



2017 OHL Classic at Mayakoba
(7th of 45 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Playa del Carmen, Mexico **November 9-12, 2017** **Par/Yards: 36-35—71/6,987**
El Camaleón Golf Club at Mayakoba Resort **Purse: \$7,100,010** **FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)**

First-Round Notes – Thursday, November 9, 2017

Weather: Partly cloudy, with spotty showers throughout the day. High of 84. Wind NNE 7-14 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Patton Kizzire	62 (-9)
Vaughn Taylor	64 (-7)
Rickie Fowler	65 (-6)
Brandon Harkins	65 (-6)

Last year, Chris Kirk led by a stroke at 8-under 63, before finishing T7. Eventual winner Pat Perez opened with a 3-under 68.

In the 11-year history of the OHL Classic at Mayakoba, the only first-round leader to end up victorious was Fred Funk in the inaugural event of 2007. Funk opened that year with an 8-under 62.

Patton Kizzire

In just his second start at the OHL Classic (T58/2015), Patton Kizzire reeled off six consecutive birdies on Nos. 8-13, a career-best, en route to a career-low, 9-under 62. He added birdies at Nos. 3, 5, 16 and 17. His lone bogey of the day came at the par-4 18th.

Kizzire has never been higher than T2 after 18 holes on the PGA TOUR. He was T2 at the 2016 Safeway Open, before finishing solo-second. He was also T2 after 18 holes at the 2017 CareerBuilder Challenge, before finishing T50.

Kizzire is off to a solid start in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, having finished T10 at the Sanderson Farms Championship and T4 a week later in last week's Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Kizzire hit 8 of 14 greens in regulation, 15 of 18 greens and needed 25 putts to post the 62.

Kizzire claimed three top-10 finishes last season on the PGA TOUR, highlighted by a solo-second at the season-opening Safeway Open.

Kizzire remains in search of his first career win on the PGA TOUR in his 63rd start this week.

Vaughn Taylor

Making his fifth start in the OHL Classic, Augusta, Georgia's Vaughn Taylor made four birdies and an eagle-3 at No. 13 to post a bogey-free 7-under 64. Taylor's only top-20 in the event is a T16 in 2012.

Taylor's 7-under 64 marks his lowest on the PGA TOUR in relation to par since opening with a 7-under 63 in round one of the Wyndham Championship earlier this season.

Taylor makes a return to the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of his 2016 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am win, which earned a two-year exemption through the 2017-18 season. He is also the winner of the 2004 and 2005 Barracuda Championship in Reno, Nev.

Rickie Fowler

Making his first start in the OHL Classic at Mayakoba and of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, four-time PGA TOUR winner Rickie Fowler opened with a bogey-free, 6-under 65.

Fowler is coming off a solid 2016-17 PGA TOUR Season, highlighted by 10 top-10 finishes in 21 starts. Early in the season, he claimed his fourth career TOUR title at The Honda Classic.

Four players have won the OHL Classic at Mayakoba in their first start in the event; Johnson Wagner (2011), John Huh (2012) Harris English (2013) and Fred Funk (2007, inaugural event).

Fowler is one of eight players in this week's field who competed in the 2017 Presidents Cup.

Brandon Harkins

Beginning on No. 10, PGA TOUR rookie Brandon Harkins overcame a bogey at his first hole with an eagle-birdie combo at Nos. 13 and 14, respectively. He would add birdies at Nos. 17, 4, 6, 7 and 8 to post a 6-under 65.

Harkins made his way to the PGA TOUR this season after collecting four top-10 finishes in 14 starts. Among those was a second- and third-place showing, good for a 44th-place finish on the 2017 Web.com Tour priority list.

Harkins is making his fourth start of his rookie season this week, having finished inside the top-10 at the Safeway Open (T9) and inside the top-20 at last week's Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (T20).

Harkins, a California native now living in Scottsdale, Arizona, graduated from California State University-Chico in 2010.

Retief Goosen

Making just his second start in the OHL Classic at Mayakoba, South Africa's Retief Goosen made seven birdies and two bogeys to open with a 5-under 66. Goosen missed the cut in 2014, following rounds of 68-71—139 (-3).

Goosen's 66 in round one is his best 18-hole score in relation to par since a 6-under 65 in round two of the 2017 barbasol Championship (T12).

Goosen hit just eight of 14 fairways in regulation and 12 of 18 greens.

Goosen is competing on the PGA TOUR this season out of the Top 50 on Career Money List category. In the 2016-17 season, his only top-10 finish was a T2 at the Puerto Rico Open. He made just seven of 19 cuts and finished 162 in the FedExCup standings.

Goosen is in search of his eighth TOUR victory this week and first since the 2009 Valspar Championship. He is making his 325th TOUR start this week.

Xinjun Zhang

One of two Chinese players on the PGA TOUR this season, Xinjun Zhang made five birdies and an eagle-3 at No. 13, good for a 5-under 66. His only two bogeys came at the par-5 first and par-3 fourth holes.

Zhang, from Shanxi, China, is making his fourth start of his rookie season this week. His best among his first three starts is T37 at the season-opening Safeway Open. He missed the cut in last week's Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, but finished T44 in his home country of the World Golf Championships-HSBC Championships.

Zhang made it to the PGA TOUR this season by finishing 20th on the Web.com Tour Regular Season money list (\$186,306).

Zhang, 30 (June 10, 1987), is a two-time PGA TOUR China winner, capturing the 2014 Earls Beijing Open and the 2015 Chongqing Open. He is also a six-time runner-up on PGA TOUR China and is that international developmental tour's all-time leading money-winner.

In his one season on the Web.com Tour, Zhang had two runner-up finishes—at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open and at the BMW Charity Pro-Am. At the Safeway Open to start this season, Zhang finished T37, becoming the first-ever full PGA TOUR member from China to play all four rounds in a TOUR event.

Keith Mitchell

University of Georgia graduate and PGA TOUR rookie Keith Mitchell began the tournament with an ace when he holed a 6-iron from 214 yards at No. 10. It marked his first ace on either the PGA TOUR or Web.com Tour and the eighth hole-in-one at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba. In 2015, South Africa's Thomas Aiken also began the tournament with an ace at the 10th hole. Aiken went on to shoot 74-70 and miss the cut.

Since 2002, Aiken and Mitchell are the only two players to begin a PGA TOUR event (official stroke play) with an ace. New Zealand's Steve Alker and Australia's Paul Gow are the only other players to begin a PGA TOUR round with an ace.

Players to start a Round with an Ace on PGA TOUR Since 2002

Year	Event	Course	Player	Rd	Hole
2015	OHL Classic at Mayakoba	El Camaleon GC	Mitchell, Keith	1	10
2015	OHL Classic at Mayakoba	El Camaleon GC	Aiken, Thomas	1	10
2016	Sanderson Farms Championship	CC of Jackson	Alker, Steven	4	10
2002	Buick Classic	Westchester CC	Gow, Paul	3	1

Mitchell is making his fourth start of the 2017-18 season and has yet to make a cut.

On PGA TOUR Latinoamerica, he collected five top-10 finishes in 14 starts, highlighted by a playoff loss at the Aberto de Brasil.

Miscellaneous Notes

Defending champion Pat Perez birdied three of his first four holes en route to a 4-under 67. After last year's first round, he was T20 with a 3-under 68.

There are seven past champions in the field this week: Pat Perez/2016 (68), Graeme McDowell/2015 (69), Charley Hoffman/2014 (71), Harris English/2013 (75), John Huh/2012 (67), Johnson Wagner/2011 (72), Mark Wilson/2009 (74) and Brian Gay/2008 (68). Only Fred Funk (2007) and Cameron Beckman (2010) are missing.

Chris Stroud is the only player to compete in each of the 10 nine OHL Classic at Mayakoba events. He opened this week with a 2-under 69. His three top-5 finishes in the event came consecutively in 2011 (4th), 2012 (T5) and 2006 (T3).

There are five Mexican players in the field this week: Carlos Ortiz (67), Oscar Fraustro (69), Roberto Diaz (71), Abraham Ancer (71) and Jose de Jesus Rodriguez (70).

Victor Regalado and Cesar Sanudo are the only native Mexican golfers to win on the PGA TOUR.

In 2007, the OHL Classic at Mayakoba was the first PGA TOUR co-sanctioned event to be contested outside of the United States and Canada.

Ryan Blaum withdrew during round one with a virus.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Vaughn Taylor (64), Rickie Fowler (65), Patrick Rodgers (67), Ben Silverman (68), Brian Stuard (69), Richy Werensky (69).

A.M. Scoring Average: 69.98

P.M. Scoring Average: 70.71

Scoring Averages at the par-71 El Camaleón Golf Club:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.341	35.008	70.348	---

For OHL Classic at Mayakoba transcripts please visit: <http://tee-scripts.com/>