



2018 Zurich Classic of New Orleans
(The 26th of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Avondale, La.
TPC Louisiana

April 26-29, 2018
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425

FedExCup Points: 400 (each)
Purse: \$7,200,000/\$1,036,800

First-Round Notes – Thursday, April 26, 2018

With the team format beginning in 2017, a change was made at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans this year, with the two formats switching rotations. In 2018, rounds one and three in the two-player team event will feature the Four-ball (best ball) format, while the second and fourth rounds will use the Foursomes (alternate shot) format.

The Zurich Classic awards FedExCup points and official money, and counts as an official victory for the members of the winning team.

Weather: After 0.18 inches of rain early in the day, it was sunny with a high of 75. NW wind at 10-15 mph wind, gusting to 20 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard (Four-ball format)

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Chez Reavie/Lucas Glover | 60 (-12) |
| Xinjun Zhang/Zecheng Dou | 60 (-12) |
| Tony Finau/Daniel Summerhays | 62 (-10) |
| Chris Paisley/Tommy Fleetwood | 62 (-10) |
| J.J. Henry/Tom Hoge | 62 (-10) |
| Michael Kim/Andrew Putnam | 62 (-10) |
| Kevin Kisner/Scott Brown | 62 (-10) |
| Troy Merritt/Brendon de Jonge | 62 (-10) |

Chez Reavie/Lucas Glover

Reavie and Glover teamed to fire a 12-under 60 to share the first-round lead. Despite a par-par finish on Nos. 8 and 9, the duo matched the tournament record 18-hole score. Since the change to the team format in 2017, the low round at the Zurich Classic is 12-under 60 (both Four-ball) by the South African team of Retief Goosen/Tyrone Van Aswegen (R2/2017) and Kevin Kisner/Scott Brown (R4/2017).

- Reavie/Glover combined to birdie all par-5 and par-3 holes in the first round, except the par-3 ninth, their final hole of the day.
- Glover and Reavie share career-low PGA TOUR individual rounds of 61 (Glover/2016 Wyndham Championship/R2, Reavie/3 times/most recent 2017 Sony Open in Hawaii/R4). Thursday's 12-under 60 is unofficial due to the format.
- In 2017, Reavie/Glover shot 4-under 68 in the Four-ball format during the second round of the Zurich Classic. They eventually finished T39.
- Glover owns three PGA TOUR titles, including the 2009 U.S. Open.
- Before the Zurich Classic, Glover made 12 cuts in 13 starts this season with a lone top-10 finish (T7) at the CIMB Classic.
- Glover posted four top-10s in 11 starts as an individual at the Zurich Classic before the event became a team competition.
- Reavie's lone PGA TOUR victory in 244 career starts came at the 2008 RBC Canadian Open.
- Before the Zurich Classic Reavie made 13 cuts in 15 starts this season with back-to-back runner-up finishes at the Waste Management Phoenix Open (lost playoff to Gary Woodland) and the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (T2).
- Reavie missed the cut in five of seven starts at the Zurich Classic before the event became a team competition. His best result was T42 in his tournament debut in 2008.

Xinjun Zhang/Zecheng Dou

Zhang and Dou, the first two players from China to hold PGA TOUR membership, birdied the final three holes while playing in the final group of the day, to shoot 12-under 60 and share the first-round lead. They are one of 13 teams at the Zurich Classic with both members from the same country.

- Dou locked up his 2017-18 PGA TOUR membership, helped by a win at the Web.com Tour's Digital Ally Open in 2017. Dou became the first player from China to win on either the PGA TOUR or Web.com Tour.
- Dou, 21, has won five times as a professional. He was the 2016 PGA TOUR China Player of the Year.
- Zhang earned his 2017-18 PGA TOUR card by finishing 20th on the 2017 Web.com Tour Regular Season money list (\$186,306).
- Zhang, 30, is a two-time PGA TOUR China winner. 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 2017 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. His T5 at the 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship is his best career result on the PGA TOUR.

First-Round Lead Notes

In 2017, two teams (Jordan Spieth/Ryan Palmer, Kyle Stanley/Ryan Ruffels) shared the Zurich Classic first-round lead at 6-under 66 using the Foursomes format. Spieth/Palmer went on to finish fourth, while Stanley/Ruffels ended T29.

In 24 stroke-play events, six players have carried a first-round lead/co-lead on to victory this season, most recently Brice Garnett at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship.

Kevin Kisner/Scott Brown

Kisner and Brown returned to the Zurich Classic after their playoff loss to Smith/Blixt in a Monday finish in 2017. The pair fired 10-under 62 to sit T3 after round one.

- Both play out of Palmetto Golf Club in Aiken, South Carolina.
- Kisner seeks his third PGA TOUR title (2017 Forth Worth Invitational, 2015 The RSM Classic) while Brown searches for his second victory (2013 Puerto Rico Open).
- Kisner lost the Championship Match to Bubba Watson (7 and 6) at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play last month, one of three top-10s this season.
- After two top-10 results in his first five starts this season (T5/CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, T6/OHL Classic at Mayakoba), Brown has not posted a top-45 finish since.

Tony Finau/Daniel Summerhays

Finau and Summerhays, Utah natives who both advanced to the PGA TOUR via the Web.com Tour, sit T3 at 10-under 62.

- Finau won the 2014 Ellie Mae Classic on the Web.com Tour, which helped him earn PGA TOUR status the following year. In 2016, he claimed his first TOUR title with a victory at the Puerto Rico Open.
- Finau missed the cut in his only two prior starts in New Orleans (2015, 2017/with Summerhays as partner).
- Finau finished T10 in his most recent start, the Masters Tournament, where he competed after spraining his ankle while celebrating a hole-in-one during Wednesday's Par-3 Contest.
- Finau sits No. 10 in FedExCup standings with four top-10 results this season (2nd/Safeway Open, T6/Farmers Insurance Open, T2/Genesis Open, T10/Masters Tournament).
- Summerhays qualified for a spot in the 2007 Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational when he earned first-team All-American honors at BYU and went on to win the event, becoming the first amateur to win a Web.com Tour title. He couldn't accept the \$126,000 first prize, but did earn a full exemption for the remainder of the season and all of 2008. Three days after that win, he made the decision to forego his senior season at BYU and turned professional.
- Summerhays, who joined the PGA TOUR in 2011, remains in search of his first TOUR victory.
- Making his sixth appearance at the Zurich Classic, Summerhays' best result is T21 in 2014. He missed the cut last year with Finau as his partner.

Tommy Fleetwood/Chris Paisley

The English duo sit T3 at 10-under 62 while making their first appearance at the Zurich Classic.

- Fleetwood, who is a first-year member on the PGA TOUR, is making his 30th PGA TOUR start; his best result is a runner-up at the 2017 World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship, one of five top-10s on TOUR.
- Paisley has two previous PGA TOUR starts, both this season: WGC-Mexico Championship (T37) and last week's Valero Texas Open (MC).
- Both have won on the European Tour: Fleetwood (4) and Paisley (1). Fleetwood was the European Tour's race to Dubai champion in 2017.

J.J. Henry/Tom Hoge

Henry and Hoge are both former TCU college golfers who live in Fort Worth and practice and play together while at home. They finished T24 at this event last year and sit T3 following a 10-under 62 in Thursday's opening round.

- The most recent of Henry's three PGA TOUR wins was the 2015 Barracuda Championship, which uses a modified stableford scoring system.
- Henry advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs for the ninth time last season. A missed cut at THE NORTHERN TRUST, the first of four FedExCup Playoffs events, resulted in an end to his season at No. 125 in the final standings. His best finish in 14 starts this season is T16 at the RBC Heritage.
- Hoge's career-best PGA TOUR finish is third-place at the 2018 Sony Open in Hawaii. His only other top-10 result this season is T7 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.
- Hoge won the 2011 Players Cup on the Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada.

Michael Kim/Andrew Putnam

After posting seven consecutive birdies (Nos. 15-3) to reach 9-under through 12 holes, Kim and Putnam added just one more at No. 7 to fire 10-under 62 and sit T3. The team was formed on the practice putting green at the Houston Open last month when Kim invited Putnam to join him.

- Kim played with Brandon Hagy in the 2017 Zurich Classic, finishing 36th.
- Kim has one top-25 this season, a T23 at the Farmers Insurance Open.
- Kim's best result in his PGA TOUR career is a T3 at the 2016 Safeway Open.
- By virtue of finishing 100th in the final 2016-17 FedExCup standings, Kim is qualified for THE PLAYERS Championship.
- Putnam is making his first appearance in the Zurich Classic since the format changed. He missed the cut in 2015.
- Putnam has top-10s in two of his last three events (T5/Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship, T8/Valero Texas Open), his first two career top-10s. He is making his 40th PGA TOUR start at the Zurich Classic.
- Putnam is not yet in the field at THE PLAYERS Championship.

Miscellaneous Notes

Ron Oppenheim holed a 261-yard shot with a 3-wood at the par-5 seventh hole for the first albatross of the season, however it won't be officially recognized in the PGA TOUR statistics due to the format this week. The last player to make an albatross on TOUR was Johnson Wagner (No. 5/R2/2017 Wyndham Championship). Oppenheim and teammate Nate Lashley fired 8-under 64 to sit T11.

Troy Merritt/Brendon de Jonge opened with four consecutive birdies en route to a 10-under 62. They were one of two teams at 9-under or better with a bogey on the scorecard (Kisner/Brown).

The all-Ireland team of Shane Lowry/Padraig Harrington birdied three of their last four holes to shoot 9-under 63 and move into a six-way tie for third-place.

Defending champions Cameron Smith/Jonas Blixt sit T21 after a 7-under 65. **Smith/Blixt** (2017) are the only team made up of two past champions at the Zurich Classic. The other nine past champions in the field (in bold) each have teammates who have not won this event: **Brian Stuard**/Chris Stroud (2016), **Justin Rose**/Henrik Stenson (2015), **Billy Horschel**/Scott Piercy (2013), **Jason Dufner**/Pat Perez (2012), **Bubba Watson**/Matt Kuchar (2011), **Jerry Kelly**/Steve Stricker (2009), **Andres Romero**/Fabian Gomez (2008), **Nick Watney**/Charley Hoffman (2007) and **K.J. Choi**/Charlie Wi (2002).

David Duval/Jim Furyk, the veteran duo who have combined for 30 PGA TOUR wins (Furyk/17, Duval/13), carded a 7-under 65. Both players are among the exclusive group of eight players who have shot sub-60 rounds on TOUR, Furyk the only player to achieve the feat twice.

With a combined age of 102, the PGA TOUR Champions team of Steve Stricker/Jerry Kelly produced a 5-under 67 to sit T52.

Reigning U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka made his return to the PGA TOUR after a four-month absence due to a partially torn tendon in his wrist. He and teammate Marc Turnesa sit T52 after a 5-under 67.

2017 FedExCup champion and World No. 2 Justin Thomas teamed with fellow former University of Alabama golfer Bud Cauley to shoot 2-under 70, the highest score of the morning wave. Thomas is one of six FedExCup champions in the field: Jordan Spieth (2015), Billy Horschel (2014), Henrik Stenson (2013), Brandt Snedeker (2012) and Jim Furyk (2010).

Along with No. 2 Thomas, players ranked Nos. 3, 4 and 5 in the Official World Golf Ranking are also in the field; No. 3 Jordan Spieth/Ryan Palmer (66/T32), No. 4 Jon Rahm/Wesley Bryan (66/T32), No. 5 Justin Rose/Henrik Stenson (65/T21).

Former University High golfer and reigning Masters champion Patrick Reed teamed with Patrick Cantlay to shoot 7-under 65 and sit T21 in his first outing since Augusta National. Here's a look at how teams with players with local connections fared in round one:

Former LSU golfer Smylie Kaufman/Tom Lovelady (66/T32)

Former LSU golfer Sam Burns/William McGirt (67/T52)

Former LSU golfer John Peterson/Cody Gribble (66/T32)

For the first time since the 2017 TOUR Championship, all four current major championship winners are in the same PGA TOUR event: Patrick Reed (2018 Masters Tournament), Justin Thomas (2017 PGA Championship), Jordan Spieth (2017 The Open) and Brooks Koepka (2017 U.S. Open).

The Zurich Classic is the penultimate PGA TOUR event for players, not previously eligible, to earn a start in THE PLAYERS in one of three ways: 1) moving into the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking; 2) winning the Zurich Classic; and 3) moving into the top 10 in the 2017-18 FedExCup standings.

Six Zurich Ambassadors are in the field (in bold): **Jason Day**/Ryan Ruffels (T11), **Justin Rose**/Henrik Stenson (T21), **Sergio Garcia**/Rafa Cabrera Bello (T52), **Tommy Fleetwood**/Chris Paisley (T3), **Jamie Donaldson**/Ross Fisher (T32) and **Billy Horschel**/Scott Piercy (T21).

Martin Piller withdrew on Thursday before the first round began. He was replaced in the field by Denny McCarthy, who teamed with Piller's original partner Joel Dahmen.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: 49 teams recorded bogey-free rounds.

| Scoring Averages: | Front | Back | Total | Cumulative |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| R1: | 32.875 | 33.013 | 65.887 | - |