



**2018 Safeway Open**  
*(1<sup>st</sup> of 46 events in the 2018-19 PGA TOUR Season)*

**Napa, California**  
**Silverado Resort and Spa (North)**

**October 4-7, 2018**

**Purse: \$6,400,000**  
**Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,166**

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, October 4, 2018**

*Weather: Mostly cloudy with a high of 70. Wind SW 6-12 mph*

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Sepp Straka 63 (-9)  
Chase Wright 64 (-8)  
Phil Mickelson 65 (-7)

**Seven Things to Know**

- In his first-ever PGA TOUR start, rookie Sepp Straka birdies final three holes to post a bogey-free 63
- PGA TOUR rookie Chase Wright plays his last three holes in 4-under to open with 64
- Phil Mickelson reels off six straight birdies en route to a 7-under 65
- 2016 and 17 Safeway Open winner Brendan Steele opens with a 5-under 67. The last player on the PGA TOUR to win an event three consecutive years was Steve Stricker at the John Deere Classic (2009-11)
- Each of the 21 PGA TOUR rookies are in the Safeway Open field.
- Fred Couples, who turned 59 years old Wednesday, opened with a 73 in his 615<sup>th</sup> career PGA TOUR start and first outside the majors since the 2016 Genesis Open (MC)
- Playing on a sponsor invite, former Oakland As and St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Mark Mulder opened with a 3-over 75

**First-Round Lead Notes**

3 First-round leaders/co-leaders at the Safeway Open to win since 2007 (Rocco Mediate/2010, Sangmoon Bae/2014, Brendan Steele/2017)

**Sepp Straka (63/-9)**

- Making his first-ever start on the PGA TOUR, 2018-19 rookie birdied his final three holes to open with a bogey-free, 9-under 63
- Since moving to Silverado in 2015, the lowest opening-round score of 62 belongs to Scott Piercy (2016/T3)
- 25-year-old former Georgia Bulldog won the KC Golf Classic earlier this year on the Web.com Tour
- Native of Austria ended his season on the Web.com Tour with a T3 finish at the Web.com Tour Championship in Atlantic Beach, Florida
- Earned his rookie card to the PGA TOUR this season after finishing 40<sup>th</sup> on the 2018 Web.com Tour priority list
- Was part of the 2016 SEC Championship winning team at Georgia
- Twin brother Sam also played collegiately at University of Georgia

**Chase Wright (64/-8)**

- 29-year-old PGA TOUR rookie played his last five holes in five-under par (birdie-par-eagle-birdie-birdie) to post a bogey-free 8-under 64
- Hit 8/14 fairways, but was a perfect 18/18 into the greens in regulation
- In only other start on the PGA TOUR, finished T64 at The RSM Classic in 2012
- Among five top-10 finishes in 25 starts on the Web.com Tour in 2018 was a playoff victory at the Rust-Oleum Championship over Alex Prugh, who is at 6-under 66 after round one this week
- Recently got engaged to Fuzzy Zoeller's daughter, Gretchen
- Played collegiately at Indiana University

**Phil Mickelson (65/-7)**

- Making his fourth start in the Safeway Open (2007/MC, 2016/T8, 2017/T3), World Golf Hall of Fame Member made six consecutive birdies on Nos. 9-14 en route to a 7-under 65.
- His record for most consecutive birdies in a row is seven (R2/1997 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open)
- As a Captain's Selection, competed in his 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive Ryder Cup last week in Paris
- Of 43 career PGA TOUR wins, 11 have come in the state of California
- In the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, collected six top-10 finishes, highlighted by his 43<sup>rd</sup> TOUR win (World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship)

**Brandt Snedeker (66/-6)**

- Making his third start in the Safeway Open and first since 2015 (T17), 2012 FedExCup champion birdied five of his last six holes (Nos. 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9) to open with a 6-under 66. He made additional birdies at Nos. 12 and 13.
- Among four top-10 finishes in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season was his ninth TOUR victory at the Wyndham Championship.
- Following a 67<sup>th</sup>-place finish at the BMW Championship in the FedExCup Playoffs, ended his season ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in the FedExCup
- Four of his nine TOUR victories have come in the state of California (2012, 2016 Farmers Insurance Open and 2013, 2015 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am)

**Miscellaneous Notes**

- Four 2018-19 PGA TOUR rookies are inside the top five after round one: Sepp Straka (-9/1<sup>st</sup>), Chase Wright (-8/2<sup>nd</sup>), Sungjae Im (-6/T4), Adam Long (-6/T4)
- Former World No. 1 amateur Joaquin Niemann opened with a 4-under 68 as a first-year member of the PGA TOUR. With four top-10 finishes in 13 starts last season en route to earning Special Temporary Member status, ended up with PGA TOUR membership and is among the nominees for 2017-18 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year.
- This week's Safeway Open marks the 33<sup>rd</sup> PGA TOUR or PGA TOUR Champions event hosted by Silverado Resort and Spa; 1968-1976 Kaiser International Open Invitational, 1977-1980 Anheuser-Busch Golf Classic, 1989-2002 The Transamerica on PGA TOUR Champions and 2014-18 Safeway Open.

**Bogey-free rounds:**

R1: Sepp Straka (63), Chase Wright (64), Phil Mickelson (65), Mackenzie Hughes (66), Sungjae Im (66), Wyndham Clark (66), J.T. Poston (66), Sam Saunders (66), Troy Merritt (67), Jonathan Byrd (67), Roger Sloan (67), Julian Etulain (68), James Hahn (69), Kramer Hickock (69),

**Scoring Averages at the par-72 Silverado Resort and Spa (North):**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	
R1:	35.181	35.243	70.424	---	---

Morning Scoring Average: 69.86

Afternoon Scoring Average: 70.99