



2019 Rocket Mortgage Classic

(The 36th of 46 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Detroit, Michigan
Detroit Golf Club

June 27-30, 2019

Purse: \$7,300,000 (winner: \$1,314,000)
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,340

First-Round Notes – Thursday, June 27, 2019

Weather: Partly cloudy. High of 89. Wind S 5-10 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Nate Lashley	63 (-9)
Ryan Armour	64 (-8)
Nick Watney	64 (-8)
7 players	65 (-7)

Things to Know

- Nate Lashley, the last man in the field, takes the first 18-hole lead/co-lead of his career
- Lashley sets career-best marks for 18-hole score, birdies and Strokes Gained: Putting
- Ryan Armour opens with a 64 for the second consecutive week
- Five-time PGA TOUR winner Nick Watney in search of first victory since 2012 THE NORTHERN TRUST
- Looking to win in back-to-back weeks, Travelers Championship winner Chez Reavie stands T4

First-Round Lead Notes

6 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win in 2018-19
(most recent: Brooks Koepka/PGA Championship)

Comparing the top three on the leaderboard (entering the week)

	Nate Lashley	Ryan Armour	Nick Watney
Age	36 (December 12, 1982)	43 (February 27, 1976)	38 (April 25, 1981)
FedExCup	132	96	97
OWGR	353	130	142
PGA TOUR starts	32	157	372
PGA TOUR wins	0	1	5
PGA TOUR top-10s	1	8	53
Starts in 2018-19	14	22	21
Wins in 2018-19	0	0	0
Top-10s in 2018-19	1	1	2

Nate Lashley (1st/-9)

- Last man in the field; got in as an alternate when David Berganio, Jr. withdrew on Wednesday
- Career-low 63 (previous: 64/R4/2018 AT&T Byron Nelson)
- Career-high nine birdies (previous: 8/R4/2019 Desert Classic)
- Career-best mark of 4.363 Strokes Gained: Putting (previous: 4.164/R2/2006 Chrysler Classic of Tuscon)
- Only career top-10 on TOUR came at the 2019 Puerto Rico Open (T8)
- After making his debut at the 2006 Chrysler Classic of Tuscon on a sponsor exemption (MC), did not make another start on TOUR until the 2017-18 season (MC/Safeway Open)
- In 59 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour, has seven top-10s including a win at the 2017 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship (now an event on the PGA TOUR)
- Last player to win on TOUR after getting into the field as an alternate: Vaughn Taylor, 2016 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am

Ryan Armour (T2/-8)

- Second consecutive week opening with a 64 after doing so at the Travelers Championship (finished T54)
- Before the Travelers Championship, had never recorded a sub-65 score in the first round in his PGA TOUR career (156 previous starts)
- Winner of the 2017 Sanderson Farms Championship, where at the age of 41 years, 8 months, 2 days, he became the eighth-oldest first-time winner in TOUR history
- Best result in 22 starts during the 2018-19 season is a T6 at the Valspar Championship

Nick Watney (T2/-8)

- Lowest first-round score since 2011 THE PLAYERS Championship (64)
- In 21 starts during the 2018-19 season, has two top-10s (T8/Charles Schwab Challenge, T9/Zurich Classic of New Orleans)
- Five PGA TOUR victories: 2007 Zurich Classic of New Orleans, 2009 Farmers Insurance Open, 2011 World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship, 2011 Quicken Loans National, 2012 THE NORTHERN TRUST

Miscellaneous notes

- **Talor Gooch** (T4) joins **Nate Lashley** as alternates in the top five; Gooch got in when **Julian Etulain** withdrew Tuesday
- **Chez Reavie** (T4), winner of last week's Travelers Championship, looks to become the first player to win in back-to-back weeks since **Bryson DeChambeau** did so in the first two weeks of the 2018 FedExCup Playoffs (THE NORTHERN TRUST, Dell Technologies Championship)
- Rocket Mortgage ambassador **Rickie Fowler** (T33) opens with 68; holed out from 122 yards for eagle at the par-5 17th, his longest hole-out since the 2015 Quicken Loans National (184 yards)
- World No. 2, FedExCup No. 7 **Dustin Johnson** (T101) and 2019 U.S. Open champion **Gary Woodland** (T131) are both outside the top 100
- Woodland made four bogeys in a row (Nos. 8-11), matching his total from 72 holes at the 2019 U.S. Open, his most recent start; the last time he made four or more consecutive bogeys was at the 2018 U.S. Open (R1)
- Two Michigan natives shot 67 or better; **Brian Stuard** (T11), from Jackson, shot 66, while Petoskey's **Joey Garber** (T24), who threw out the first pitch at Wednesday's Detroit Tigers game, fired a bogey-free 67
- **Cameron Champ** (T11) snaps a streak of 21 rounds in stroke-play events without a sub-70 score (66); last score in the 60s was at the 2019 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (69/R4)
- For the 16th consecutive TOUR event, the 18-hole lead is either a tie or one shot
- The top two finishers in the top eight and ties not otherwise exempt will receive exemptions to The 2019 Open Championship at Royal Portrush; Lashley, Armour and Watney are all not currently exempt

Bogey-free rounds

R1 (22): Nate Lashley (63), Ryan Armour (64), Nick Watney (64), Talor Gooch (65), Stewart Cink (65), Kevin Streelman (66), Harris English (66), Scott Stallings (66), Martin Piller (66), Joey Garber (67), Tom Hoge (67), Carlos Ortiz (67), Russell Henley (68), Max Homa (68), Ted Potter, Jr. (68), Patrick Reed (68), Josh Teater (68), Cameron Tringale (68), Jimmy Walker (68), Brice Garnett (69), Anirban Lahiri (69), Vaughn Taylor (70)

Scoring averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	34.712	34.994	69.705	--
	Early	Late		
R1	69.76	69.65		
	Toughest hole	Easiest hole		
R1	Par-4 2 nd (4.135)	Par-5 7 th (4.468)		