



2019 Puerto Rico Open

(The 16th of 46 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
Coco Beach Golf & Country Club

February 21-24, 2019
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,506

Purse: \$3,000,000

First-Round Notes – Thursday, February 21, 2019

Weather: Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a high of 84. Wind E 15-25, with gusts to 30 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Andres Romero	66 (-6)
Sepp Straka	67 (-5)
Nine players	68 (-4)

Things to Know

- In search of his first PGA TOUR win in 11 years, Andres Romero opens with a bogey-free 66
- Daniel Berger, the field's highest ranked player in the Official World Golf Rankings (72), opens with 70
- Amateur Bryson Nimmer, a Clemson University senior, opens with 69 in PGA TOUR debut
- Defending Puerto Rico Open champion (from 2017) D.A. Points opens with a 71
- In his 11th start in the event, Puerto Rico native Rafa Campos opens with 73

First-Round Lead Notes

- 1 First-round leader/co-leader to win the Puerto Rico Open (George McNeill/2012)
- 5 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win in 2018-19 (most recent: J.B. Holmes/Genesis Open)
- 63 Lowest first-round score in tournament history, ties course record (Trey Mullinax/2017)

Andres Romero (66/1st)

- Playing out of the Past Champion/Veteran Member reshuffle category, made six birdies and no bogeys
- Only other 18-hole lead/co-lead, T1, was at the 2013 Puerto Rico Open. He finished T6
- In six previous Puerto Rico Open starts, finished inside the top-10 in 2013 (T6) and 2016 (T5)
- Winner of the 2008 Zurich Classic of New Orleans
- In 2017, won the BMW International Open on the European Tour
- Finished 67th in the priority ranking after the 2018 Web.com Tour Finals
- Is making his third start of the season; T26/ Sanderson Farms Championship, MC/The RSM Classic

Sepp Straka (67/2nd)

- PGA TOUR rookie made six birdies against one bogey (par-4 14th) to open with 5-under 67
- Has made two cuts in seven starts before this week, with a T13 at the Farmers Insurance Open his best finish
- Had not made a start on the PGA TOUR prior to this season
- Won the KC Golf Classic on the Web.com Tour in 2018
- Finished T3 at the Web.com Tour Championship en route to securing his PGA TOUR card for the 2018-19 season (22nd on the Web.com Tour Finals money list)
- Born in Austria, graduated from the University of Georgia in 2016 (Business Management)
- Is the first Austrian to hold membership on the PGA TOUR

Alex Kang (68/T3)

- Playing on a sponsor exemption, birdied four of his first nine holes, before closing with nine pars en route to a bogey-free 68
- Hit 12/14 fairways and was a perfect 18/18 greens in regulation
- In his only other start in the event, finished T47 in 2015
- Is making his fifth start on the PGA TOUR, where his lone top-10 finish came at the 2017 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (T10)
- San Francisco native won the 2016 Cadillac Championship in the PGA TOUR China Series
- Has made 44 starts on the Web.com Tour, with a T3 at the 2017 Colombia Championship his best finish

Miscellaneous Notes

- Puerto Rico native Rafa Campos opened with a 1-over 73 in his 11th start in the event
- Campos and Dicky Pride (75/T104) are the only two players to have competed in each Puerto Rico Open (since 2008)
- Amateur Bryson Nimmer, a Clemson University senior, opened with a 3-under 69 in his PGA TOUR debut
- Boo Weekley, making his first start on the PGA TOUR since the 2017 RBC Canadian Open, opened with an even-par 72. Was 4-over through his first five holes, before making five birdies and just one additional bogey
- Daniel Berger, the highest-ranked player in Official World Golf Rankings (No. 72), opened with a 2-under 70 in his first start in the event
- Zac Blair, who learned he had earned a spot in the field off the alternate list when Olin Browne withdrew, took an Uber to the Salt Lake City airport, experienced four flight delays to New York's JFK, made a Wednesday night red eye to San Juan and landed at 5:30am before his 7:00am tee time. He opened with a 1-under 71
- Jason Gore withdrew during round one

Puerto Rican players in the field

Player	R1 Score/Position
Edward Figueroa	71/T36
Rafa Campos	73/T77
Jeronimo Esteve (A)	75/T104
Max Alverio (A)	78/T126

Bogey-free rounds

R1 (8): Andres Romero (66), Alex Kang (68), Roberto Castro (68), Martin Flores (69), Kramer Hickok (69), David Lingmerth (69), Curtis Luck (70), Aaron Baddeley (70)

First-round scoring averages

	Front nine	Back nine	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.802	36.511	72.313	

Early Scoring Average: 70.37

Late Scoring Average: 70.53