



2019 Waste Management Phoenix Open
(The 13th of 46 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Scottsdale, Arizona
TPC Scottsdale

Jan. 31 - Feb. 3, 2019
Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,261 yards

Purse: \$7,100,000 (\$1,278,000 winner)
500 FedExCup points to winner

First-Round Notes – Thursday, January 31, 2019

Weather: Mostly sunny, with a high of 73. Wind S 5-10 mph

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Score
T1	Rickie Fowler	64 (-7)
T1	Justin Thomas	64 (-7)
T1	Harold Varner III	64 (-7)
T4	Martin Laird	65 (-6)
T4	J.T. Poston	65 (-6)

Things to Know

- Rickie Fowler, Justin Thomas, Harold Varner III open with 7-under 64; seek their fifth, 10th and first PGA TOUR wins, respectively
- Scottsdale resident Martin Laird overcomes early bogey to post 65, best round one score in 11 tournament starts
- Phil Mickelson opens with 3-under 68 in tournament-record 30th start
- Mickelson is seeking his 500th official cut on the PGA TOUR this week
- Defending champion Gary Woodland opens with 3-under 68

First-Round Lead Notes

- 60 Lowest R1 score (most recent: Phil Mickelson/2013/Won)
- 3 First-round leaders/co-leaders of the Waste Management Phoenix Open since 2000 to convert for the win
- 3 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2018-19 (most recent: Charles Howell III/The RSM Classic)
- 3 First-round score of 64 has set the pace for the last three years

Justin Thomas (T1/64)

Age: 25 (4/29/1993)

Entering the week

- #22 FedExCup
- #4 OWGR
- 4 Starts at Waste Management Phoenix Open
- 121 PGA TOUR starts
- 9 PGA TOUR wins
- 4 Starts in 2018-19
- 2 Top-10s in 2018-19

- En route to a bogey-free 7-under 64, reeled off four consecutive birdies on Nos. 18-3. Added birdies at Nos. 5 and 6 to make it six birdies in a seven-hole stretch
- Opening-round 64 marks his 10th consecutive sub-par score and totals 41-under par
- Making his fifth start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open, having collected T17 finishes in 2015 and 2018 and missed cuts in 2016 and 2017
- Making his fifth start of the 2018-19 PGA TOUR Season, with a 3rd-place showing at the Sentry Tournament of Champions his best showing
- In search of his 10th career PGA TOUR win and first since the 2018 World Golf Championships-FedEx St. Jude Invitational

Rickie Fowler (T1/64)**Age:** 30 (12/13/1988)**Entering the week**

#65	FedExCup
#14	OWGR
10	Starts at Waste Management Phoenix Open
219	PGA TOUR starts
4	PGA TOUR wins
3	Starts in 2018-19
1	Top-10 in 2018-19

- Made five birdies and an eagle (par-5 13th) for a bogey-free 64
- 64 marks his 12th score in the 60s at TPC Scottsdale in his last 14 rounds. Closed last year's event with a 2-over 73
- In 11 consecutive starts at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, 64 marks his lowest opening-round score. His previous-best first-round score of 65, in 2010 and 2016, resulted in solo-second-place finishes
- Lost to Hideki Matsuyama on the fourth hole of a playoff in 2016
- In addition to the runner-up finishes, also claimed a top-10 showing in 2017 (T4)
- The last time there was a tie at the top after round one was in 2016, when Fowler was tied with Shane Lowry and eventual winner Hideki Matsuyama at 6-under 65
- Making his fourth start of the 2018-19 season, with a T4 at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open his lone top-10 finish
- In search of his fifth PGA TOUR win and first since the 2017 The Honda Classic

Harold Varner III (T1/64)**Age:** 28 (8/15/1990)**Entering the week**

#39	FedExCup
#157	OWGR
3	Starts at Waste Management Phoenix Open
96	PGA TOUR starts
0	PGA TOUR wins
7	Starts in 2018-19
1	Top-10 in 2018-19

- Birdied five of his first seven holes on his way to a 7-under 64. Made eight birdies against a lone bogey at the par-4 second hole. Among his birdies was one from 31' 3" at the famed par-3 16th
- Career-low score on the PGA TOUR is 9-under 62 (R2/2015 Mayakoba Golf Classic/T5)
- Making his fourth start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open; T38/2018, T68/2017, MC/2016
- Remains in search of his first PGA TOUR win in 97th start
- Of nine top-10 finishes, best showings are a pair of T5s at the 2015 Mayakoba Golf Classic and 2018 Greenbrier Classic
- Best finish in seven starts this season was T6 at the Mayakoba Golf Classic. Comes off a missed cut at last week's Farmers Insurance Open

Phil Mickelson

- Making a record 30th start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open, 1996, 2005 and 2013 champion opened with 3-under 68
- Is now 83 of 105 with rounds of par-or-better at TPC Scottsdale
- Should he make it to the weekend, would mark his 500th official made cut on the PGA TOUR in 597 official starts
- Played the 1991 (T73) and 1994 (MC) Open Championship, both unofficial PGA TOUR starts.
- Last year's T5 finish marked 11th top-10 finish in the event, a record by two over Mark Calcavecchia
- Will begin round two four strokes off the lead. Was six strokes back after round one en route to his 1996 and 2005 victories at TPC Scottsdale. Following an opening-round, 11-under 60 in 2013, held a four-stroke lead after 18 holes before winning third tournament title

- Looking to become the first four-time winner of the event. Mark Calcavecchia, Gene Littler and Arnold Palmer also captured three tournament titles

Miscellaneous Notes

- In his first start at the Waste Management Phoenix Open, England's **Tyrrell Hatton** opened with a 5-under 66
- Former Arizona State University standout **Jon Rahm** opened with a 4-under 67 in his fourth start in the event. Has never finished worse than T16 (2017)
- Eight past Waste Management Phoenix Open champions: **Gary Woodland**/2018 (68), **Hideki Matsuyama**/2016, 2017 (68), **Phil Mickelson**/1996, 2005, 2013 (68), **Kyle Stanley**/2012 (75), **Hunter Mahan**/2010 (70), **Kenny Perry**/2009 (73), **J.B. Holmes**/2006, 2008 (69), **Aaron Baddeley**/2007 (69)

First-round Scoring Averages

Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
34.841	35.545	70.386	---

Early/Late Scoring Averages:

Early: 70.33

Late: 70.44

Bogey-free rounds at TPC Scottsdale:

R1: Rickie Fowler (64), Justin Thomas (64), J.T. Poston (65), Scott Piercy (66), Bubba Watson (66), Charley Hoffman (66), Andrew Landry (67), Xander Schauffele (67), Ollie Schniederjans (67), Adam Schenk (70)