



2019 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
(The 23rd of 46 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Puntacana Resort & Club (Corales Course)

March 28-31, 2019
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,670

Purse: \$3,000,000

First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 28, 2019

Weather: Partly cloudy, with a high of 85. Wind SSE at 8-14 mph, gusting to 20 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Matt Jones	66 (-6)
Joel Dahmen	66 (-6)
Paul Dunne	66 (-6)
Sungjae Im	67 (-5)

Things to Know

- Matt Jones' 66 marks his second-best round of the season
- Joel Dahmen fires first-round 66 for second consecutive week to share first-round lead
- Ireland's Paul Dunne holds first-round lead/co-lead for second time in 16 starts on TOUR
- 46 of Sungjae Im's 56 rounds this season are par-or-better
- Jhonattan Vegas posted his 18th consecutive par-or-better opening round on TOUR
- Players from four countries – Australia, USA, Ireland, South Korea – occupy top four spots on leaderboard
- 22 players are within three strokes of the lead. Last year, nine players were within three of the lead

First-Round Lead Notes

- Third time three or more players share first-round lead this season (2018 Mayakoba Golf Classic, 2019 Waste Management Phoenix Open). Matt Kuchar (Mayakoba) and Rickie Fowler (WMPO) held on for their wins
- In 2018, Brice Garnett held the first-round lead with 63 (-9) and led wire-to-wire for his first TOUR victory
- In the two Web.com Tour events contested at Corales Puntacana, 65 (-7) was the leading first-round score (Jamie Arnold/2017, Blake Adams, Ryan Brehm, Jin Park/2016)
- Through 21 events this season, five first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win, most recently J.B. Holmes/Genesis Open

Player Notes

Matt Jones (T1/-6)

- Hit 13/14 fairways, 15/18 greens and needed 29 putts for 6-under 66, his second-best round this season (65/R1/Mayakoba Golf Classic)
- Holds share of first-round lead for fourth time in 277 starts on PGA TOUR: most recent, 2012 Puerto Rico Open (T5)
- Finished T28 in this event last year with 72-67-73-69—281 (-7)
- Made eight cuts in 12 starts this season, including five consecutive made cuts entering this week
- T13 (Farmers Insurance Open/Valspar Championship) are best results this season
- Currently No. 111, seeks return to FedExCup Playoffs after failing to advance last three seasons (151/2018, 152/2017, 126/2016)
- Defeated Matt Kuchar in a playoff at 2014 Houston Open for lone TOUR win, one of 21 career top-10 finishes. Most recent top-10 on TOUR was T4 at 2015 Dell Technologies Championship at TPC Boston, 84 starts ago
- Held off Jordan Spieth and Adam Scott to win 2015 Australian Open in his home country

Joel Dahmen (T1/-6)

- Recorded eight birdies, including five in his last six holes, to share the first-round lead for the second week in-a-row
- Shot 66 to share first-round lead with Sepp Straka at last week's Valspar Championship en route to T30 finish. Only other first-round lead/co-lead was 2017 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (T48)

- Finished T13 at 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
- Lone top-10 finish in 14 starts this season is T9 (Farmers Insurance Open)
- Best finish since joining the PGA TOUR in 2016-17 is T2 (2018 John Deere Classic)
- Two-time Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada winner and 2014 Player of the Year on that Tour

Paul Dunne (T1/-6)

- Mixed eight birdies with two bogeys to share the first-round lead, his second on the PGA TOUR (64/2018 Houston Open)
- Making 16th PGA TOUR start, where his best finish is T5 at this event last year. The top-10 earned him a spot in the field at the following week's Houston Open where he posted a T8 result
- Irishman attended the University of Alabama - Birmingham where, as a senior, he finished fifth in the individual competition at the 2015 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship
- First came to prominence at the 2015 Open Championship where, playing as an amateur, he was tied for the lead after three rounds, before posting a final-round 78 to finish T30
- Turned professional later in 2015 and finished T19 at the Alfred Dunhill Championship, his first event as a professional
- In 2017, claimed his first victory, taking the British Masters title by three strokes over Rory McIlroy, after a final-round 61

Sungjae Im (4th/-5)

- South Korean reached 6-under before bogey at No. 16 dropped him from the lead
- Highest-ranked player in the field in the FedExCup (No. 17) and OWGR (No. 59) will celebrate his 21st birthday on Saturday
- Finished T4 at last week's Valspar Championship
- 46 of 56 rounds this season have been par-or-better
- T3 finish at last month's Arnold Palmer Invitational is his best on TOUR and earned him an exemption into The Open Championship in July
- A win or solo-second this week will likely move him into top 50 of OWGR and earn an invitation to the Masters in April
- Finished T4 at this season's Safeway Open as he sought to win his first PGA TOUR start as a full member, with his only previous PGA TOUR starts coming at the 2018 U.S. Open (MC) and 2018 PGA Championship (T42)
- Won his first start on the Web.com Tour (2018 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay) and went on to lead the money list wire-to-wire for the entire year – first person in Web.com Tour history to achieve the feat

Jhonattan Vegas (T11/-3)

- Thursday's 69 marks 18th consecutive par-or-better opening round on TOUR, dating to 2018 The Open at Carnoustie (76)
- Required 23 putts while hitting 7/18 greens and 7/14 fairways
- Three-time TOUR winner has advanced to FedExCup Playoffs five times in seven full seasons, reaching the TOUR Championship twice (29th/2016, 23rd/2017)
- Finished T3 in last start (PLAYERS Championship) where he holed a 69' 7" birdie putt on No. 17 in the final round, the longest putt recorded on the famous island green (in the ShotLink era)
- Additional top-10 result this season was T10 at Waste Management Phoenix Open

Tony Romo (T128/+7)

- Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and current lead analyst for the NFL ON CBS began round with two consecutive bogeys before adding two additional bogeys and a triple-bogey 7 at No. 8, a hole he birdied in round one last year
- Returns to the tournament as a sponsor exemption. At last year's event, shot-77-82—159 (+15) to miss the cut
- The 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship was the first official PGA TOUR event in which he competed as an individual against PGA TOUR professionals in the same competition

Miscellaneous Notes

- Roberto Diaz (T5/-4) has nine competitive rounds at Corales Puntacana. Before Thursday's 68, Diaz shot 69-63-68-68 to finish T2 in 2016 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship when it was a Web.com Tour event. He missed the cut in 2017 with 67-74. He also missed the cut at this event last year (75-71) when it became an official PGA TOUR event
- Jonathan Byrd (T5/-4) was one of two players with clean scorecard in round one (Denny McCarthy/69)
- Sepp Straka (T5/-4) shared first-round lead at last week's Valspar Championship with 5-under 66 en route to T46 finish, marking his second 18-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR. He also led by a stroke at the 2018 Safeway Open following a 9-under 63
- Aaron Baddeley (T5/-4) seeks his third top-10 result in his 11th start this season (T4/Safeway Open, T2/Puerto Rico Open)
- Former University of Nebraska golfer Brady Schnell (T5/-4) notched a career-best eight birdies, including his closing four holes, en route to 4-under 68. Schnell birdied three of the four par-3 holes (par at No. 17). His career-best result in 15 PGA TOUR starts is T28/2019 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am
- Sam Burns' (T5/-4) T3 at this season's Sanderson Farms Championship is his best finish in 28 career starts

- Denny McCarthy (T11/-3) shot a bogey-free 69 while playing with Tony Romo. He also posted a bogey-free 69 in last year's second round at Corales Puntacana while paired with Romo. McCarthy sat T3 after a first-round 66 at this event in 2018 en route to a fourth-place finish, his first career top-10 on TOUR
- Nate Lashley (T23/-2), winner of the 2017 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship when it was a Web.com Tour event, needs to finish 25th or better this week to satisfy his Minor Medical Extension to remain exempt for the season
- Defending champion Brice Garnett sits T43 after a 1-under 71
- Low 18-hole score at Corales Puntacana is 10-under 62. Three players recorded 62s in the 2016 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship when it was a Web.com Tour event (Stephen Jaeger/R2, Scott Harrington/R2, Alexandre Rocha/R3)
- Troy Matteson withdrew after the first round

Scoring Averages:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	35.341	36.811	72.152	--

Early Scoring Average: 70.64

Late Scoring Average: 70.94

The par-4 13th was the hardest in round one with an average of 4.500. The easiest hole was the par-5 7th hole, which played to an average of 4.371

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Jonathan Byrd (68), Denny McCarthy (69)