



2018 Valero Texas Open

(The 25th of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

San Antonio, TX April 19-22, 2018
TPC San Antonio – AT&T Oaks Course

FedExCup Points: 500 Purse: \$6,200,000
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,435

First-Round Notes – Thursday, April 19, 2018

Weather: Partly cloudy, with a high of 78. Wind E 15-25 mph, with gusts to 30 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Grayson Murray	67 (-5)
Matt Atkins	68 (-4)
Keegan Bradley	68 (-4)
Chesson Hadley	68 (-4)
Billy Horschel	68 (-4)
Ryan Moore	68 (-4)

Grayson Murray

In his first start at the Valero Texas Open, Grayson Murray offset a double-bogey five at No. 7 with seven birdies, good for a 67.

Before this week, Murray's best position after 18 holes on the PGA TOUR was T2 at the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship. He finished T63.

Murray, winner of the 2017 Barbasol Championship in his rookie year on the PGA TOUR, is making his 14th start of the 2017-18 season. He finished inside the top-10 at the Safeway Open (T9) and AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (T8).

This week's Valero Texas Open marks Murray's fourth start in a PGA TOUR event in the state of Texas: 2017 Houston Open (T55), 2017 AT&T Byron Nelson (T27) and 2018 Houston Open (T14).

Murray, a Greensboro, North Carolina native, hit nine of 14 fairways in regulation and 13 of 18 greens. He needed 26 putts to complete round one.

First-Round Lead Notes

Since 2000, there have been only two first-round leaders of the Valero Texas Open to hang on for the win. Justin Leonard claimed his fifth PGA TOUR win in 2000 after holding a share of the opening-round lead at LaCantera, and Robert Gamez achieved the feat in 2005.

This season, six of 23 first-round leaders/co-leaders have held on for the win, most recently being Brice Garnett at the Puntacana Resort & Club Championship.

Billy Horschel

2014 FedExCup champion Billy Horschel, who opened with a 4-under 68, has had mixed success at the Valero Texas Open since 2013; 2013/T3, 2014/MC, 2015/3rd, 2016/T4 and 2017/MC.

Horschel is making his eighth start in the Valero Texas Open this week.

Horschel, a four-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is in search of his first win since the 2017 AT&T Byron Nelson in Dallas.

Horschel has made just five cuts in 11 starts this season, but comes to San Antonio this week after a T5 showing at last week's RBC Heritage.

Chesson Hadley

Making his fourth start in the Valero Texas Open, Chesson Hadley made five birdies and one bogey to open with a 68. Hadley finished T56 in 2014, T4 in 2015 and missed the cut in 2016.

Hadley, who won twice on the Web.com Tour last year (LECOM Health Challenge, Albertsons Boise Open), made a strong return to the PGA TOUR this season. In his first three starts of the season, he finished no worse than fourth; T3/Safeway Open, 2nd/Sanderson Farms Championship and T4/Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. A fourth top-5 finish came at the Waste Management Phoenix Open in February (T5).

Hadley comes to this week's Valero Texas Open on the heels of a T7 finish at last week's RBC Heritage, his fifth top-10 showing of the season.

Matt Atkins

PGA TOUR rookie Matt Atkins, 27, made five birdies against one bogey to open with a 68.

Atkins, who has made just two cuts in 10 starts this season, made his way onto the PGA TOUR by virtue of his 28th-place finish on the 2017 Web.com Tour priority list.

A native of Aston, Pennsylvania, Atkins won the 2017 El Bosque Mexico Championship on the Web.com Tour.

Miscellaneous Notes

Ryan Moore and Keegan Bradley, both at 4-under par in their fourth start in the Valero Texas Open, have each claimed one previous top-10 finish in the event. Moore finished T8 in 2012 and Bradley finished T9 in his first start in 2011.

Playing on Major Medical Extension, Jon Curran opened with a 3-under 69. He began the season with 18 events available to earn 305 FedExCup points which, combined with his 60 points, would equal the No. 125 total of 365 from the 2016-17 campaign and keep him exempt for the remainder of the season. Curran comes into this week having missed the cut in each of his first 10 starts.

Joaquin Niemann, the former World No. 1 amateur who is making his professional debut this week, opened with an even-par 72.

2015 Valero Texas Open champion and nearby Boerne resident Jimmy Walker opened with a 1-under 71, the same score he opened with en route to his 2105 victory. Walker is making his 13th start in the Valero Texas Open this week, and 11th straight. In addition to his 2015 win, he finished inside the top 10 in 2010 (T3).

Making his first start in the Valero Texas Open since 2011, and third overall, 2010 champion Adam Scott opened with a 3-over 75.

Past Valero Texas Open champions in the field: Zach Johnson (2008, 2009)/70, Adam Scott (2010)/75, Brendan Steele (2011)/70, Martin Laird (2013)/73, Steven Bowditch (2014)/83, Jimmy Walker (2015)/71, Charley Hoffman (2016)/72 and Kevin Chappell (2017)/72.

Chris Stroud withdrew after round one.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Billy Horschel (68), Ryan Moore (68)

Scoring Averages at TPC San Antonio:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	37.167	36.365	73.532	--

The par-4 first hole played the most difficult in round one at 4.429. The par-5 14th played the easiest at 4.519.