



**HOUSTON
OPEN**
EST. 1946

2018 Houston Open

(The 22nd of 44 events in the PGA TOUR season)

Humble, TX March 29 - April 1, 2018
Golf Club of Houston (Tournament Course)

Purse: \$7,000,000 (\$1,260,000 to the winner)
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,441

First-Round Notes – Friday, March 30, 2018

Weather: Sunny. High of 79. Wind NE 8-16 mph.

There was a two-hour delay to the start of round one. Due to darkness, round one was suspended for the day at 7:40 p.m. CT Thursday, with 33 players remaining on the course. Round one resumed at 7:20 a.m. Friday and was completed at 8:47 a.m. The second round began as scheduled at 7:20 a.m.

First-Round Leaderboard

Paul Dunne	64 (-8)
Beau Hossler	65 (-7)
Lucas Glover	65 (-7)
Kevin Tway	65 (-7)
Five players	66 (-6)

Paul Dunne

Paul Dunne birdied four of his final seven holes, including Nos. 16 and 17 after play resumed Friday, to take a one-stroke lead after 18 holes with an 8-under 64.

Dunne becomes the eighth player to open the event with a 64 since 2006. In that span, two of the previous seven (Johnson Wagner/2008, D.A. Points/2013) have gone on to win.

Dunne holds the solo lead after a round on the PGA TOUR for the first time in his career. Dunne stood T1 after 54 holes of The Open Championship in 2015 before finishing T30.

This is Dunne's fifth start of the year and 12th of his career. He is coming off his best finish on the PGA TOUR, a T5 at last week's Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship.

Dunne is making his first career start at the Houston Open.

First-Round Lead Statistics

Since 2000, five first-round leaders of the Houston Open have parlayed that position into a win: D.A. Points (2013), Johnson Wagner (2008), Stuart Appleby (2006), Vijay Singh (2005) and Fred Couples (2003).

After round one last year, eventual-champion Russell Henley was three shots back at 5-under 67. Rickie Fowler led by one after an opening 8-under 64.

Six of 20 first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win so far this season (stroke-play events). The last to do so was Brice Garnett at last week's inaugural Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship.

Lucas Glover

En route to a bogey-free, 7-under 65 Lucas Glover reeled off five straight birdies on Nos. 15-1. He made additional birdies at Nos. 7 and 8.

Glover's 65 is his lowest score in relation to par since a 7-under 64 in round three of the 2017 John Deere Classic (T25).

Glover is making his 14th start in the Houston Open, having played every year since 2004, with the exception of 2015. His lone top-10 finish, a T7, came in 2005.

In his last nine starts at the Houston Open, this marks just the second occasion on which Glover has opened with a sub-par score (71/2016). In that same time frame, each of his second-round scores, except for one (79/2013), have been under par.

On the strength of four top-10 finishes in 2016-17, Glover finished 43rd in the FedExCup standings, his best showing since 2009 (17th).

Glover is in search of his fourth career PGA TOUR victory and first since the 2011 Wells Fargo Championship.

Kevin Tway

With seven birdies and no bogeys, Kevin Tway opened with a 65, his lowest round on the PGA TOUR in relation to par since an 8-under 63 in round two of the 2017 John Deere Classic (T12).

Tway, who first joined the PGA TOUR in the 2013-14 season, is making his first start in the Houston Open.

Making his 73rd start on the PGA TOUR, Tway remains in search of his first career PGA TOUR victory. His best finish in a stroke-play event is a T3 at the 2017 Valero Texas Open.

Tway is making his 14th start of the 2017-18 season, where he remains in search of his first top-25 showing.

Beau Hossler

Making his second start in the Houston Open (T39/2017), Beau Hossler was 7-under through 16 holes when play was suspended for the day. Hossler made par at the eighth and ninth holes after play resumed to stand T2 entering the second round.

Hossler was bogey-free in round one and made seven birdies, one shy of his season high (8/R4/CareerBuilder Challenge).

Hossler is making his 14th start of the 2017-18 season and remains in search of his first career PGA TOUR win in his 26th start. His best finish is a T7 at the 2017 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Rickie Fowler

With seven birdies and one bogey, Rickie Fowler opened with a 6-under 66 in his seventh start at the Houston Open. In 2017, Fowler opened with an 8-under 64 to hold a one-stroke lead after 18 holes. He finished T3.

Fowler made 168' 11" of putts in round one. His previous-best figure in that category this season was 117' 4" (R2/Waste Management Phoenix Open).

In addition to the T3 in 2017, Fowler claimed top-10 showings in 2014 (6th) and 2016 (T10).

Fowler, who has made the cut in every appearance in the Houston Open, is in search of his fifth career PGA TOUR title and first since the 2017 Honda Classic.

In seven starts this season, Fowler has collected two top-10s, including a solo-second at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba. He is currently 28th in the FedExCup standings.

Julian Suri

Monday Qualifier and Jacksonville, Florida resident Julian Suri made seven birdies and one bogey (No. 4) en route to a 6-under 66.

Presently ranked 72nd in the Official World Golf Ranking, Suri comes to Houston this week after a T29 finish at last week's World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play. Suri, who started last week in Austin, Texas as the first alternate, officially joined the field when Joost Luiten withdrew on Monday.

As a non-member, Suri is making his fifth start on the PGA TOUR this season, with a best showing of T29 last week at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play in Austin, Texas.

Despite playing only a partial European Tour season in 2017, the 26-year-old Suri won the Made In Denmark tournament and finished 52nd in the Road to Dubai. His only other PGA TOUR appearance before this season was a MC at The Open Championship in 2017.

Keith Mitchell

A week removed from his solo-second finish at the inaugural Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, PGA TOUR rookie Keith Mitchell made six birdies and one bogey (No. 18) to open with a 67, his second consecutive score of 5-under 67. Last week in the Dominican Republic, he posted scores of 66-66-75-67—274 to finish four strokes back of Brice Garnett.

Mitchell has now made 28 birdies and one eagle in his last five rounds on the PGA TOUR.

Mitchell is making his 12th start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season. In his only other start on TOUR before this season, he finished T11 at the 2017 Valspar Championship, where he Monday qualified.

Mitchell earned his TOUR card for the season after notching six top-10s on last year's Web.com Tour and finishing 21st on that Tour's priority list.

Mitchell, a 2014 University of Georgia grad, made 15 starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica in 2015, where he collected five top-10 finishes.

Phil Mickelson

Making his 14th start in the Houston Open, 2011 champion Phil Mickelson birdied six of his first nine holes, including a chip-in at No. 5. Mickelson played his inward nine holes with eight pars and a double-bogey five at the 14th hole, resulting in a round of 4-under 68.

This marks the fifth time Mickelson has played his opening nine holes of a PGA TOUR event in 30 strokes or better since 2003.

Mickelson leads the TOUR with the most rounds under par at the Houston Open (29). Charley Hoffman, who is not in this week's field, is closest with 27.

Mickelson is making his second start since claiming his 43rd career PGA TOUR victory at the World Golf Championship-Mexico Championship. He finished T17 at last week's WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play.

Mickelson is making his 10th start of the season this week and comes to the Golf Club of Houston on the heels of four top-6 finishes in his last five starts.

With today's 68, Mickelson extends his streak of consecutive rounds at par-or-better this season to 17.

Mickelson is making his 580th official PGA TOUR start this week.

Additional player notes

Making his seventh start in the Houston Open, and first since 2012, Rod Pamplung birdied five of his first eight holes en route to a 6-under 66. Pamplung has now opened with a sub-par score in the event six of seven times (7/3/2012). He has only managed to break par twice in the second round (six times).

In his sixth start at the Houston Open, Jordan Spieth opened with a 4-under 68. He has yet to open with an over-par score at the event. Spieth, who missed the cut in 2017, finished T2 in 2015. Spieth is in search of his 12th career PGA TOUR win and first since last year's Open Championship.

When play was suspended for the day, PGA TOUR rookie Sam Ryder was 8-under through 15 holes. Ryder made his first two bogeys at Nos. 17 and 18 and enters the second round T5. Ryder had never been higher than T23 after any round on the PGA TOUR (R1/2018 CareerBuilder Challenge/T50).

Miscellaneous Notes

Eighteen players competing at this week's Houston Open are also in next week's Masters Tournament field: Daniel Berger, Rafa Cabrera Bello, Jason Dufner, Tony Finau, Rickie Fowler, Dylan Fritelli, Russell Henley, Yuta Ikeda, Martin Kaymer, Matt Kuchar, Phil Mickelson, Thomas Pieters, Chez Reavie, Justin Rose, Shubhankar Sharma, Jordan Spieth, Henrik Stenson, Jhonattan Vegas.

This week's Houston Open offers the last chance to qualify for the Masters. In 2008, Johnson Wagner became the first player to capitalize on the win-and-you're-in berth into the field at Augusta. The last two players to play their way into the Masters Tournament: Russell Henley in 2017 and Jim Herman in 2016.

Four players have won the week prior to the Masters Tournament and then gone on to win in Augusta – Ralph Guldahl (Wyndham Championship) in 1939, Art Wall (Azalea Open) in 1959, Sandy Lyle (Wyndham Championship) in 1988 and Phil Mickelson (BellSouth Classic) in 2006. Additionally, Sam Snead won the 1949 Wyndham Championship and the Masters, the TOUR's next official event, with one week of separation between the two events.

Seven of the top 30 in the Official World Golf Ranking are in this week's field: Jordan Spieth/No. 4 (68), Justin Rose/No. 5 (68), Rickie Fowler/No. 8 (66), Henrik Stenson/No. 15 (68), Phil Mickelson/No. 18 (68), Matt Kuchar/No. 20 (68) and Rafa Cabrera Bello/No. 22 (71).

Past Houston Open champions: Russell Henley/2017 (69), J.B. Holmes/2015 (73), Matt Jones/2014 (70), D.A. Points/2013 (69), Hunter Mahan/2012 (71), Phil Mickelson/2011 (68), Johnson Wagner/2008 (71).

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Abraham Ancer (68), Ryan Armour (66), Keegan Bradley (68), Bronson Burgoon (67), Jonathan Byrd (69), Chad Campbell (69), Greg Chalmers (67), Joel Dahmen (68), Paul Dunne (64), Lucas Glover (65), Fabian Gomez (68), Emiliano Grillo (69), Chesson Hadley (68), Pdraig Harrington (67), Beau Hossler (65), Mackenzie Hughes (69), Jason Kokrak (67), Rob Oppenheim (69), Scott Piercy (68), Rory Sabbatini (69), Shawn Stefani (67), Brett Stegmaier (67), Henrik Stenson (68), Steve Stricker (67), Michael Thompson (67), Kevin Tway (65).

Early Scoring Average: 69.51

Late Scoring Average: 70.06

Scoring Averages:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	34.826	34.958	69.785	---

The most difficult hole in round one was the par-4 18th (4.188), with the easiest being the par-5 eighth (4.472).