



Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai

Hualalai Golf Course | Ka'upulehu-Kona, Hawai'i | January 15-20, 2018

Second-Round Notes

Friday, January 19, 2018

Course Setup: Par 72 / 7,107 yards

Weather: Mostly sunny skies were forecast today with some afternoon clouds near the mountains. The trade winds across the islands will begin to subside and the Kona side of the Big Island will return to a normal sea breeze wind pattern. High in the low 80s and wind from SW at 8-16 mph.

Purse: \$1,800,000 (Winner: \$300,000)

Player	To Par	Scores
1. Colin Montgomerie	-14	34-31 – 65
T2 Gene Sauers	-12	33-35 – 68
T2. Jerry Kelly	-12	36-32 – 68
4. David Toms	-11	34-32 – 66
T5 Doug Garwood	-10	33-34 – 67
T5. Mark Calcavecchia	-10	34-33 – 67
T5. Austin Woody	-10	33-34 – 67

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Colin Montgomerie, 34-31 – 65 (-14)

Montgomerie solidified his solo lead and a position in Saturday's final group after slinging together three consecutive birdies on the back nine (13,14,15). His second-round score of 65 is a new personal best at Hualalai, beating his R3 66 from 2015 by one stroke.

His success in the opening 36-holes is due in part to his accuracy off the tee. The World Golf Hall of Famer leads the field in fairways hit (25/28 -- 89.3%)

In 2017's 36-hole event at Hualalai, Montgomerie carded two rounds in the 60s (68-67 – 135) and finished the tournament -9 at T13. His best finish at Mitsubishi Electric was at his first appearance in 2015 finishing in the top-5 (70-66-68 – 204/-12) (T5)

Montgomerie has six wins in his PGA TOUR Champions career, two of which were captured in the 2017 season (JAPAN AIRLINES Championship, SAS Championship).

Gene Sauers, 33-35 – 68 (-12)

Sauers maintains his status high on the leaderboard at T2 and positions himself in Saturday's final group after posting another bogey-free round. This is the Savannah residents fourth bogey free round, bringing his Hualalai record to a 72-hole streak.

After making eight birdies in his opening round, Sauers cooled off on Friday, making par on 15 holes and carding only two birdies. An eagle on 7 helped reach him to a 4-under-par 68.

Since joining PGA TOUR Champions in 2012, the 55-year-old has recorded just one win (U.S. Senior Open Championship, 2016). He has three wins on the PGA TOUR, including one in Hawaii (1986 Bank of Boston Classic; 1989 Hawaiian Open; 2002 Air Canada Championship)

Sauers made 24 starts on PGA TOUR Champions in 2017 and finished 15 of those starts inside the top 25. His best finish in 2017 was second place at the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic where he lost in the first playoff hole at Fallen Oak in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Jerry Kelly, 36-32 – 68 (-12)

With rounds of 64-68—132 (12-under), Jerry Kelly sits two shots back of Montgomerie entering Sunday's final round. The 2002 Sony Open in Hawaii champion won twice on PGA TOUR Champions in 2017 to secure Rookie of the Year honors. Kelly held a three-shot lead entering the final round on his way to winning the Boeing Classic in August, but trailed by one shot with 18 holes to play at the Pacific Links Bear Mountain Championship before earning win No. 2 with a closing 68.

The last PGA TOUR Champions Rookie of the Year to win the following year was Kirk Triplett, who earned the honor in 2012 and followed it up in 2013 with a successful title defense at the PURE Insurance Championship.

Kelly is looking to become the third player in the last four years to win this event in his debut. Nine players have won the Mitsubishi Electric Championship in their first try: Duffy Waldorf (2016), Miguel Angel Jimenez (2015), Loren Roberts (2006), John Jacobs (1999), John Bland (1996), George Archer (1990), Dave Hill (1988), Peter Thomson (1985) and Orville Moody (1984).

Dating back to the second round of the 2017 3M Championship, Kelly has now recorded 23 of his last 26 rounds under par on PGA TOUR Champions, including six rounds of 65 or better during that stretch.

David Toms, 34-32 – 66 (-11)

David Toms is tied for fourth after opening the week with rounds of 67-66—133 (11-under). As a rookie on PGA TOUR Champions, Toms made his debut at the 2017 Mitsubishi Electric Championship, posting rounds of 69-63—132 (12-under) to finish T4 after strong winds cancelled the final round. The top-five was one of three on the year for the former LSU golfer, but his final two didn't come until the last two events of the season – PowerShares QQQ Championship (3rd) and Charles Schwab Cup Championship (T4).

Toms won the Sony Open in Hawaii in 2006, and finished T4 in the event's 2002 edition. In 2002, he played in Sunday's final grouping alongside Jerry Kelly, but struggled to a 72 while Kelly posted 14-under par for a one-shot victory over John Cook.

Toms' last victory came at the PGA TOUR's Crowne Plaza Invitational in 2011. This week, he is making his 133rd start in a TOUR-sanctioned event since that win, marking a span of 6 years, 7 months and 28 days.

Tournament Notes:

While a distant six shots back at 8-under par, World Golf Hall of Fame member Bernhard Langer is eyeing a fourth career Mitsubishi Electric Championship title on Sunday. Langer has won 36 times on PGA TOUR Champions, but has never won a single event more than three times:

- 2007, 2008, 2014 Insperity Invitational
- 2011, 2013, 2016 Chubb Classic
- 2014, 2015, 2016 Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Champions
- 2009, 2014, 2017 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai
- 2010, 2014, 2017 Senior Open Championship

There were half a dozen players who either had, or shared the lead during the second-round: (Colin Montgomerie, Gene Sauers, Jerry Kelly, Doug Garwood, Bernhard Langer, Joe Durant).

The second hole-in-one ever recorded at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai was posted today by Fred Funk, using his 9-iron on the 12th hole. The first was made by Doug Tewell in 2002 on #8.

Entering Saturday's final round at Hualalai, there are six players within 4 shots of the lead. The largest come-from-behind win in this tournament came in 2005 when Dana Quigley rallied from four strokes back to defeat 36-hole leader Tom Watson in a playoff. Quigley won the tournament with a par on the third extra hole.

In the 34-year history of the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, the player(s) who are leading or tied for the lead after 36 holes have gone on to win the tournament 24 times, including each of the last four years: Bernhard Langer (2017, 2014), Duffy Waldorf (2016) and Miguel Angel Jimenez (2015).

A win at this event has been instrumental over the years in earning a berth in the top 30 on the final money list. Jack Nicklaus (1994) and Miguel Angel Jimenez (2015) are the only past champions who didn't end up among the top-30 money winners at the end of the season. Both players made just six starts in each respective year.

For the last 17 years, the winner of this event has carded three rounds in the 60s (with the exception of 2017 when only two rounds were played) and the only player to post a round over par and win the event was Hale Irwin in 1997 when he shot a 1-over-par 73 in the opening round. However, winds were clocked at 35-40 mph in that first round.