



## GENESIS OPEN

### 2018 Genesis Open

(15<sup>th</sup> of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Pacific Palisades, CA  
Riviera Country Club

February 15-18, 2018

Purse: \$7,200,000 (\$1,296,000)  
Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,322

### Completed First-Round Notes – Friday, February 16, 2018

*Weather: Sunny with a high of 67. SW wind 5-10 mph. Friday morning was cold with NNE wind 5-10 mph for the resumption and completion of the first round.*

*The first round was suspended due to darkness at 5:48 p.m. with 12 players left to complete the round. Resumption of round one began at 7:30 a.m. Friday with no change to second-round tee times, which began at 6:40 a.m. The first round was completed at 8:30 a.m. Friday.*

#### First-Round Leaderboard

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Patrick Cantlay  | 66 (-5) |
| Tony Finau       | 66 (-5) |
| Tom Hoge         | 67 (-4) |
| Dominic Bozzelli | 67 (-4) |
| Sam Saunders     | 67 (-4) |

#### Patrick Cantlay

Patrick Cantlay posted six birdies and a lone bogey to card a 5-under 66 to share the first-round lead with Tony Finau when darkness stopped play at the Genesis Open.

Cantlay's share of the first-round lead marks the first time he's held the lead/co-lead after 18 holes on the PGA TOUR.

In two previous appearances at the Genesis Open, Cantlay has failed to advance to the weekend (2012/78-72, 2013/70-75).

Cantlay led the field hitting greens in regulation in round one with 16 of 18 greens.

Cantlay claimed his first PGA TOUR title with a playoff victory over Alex Cejka and Whee Kim at the 2017 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Cantlay is making his 47<sup>th</sup> career start on TOUR and his sixth start this season. After playing just 13 events last season, and making the cut in all 13, Cantlay fulfilled a Major Medical Extension with a runner-up result at the 2017 Valspar Championship in just his second start that season. Cantlay advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs and made it through all four Playoffs events, eventually ending the season No. 29. Cantlay currently sits No. 11 in the FedExCup standings.

Cantlay joined 2017 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year Xander Schauffele as the only rookies to advance all the way to the 2017 TOUR Championship in the FedExCup Playoffs.

#### Tony Finau

Tony Finau birdied four of his first five holes and added a fifth birdie at No. 1 (his 10<sup>th</sup>) to reach 5-under and the outright lead at the time. A bogey at No. 4 was offset by a final-hole birdie for Finau to share the lead with Patrick Cantlay when round one was suspended due to darkness.

Finau's share of the first-round lead marks the fourth time he's held at least a share of the 18-hole lead on the PGA TOUR. Most recently, Finau held the first-round lead/co-lead at last month's Farmers Insurance Open, eventually finishing T6. Below are Finau's first-round leads/co-leads on the PGA TOUR;

| Year | Event                   | Finish |
|------|-------------------------|--------|
| 2014 | OHL Classic at Mayakoba | T7     |
| 2015 | THE NORTHERN TRUST      | T16    |

|      |                        |     |
|------|------------------------|-----|
| 2018 | Farmers Insurance Open | T6  |
| 2018 | Genesis Open           | TBD |

This marks Finau's fourth appearance at the Genesis Open. In 2015, he finished T56 before missing the cut in both 2016 and 2017.

Finau opened the 2017-18 season with a runner-up finish at the Safeway Open. His only other top-10 result this season is a T6 at the Farmers Insurance Open. Like the Genesis Open, both of those events were also held in California.

Finau currently sits No.16 in the FedExCup standings. He has advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs each of the previous three seasons, making it to the TOUR Championship for the first time last season, finishing No. 19 in the FedExCup.

Finau's lone PGA TOUR win came at the 2016 Puerto Rico Open, defeating Steve Marino in a playoff.

### **First-Round Lead Notes**

Since 2000, the only players to parlay an 18-hole lead/co-lead into victory at the Genesis Open have been Phil Mickelson in 2009 and Aaron Baddeley in 2011.

Through 14 events this season on the PGA TOUR, only five players have managed to convert a first-round lead/co-lead into a win. The last to do so was Jon Rahm at the CareerBuilder Challenge.

Last year, Sam Saunders shot an opening 7-under 64 to lead the Genesis Open by two strokes. He finished T49.

### **Tom Hoge**

Tom Hoge required 23 putts in an opening-round 4-under 67 at the Genesis Open, marking the first time the 28-year-old Fargo, North Dakota resident has recorded a sub-70 round at this event. In his only previous appearance at Riviera, Hoge shot 74-70-72-70 to finish T39 in 2015.

Hoge came into this week off two consecutive missed cuts after making seven cuts in his first eight starts of the season.

Hoge is in his fourth season on the PGA TOUR and currently sits No. 28 in the FedExCup standings. He's seeking to advance to the FedExCup Playoffs for the first time.

Hoge is making his 81<sup>st</sup> start on the PGA TOUR. His best showing in 80 previous starts was a third-place finish at the Sony Open in Hawaii earlier this year, one of eight career top-10s. It was his second top-10 result this season following a T7 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. In each of his first three seasons on TOUR, Hoge posted two top-10s.

### **Dominic Bozzelli**

Dominic Bozzelli opened the Genesis Open with back-to-back birdies on Nos. 10 and 11, reaching 5-under through 11 holes before dropping a shot at No. 4 to shoot 4-under 67. Bozzelli hit 13 of 18 greens in regulation.

Bozzelli began the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season at the Sony Open in Hawaii with a T39 and missed the cut in his other three starts (CareerBuilder Challenge, Waste Management Phoenix Open, AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am). Bozzelli is making his first appearance at the Genesis Open.

Bozzelli's best showing is a T3 at the 2017 Valspar Championship in his rookie season.

### **Sam Saunders**

In his only previous appearance in the Genesis Open, Sam Saunders held the solo first-round lead last year after a 7-under 64. He followed with rounds of 77-73-68 to finish T49 at 2-under.

Saunders, who hit 14 of 18 greens in regulation, reached 5-under through 11 holes before the lone bogey of his round, at the par-4 12<sup>th</sup>, stalled his progress.

Saunders is playing his eighth event this season. His lone top-10 in his previous seven starts came at the CareerBuilder Challenge where he posted four sub-par rounds to finish T8.

Fifty-one years ago, in 1967, Saunders' grandfather, the late Arnold Palmer won his third and final Genesis Open.

Saunders is making his 106<sup>th</sup> TOUR start this week, with a T2 at the 2015 Puerto Rico Open his strongest showing. By comparison, Arnold Palmer won in his 21<sup>st</sup> professional start in an official PGA TOUR event at the 1955 RBC Canadian Open.

### **Tiger Woods**

Starting on No. 10, Tiger Woods began birdie, double bogey, bogey before fighting back to finish with a 1-over 72. Woods' errant drive on No. 11 forced him to return to the tee after his ball was lost in a eucalyptus tree. Woods hit 8 of 14 fairways, 7 of 18 greens and required 25 putts in round one.

This week marks Woods' 330<sup>th</sup> career start on TOUR. He made his first PGA TOUR appearance at the Genesis Open in 1992, missing the cut as a 16-year-old amateur. Woods' most recent appearance at the Genesis Open was 2006, when he withdrew following rounds of 69-74.

In 11 starts at the Genesis Open, Woods owns four top-10 results. His best finish is runner-up in 1998. He also posted a T2 in 1999. Without a win in 11 starts in this event, the Genesis Open is the only tournament where Woods has made double-digit appearances and failed to collect a victory.

### **Phil Mickelson**

Phil Mickelson mixed four birdies with three bogeys for a 1-under 70 in the first round. In 16 prior starts at the Genesis Open, Mickelson has two victories (2008, 2009) and two runner-up finishes (2007, 2012).

In nine starts since 2007 at the Genesis Open, Mickelson has posted just one over-par first round (1-over 72/2010).

Mickelson owns three top-5 finishes in six starts this season (T3/Safeway Open, T5/Waste Management Phoenix Open, T2/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am).

Last week at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Mickelson recorded his 190<sup>th</sup> top-10 finish (T2) in 576 career starts on the PGA TOUR.

### **Additional Player Notes**

Chez Reavie was the only player in the field to post a bogey-free opening round (68). Reavie, who came into the Genesis Open off back-to-back runner-up finishes at the Waste Management Phoenix Open and AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, has had limited success at Riviera. He finished 78<sup>th</sup> in his first appearance in 2008 and failed to advance to the weekend all but once in six additional starts. A seventh-place showing in 2016 marks his best result. In nine starts this season, Reavie has finished outside the top 25 just once (T36/CareerBuilder Challenge).

Playing on a sponsor exemption, China's HaoTong Li was 3-under after four holes to begin the first round and finished with 71 (E). Li is one of four players of Chinese heritage in the field this week (Zecheng Dou (74), Xinjun Zhang (72), C.T. Pan (70), a first for the most players from China playing a PGA TOUR event (outside of WGC-HSBC Champions). Chinese New Year (Spring Festival), the Year of the Dog, begins February 16 (Friday).

Defending Genesis Open champion and World No. 1 Dustin Johnson shot 3-over 74.

Matt Kuchar (73), playing his 1,370<sup>th</sup> round on the PGA TOUR, recorded the 21<sup>st</sup> round of his career without a birdie or better.

Despite starting with a birdie, Cameron Champ (75), the Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption recipient for the Genesis Open, sits T116 in just his third PGA TOUR start as a professional.

University of Texas standout Scottie Scheffler, who earned a spot in the field as the Collegiate Showcase winner at Riviera on Monday, posted a 2-over 73 in his first appearance at the Genesis Open. Scheffler was the leading amateur (T32) at the 2017 U.S. Open.

Jim Herman withdrew with a foot injury after an opening-round 77. Nicholas Lindheim withdrew with the flu after completing 17 holes before play was suspended due to darkness.

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

Since 2004, no other hole on the PGA TOUR has yielded more eagles than No. 1 at The Riviera Country Club. Before Thursday's first round, 384 total eagles had been made on the opening hole at Riviera. Six players recorded eagles at No. 1 in the opening round (Rory McIlroy, Padraig Harrington, Sean O'Hair, Brandon Harkins, Aaron Baddeley, John Merrick).

The 309-yard, par-4 10<sup>th</sup> hole at The Riviera Country Club tempted 91 of the 144 players in the field to 'go for the green' in the opening round. Of the 91, only two players found the surface – 2017 Genesis Open runner-up Thomas Pieters (birdie) and last week's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am winner Ted Potter, Jr. (bogey).

Last season, the only par-4 holes on TOUR that were shorter than No. 10 at Riviera were;

| <b>Yards</b> | <b>Hole</b> | <b>Course</b>                |
|--------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 288          | No. 16      | Sheshan International        |
| 296          | No. 15      | TPC River Highlands          |
| 299          | No. 14      | TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm   |
| 302          | No. 12      | TPC Sawgrass Stadium         |
| 305          | No. 14      | Plantation Course at Kapalua |

**Bogey-free rounds:**

R1: Chez Reavie (68).

Early Round Scoring Average: 72.07

Late Round Scoring Average: 72.34

**Scoring Averages**

|     | <b>Front 9</b> | <b>Back 9</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Cumulative</b> |
|-----|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| R1: | 35.545         | 36.657        | 72.203       | -                 |