2016).

Defending champion Hideki Matsuyama (T14) turned in a 1-under 71 (which included four consecutive birdies on Nos. 14-17) as he begins his bid to join Tiger Woods (2006-07) as the only players to win this event in back-to-back seasons. This week marks Matsuyama's fourth start at the Hero World Challenge (13/2014, T17/2015, 1/2016).

#### **Miscellaneous Notes**

Past Hero World Challenge winners: Jordan Spieth (68), five-time winner Tiger Woods (69), Hideki Matsuyama (71).

First-time participants: Tommy Fleetwood (66), Kevin Chappell (68), Justin Thomas (69), Francesco Molinari (69), Charley Hoffman (69), Kevin Kisner (70), Alex Noren (73), Daniel Berger (75).

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Tommy Fleetwood (66), Matt Kuchar (67), Dustin Johnson (68)

#### **First-round Scoring Averages**

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
Round 1	34.55	34.89	69.44	---

Toughest hole – par-4 10<sup>th</sup> (4.22); Easiest hole – par-4 7<sup>th</sup> (3.50) and par-5 18<sup>th</sup> (4.50).