



2019 The Honda Classic

(The 18th of 46 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida Feb. 28 – March 3, 2019 Purse: \$6,800,000 (\$1,224,000/winner)
PGA National (Champion Course) Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,125

First-Round Notes – Thursday, February 28, 2019

Weather: Mostly sunny, with a high of 83. Wind NE 5-10 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Jhonattan Vegas	64 (-6)
Ernie Els	66 (-4)
Lucas Glover	66 (-4)
Zach Johnson	66 (-4)
Ben Silverman	66 (-4)

Things to Know

- Jhonattan Vegas makes six birdies and no bogeys to open with a 64, tying his low score in the event in 23 rounds
- 2008 Honda Classic champion Ernie Els ties his lowest score in 45 rounds in the event with a 66
- After a rollercoaster front nine that included an eagle, two birdies and three bogeys, Zach Johnson opens with a 66, tying his best score in the event in 21 rounds
- Jupiter, FL resident Brooks Koepka opens with a 3-under 67 in his fifth Honda Classic start
- Defending champion Justin Thomas overcomes a double-bogey at 15 and bogey at 16 with a birdie-birdie finish to open with 68

First-Round Lead Notes

- 3 First-round leaders/co-leaders at The Honda Classic to win since 2000
Most recent: Justin Leonard/2003
- 5 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2018-19
Most recent: J.B. Holmes/Genesis Open
- 63 Lowest opening-round score since moving to PGA National in 2007 (Rory McIlroy/2014)
- 67 Highest opening-round lead since moving to PGA National in 2007 (Spencer Levin/2011)

Jhonattan Vegas (-6/1st)

Age: 34 (August 19, 1984)

Entering the week

- #123 FedExCup
- #131 OWGR
- 6 Starts at The Honda Classic
- 197 PGA TOUR starts
- 3 PGA TOUR wins
- 8 PGA TOUR starts in 2018-19

Best result in 2018-19: T10/Waste Management Phoenix Open

- Opened with a bogey-free 6-under 64 in his seventh start in The Honda Classic
- His 64 ties his low score in the event in 23 rounds from round four of 2017 (T4)
- Is now nine-for-nine this season with first-round scores of par-or-better. Has opened with a sub-par score in his last seven starts
- Only previous top-10 finish in the event was 2017 (T4)
- Hit 11 of 14 fairways and 15 of 18 greens in regulation
- Making his ninth start of the 2018-19 season, with his lone top-10 finish coming at the Waste Management Phoenix Open (T10)

Lucas Glover (-4/T2)

- Beginning on No. 10, made five birdies before succumbing to his only bogey of the day at his last hole, No. 9
- In 10 previous starts in the event, finished inside the top 10 in 2005 (T9) and 2013 (T4)
- Made a return to the PGA TOUR this season by virtue of a 14th-place finish on the 2018 Web.com Tour priority list
- Underwent arthroscopic knee surgery in June 2018 before competing in the Web.com Tour Finals
- In seven starts this season, has amassed six top-20 finishes, highlighted by a pair of T7 showings at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am
- Three-time PGA TOUR winner; 2005 Children's Miracle Network Classic, 2009 U.S. Open and 2011 Wells Fargo Championship

Ernie Els (-4/T2)

- Making his 14th start in The Honda Classic and first since 2017, the 2008 tournament winner overcame a double-bogey at the par-3 15th with six birdies to open with a 4-under 66
- Aside from his 2008 victory, has not finished inside the top-20 in the event
- Is in search of his 127th top-10 finish on the PGA TOUR and first since the 2016 Quicken Loans National (5th)
- Is in search of his 20th career PGA TOUR win and first since the 2012 Open Championship
- Is making his 467th official PGA TOUR start this week and is playing out of the Top-50 Career Money List category

Miscellaneous Notes

- Defending Honda Classic champion Justin Thomas opened with a 2-under 68 in his bid to become just the second player to successfully defend his title (Jack Nicklaus, 1977-78)
- Alex Cejka was disqualified during his round for using greens reading material that did not fit the new scale
- Following 14 straight pars, Sergio Garcia birdied three of his last four holes, Nos. 15, 16 and 18, to open with a bogey-free 67. In eight previous starts in the event, finished inside the top 10 in 2014 (T8) and 2016 (2nd)

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Jhonattan Vegas (64), Sergio Garcia (67)

Scoring Averages at PGA National:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.524	35.378	70.902	---

Morning Scoring Average: 70.83

Afternoon Scoring Average: 70.97

“Bear Trap” averages – No. 15 (3.189/5th-toughest), No. 16 (4.021/11th-toughest), No. 17 (3.014/12th-toughest)

The par-4 sixth hole played the toughest in round one, giving up just nine birdies against 67 bogeys or worse (4.559)
The par-5 third hole ranked as the easiest, with a scoring average also of 4.559