



# HOUSTON OPEN

EST. 1946

**2018 Houston Open**  
(The 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**

## **Second-Round Notes – Friday, March 30, 2018**

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

*For the second-consecutive day, preferred lies in closely-mown areas was in effect.*

### **36-Hole Cut**

90 professionals at 3-under 141 from a field of 144 professionals. Since the Houston Open moved to the Golf Club of Houston in 2003, this equals the largest number of players to make the cut (2012).

### **Second-Round Leaderboard**

Beau Hossler	65-68—133 (-11)
Sam Ryder	66-68—134 (-10)
Rickie Fowler	66-68—134 (-10)
Abraham Ancer	68-66—134 (-10)
Nicholas Lindheim	68-66—134 (-10)

### **Beau Hossler**

Making his second start in the Houston Open (T39 in 2017 as a sponsor exemption), Beau Hossler moved to 11-under 133 following a second-round 4-under 68, good for a one-stroke lead over Rickie Fowler, Sam Ryder, Abraham Ancer and Nicholas Lindheim. His round was highlighted by three consecutive birdies on Nos. 8-10.

Hossler has just one bogey through 36 holes, coming on the par-4 first hole Friday. He was bogey-free in round one with seven birdies, one shy of his season high (8/R4/CareerBuilder Challenge).

R1 at a glance: 11 of 14 fairways, 18 of 18 greens, 29 putts.

R2 at a glance: 11 of 14 fairways, 11 of 18 greens, 0 of 2 sand saves, 6 of 7 scrambling, 25 putts.

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

This marks the second time Hossler has led after the second round of a TOUR event. He opened 65-67 earlier this year at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am to share the lead at 12-under with Dustin Johnson, only to close with 74-76 to finish T43.

### **Second-Round Lead Statistics**

Five second-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win during the 2017-18 season, most recently Brice Garrett at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship.

Since 2000, four second-round leaders of the Houston Open have parlayed that position into a win: Paul Casey (2009), Johnson Wagner (2008), Stuart Appleby (2006) and Robert Allenby (2000).

Last year, Sung Kang held the 36-hole lead at 16-under 128, six strokes clear of Hudson Swafford and eventual champion Russell Henley.

### **Rickie Fowler**

One day after opening with a 66, Rickie Fowler recorded a 4-under 68 to move to T2. He closed with a bogey on the par-4 18<sup>th</sup> hole when his drive found the water, just his second bogey this week (No. 6 on Thursday).

Fowler at the Houston Open – Rounds 1 and 2 (38-under) vs. Rounds 3 and 4 (4-over).

Fowler has yet to miss a cut in seven starts at the Houston Open. In addition to a T3 in 2017, Fowler claimed top-10 showings here in 2014 (6<sup>th</sup>) and 2016 (T10).

Fowler 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 28<sup>th</sup> in the FedExCup standings.

### **Phil Mickelson**

Making his 14<sup>th</sup> start in the Houston Open, 2011 champion Phil Mickelson will enter the weekend T42 following a second-round 1-under 71. Through 36 holes, Mickelson has 10 birdies, a double bogey on the par-3 14<sup>th</sup> hole Thursday and a triple bogey on the par-4 18<sup>th</sup> hole Friday.

Mickelson leads the TOUR with the most rounds under par at the Houston Open (30), With today's 71, he extends his streak of consecutive rounds at par-or-better this season to 18.

Friday's round included 158' 11" of made putts for Mickelson, his third best total on TOUR since 2003 (175' of made putts in the first round of the 2003 Houston Open and 166' 5" of made putts in the second round of the 2018 Farmers Insurance Open).

### **Additional player notes**

With rounds of 66-68, PGA TOUR rookie Sam Ryder will enter the weekend T2 and trailing Beau Hossler by one stroke. Ryder has four bogeys through 36 holes (all consecutive), making bogeys on Nos. 17 and 18 to complete a first-round 6-under 66 Friday morning and then beginning his second round with back-to-back bogeys on Nos. 10 and 11. Prior to the Houston Open, Ryder had never been higher than T23 after any round on the PGA TOUR (R1/2018 CareerBuilder Challenge/T50).

Both making their debut appearance at the Houston Open, Abraham Ancer and Nicholas Lindheim turned in matching second-round 6-under 66s to move to T2.

First-round leader Paul Dunne followed an 8-under 64 (the eighth player to open the Houston Open with a 64 since 2006) with a second-round 1-under 71 to fall to T6 in his Houston Open debut. This is Dunne's fifth start of the year and 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

In his sixth start at the Houston Open (T50-2013, MC-2014, T2-2015, T13-2016, MC-2017), Jordan Spieth (T6) opened 68-67 and enters the final two rounds trailing Beau Hossler by two strokes. Spieth's round was highlighted by five birdies in a seven-hole stretch (Nos. 9, 10, 11, 13, 14). He is in search of his 12<sup>th</sup> career PGA TOUR win and first since last year's Open Championship.

Matt Kuchar (T11) posted a second-consecutive 4-under 68, which included a 63' 10" birdie putt on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, representing his sixth made putt over 60 feet on TOUR since 2003.

Russell Henley (T57) is seeking to join Vijay Singh as the only players to defend a title at the Houston Open (2004-05). Singh also won in 2002, one of only two players to have three Houston Open wins (Curtis Strange).

One year after holding a six-stroke lead after the second round at the Houston Open, Sung Kang withdrew midway through the second round this week.

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

Eighteen players competing at this week's Houston Open are also in next week's Masters Tournament field. Here's how they have fared through two rounds: Rickie Fowler (T2), Jordan Spieth (T6), Henrik Stenson (T11), Matt Kuchar (T11), Justin Rose (T23), Jason Dufner (T30), Jhonattan Vegas (T42), Phil Mickelson (T42), Tony Finau (T57), Russell Henley (T57), Thomas Pieters (T70), Daniel Berger (T70), Dylan Frittelli (MC), Yuta Ikeda (MC), Martin Kaymer (MC), Chez Reavie (MC), Shubhankar Sharma (MC), Rafa Cabrera Bello (MC).

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.

Past Houston Open champions: Johnson Wagner/2008 (T30), Phil Mickelson/2011 (T42), Russell Henley/2017 (T57), Hunter Mahan/2012 (T57), J.B. Holmes/2015 (T70), Matt Jones/2014 (T70), D.A. Points/2013 (MC).

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), Padraig 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).

R2: Ian Poulter (64), Ethan Tracy (67), Henrik Stenson (68), Jhonattan Vegas (68), J.B. Holmes (68), Luke List (68), Xinjun Zhang (69), Justin Rose (69), Scott Piercy (70), Danny Lee (70), William McGirt (71).

Early Scoring Average: R1 – 69.51; R2 – 71.24

Late Scoring Average: R1 – 70.06; R2 – 70.83

Scoring Averages:

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
R1	34.826	34.958	69.785	---
R2	35.622	35.413	71.035	70.408

Hardest vs. Easiest hole

R1 – Hardest (par-4 18<sup>th</sup>; 4.188); easiest (par-5 eighth; 4.472).

R2 – Hardest (par-4 fifth, par-4 18<sup>th</sup>; 4.322); easiest (par-5 13<sup>th</sup>; 4.517)