



2019 Valspar Championship

(The 21st of 46 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Palm Harbor, Fla.

March 21-24, 2019

Purse: \$6,700,000 (winner: \$1,206,000)

Innisbrook Resort & GC (Copperhead Course)

Par/Yards: 36-35 - 71/7,340

First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 21, 2019

Weather: Sunny, with a high of 71. Wind WNW 15-20 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Position	Name	Score
T1	Joel Dahmen	66 (-5)
T1	Sepp Straka	66 (-5)
T3	Russell Knox	67 (-4)
T3	Kevin Kisner	67 (-4)
T3	Luke Donald	67 (-4)

Things to Know

- PGA TOUR rookie Sepp Straka posts the day's only bogey-free round to claim a share of the lead
- Co-leaders Joel Dahmen and Sepp Straka are both making their first start in the Valspar Championship
- Russell Knox makes the first albatross in tournament history, shoots 67
- World No. 1 Dustin Johnson opens with a 2-under 69 in his first Valspar Championship start
- Following last week's runner-up finish at THE PLAYERS Championship, 48-year-old Jim Furyk opens with 2-under 69

First-Round Lead Notes

- 1 First-round leader/co-leader to win the Valspar Championship (K.J. Choi/2002)
- 5 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win in 2018-19 (most recent: J.B. Holmes/Genesis Open)

Comparing the co-leaders (entering the week)

	Joel Dahmen	Sepp Straka
Age	31 (Nov. 11, 1987)	25 (May 1, 1993)
FedExCup	67	160
OWGR	160	365
Starts at Valspar Champ.	0	0
PGA TOUR starts	58	9
PGA TOUR wins	0	0
Starts in 2018-19	13	9
Top-10s in 2018-19	1	0

Joel Dahmen (T1/-5)

- Takes an 18-hole lead/co-lead for the second time on the PGA TOUR. Was T1 after the first round of the 2017 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, before finishing T48
- Birdied his first two holes of the day, Nos. 10 and 11, en route to a 5-under 66
- Lone top-10 finish in 13 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 (2014 PC Financial Open, 2014 The Syncrude Boreal Open) and 2014 Player of the Year on that Tour

Sepp Straka (T1/-5)

- Takes an 18-hole lead/co-lead for the second time on the PGA TOUR. Led by a stroke at the 2018 Safeway Open following a 9-under 63. Ensuing rounds of 72-78-71 resulted in a T46 finish with, among others, Joel Dahmen
- Secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2018-19 season with a 22nd-place finish on the Web.com Tour Finals money list. Was 40th in the final priority-ranking order.
- Is the first Austrian-born player to earn a PGA TOUR card
- Won the 2018 KC Golf Classic on the Web.com Tour
- Had never made a start on the PGA TOUR prior to the 2018-19 season
- In nine starts, has made only three cuts, but collected T13 and T16 finishes at the Farmers Insurance Open and Puerto Rico Open, respectively
- Graduated from University of Georgia in 2016 (Business Management)

Luke Donald (T3/-4)

- 2012 Valspar Championship winner and former World No. 1 Luke Donald made five birdies before taking his lone bogey of the day at his last hole, No. 18
- Began the 2018-19 PGA TOUR Season on a Major Medical Extension (herniated disc) with 15 starts available to earn 336 FedExCup points to match No. 125 (Seamus Power/377) in 2017-18 FedExCup points
- Is making just his second start of the season and first since a missed cut at the Sony Open in Hawaii
- A five-time PGA TOUR winner, is in search of his first win since the 2012 Valspar Championship
- Following his win at the 2012 Valspar Championship, regained the No. 1 spot in the Official World Golf Ranking

Miscellaneous Notes

- Shawn Stefani (T6) used a wedge from 156 yards to hole his second shot at the par-4 16th to open with a 3-under 68. He held the first-round lead in the 2013 event, before finishing T7
- Defending champion Paul Casey opened with a 1-under 70 in his bid to become the first player to successfully defend his Valspar Championship title
- Following his solo-second at last week's PLAYERS Championship, 2010 Valspar Championship winner Jim Furyk opened with a 2-under 69 in is 11th start in the event. Furyk won the 2010 tournament en route to winning the FedExCup
- En route to a 4-under 67, Russell Knox used a 3-wood to hole his second shot from 275 yards at the par-5 11th hole. After a 2-over 38 on his outgoing nine, he followed with a career-low 29 on his inward half (previous: 30/five times, most recent R2/front/2018 Sony Open in Hawaii)
- Akshay Bhatia, the only amateur in the field, opened with a 3-over 74. The 17-year-old is competing on a sponsor exemption
- Each of the last three Masters champions are competing in this week's Valspar Championship field; Patrick Reed/2018 (77), Sergio Garcia/2017 (71), Danny Willett/2016 (69)
- For the second straight year, Kevin Na withdrew prior to round one with a neck injury. He was replaced in the field this week by Curtis Luck (70)
- On Wednesday, the Valspar Championship announced a five-year extension of the Sherwin-Williams Company that will take effect after next year's tournament and continue its Valspar brand's sponsorship of the Valspar Championship through 2025

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Sepp Straka (66)

Scoring Averages at The Copperhead Course:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	36.729	35.410	72.139	---

Early Scoring Average: 71.49

Late Scoring Average: 72.79

Toughest hole in round one: Par-4 third (4.271)

Easiest hole in round one: Par-5 first (4.722)