



**2019 Zurich Classic of New Orleans**  
(The 27<sup>th</sup> of 46 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Avondale, Louisiana      April 25-28, 2019      Purse: \$7,200,000/\$1,051,200 each winner  
TPC Louisiana      Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425      FedExCup points: 400 each winner

**FINAL First-Round Notes – Friday, April 26, 2019**

**Weather:** Sunny, with a high of 82. Wind N at 10-18 mph. First round was suspended at 9:41 a.m. CT Thursday due to thunderstorms and resumed at 5:14 p.m., a delay of 7 hours, 33 minutes. Darkness suspended play again at 7:35 p.m. with 13 teams completing round one. Play resumed at 7 a.m. Friday and was completed at 2:45 p.m. Total of 2.5 inches of rain recorded Thursday

Preferred lies were utilized in the first round, the fourth event to use preferred lies at least one round this season (Sanderson Farms Championship/R1, AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am/all rounds, Genesis Open/R1, Zurich Classic of New Orleans/R1)

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Brian Gay/Rory Sabbatini	60 (-12)
Scott Stallings/Trey Mullinax	61 (-11)
Cody Gribble/Joey Garber	61 (-11)
Martin Laird/Nick Taylor	62 (-10)
Chez Reavie/Lucas Glover	62 (-10)
Kevin Kisner/Scott Brown	62 (-10)
J.T. Poston/Stephan Jaeger	62 (-10)
Russell Knox/Brian Stuard	62 (-10)
Cameron Davis/Kyle Jones	62 (-10)

**Things to Know**

- Format for two-player team event features Four-ball in first and third rounds and Foursomes in second and fourth rounds
- Ninth PGA TOUR event, and fourth consecutive, to experience a weather delay this season
- Since 2013, the 2018 edition of the Zurich Classic is the only time the event escaped without a suspension of play
- 60 (-12) by Brian Gay/Rory Sabbatini equals 18-hole tournament record (Four-ball)
- Three teams (Gay/Sabbatini, Stallings/Mullinax, Knox/Stuard) post 7-under 29, one stroke shy of the nine-hole tournament record (Four-ball)
- Kevin Kisner makes his first hole-in-one on the PGA TOUR
- 51 teams posted bogey-free rounds, the most in any round since Zurich Classic became a team event

**First-Round Lead Notes**

- In 2017, two teams (Jordan Spieth/Ryan Palmer, Kyle Stanley/Ryan Ruffels) shared the first-round lead at 66 (-6) using the Foursomes format. Spieth/Palmer finished fourth, while Stanley/Ruffels ended T29
- In 2018, two teams (Chez Reavie/Lucas Glover, Xinjun Zhang/Zecheng Dou) shared the first-round lead at 60 (-12) using the Four-ball format. Reavie/Glover finished T22, while Zhang/Dou shot a second-round 80 and missed the cut
- Five first-round leaders/co-leaders have won on the PGA TOUR this season, most recently J.B. Holmes/Genesis Open

**Player Notes**

**Rory Sabbatini/Brian Gay (1<sup>st</sup>/-12)**

- Posted 12 birdies, including nine in a 10-hole stretch (Nos. 5-14) en route to 12-under 60, tying the tournament-record (Four-ball) 18-hole score: Chez Reavie/Lucas Glover (R1/2018), Xinjun Zhang/Zecheng Dou (R1/2018), Retief Goosen/Tyrone Van Aswegen (R2/2017), Kevin Kisner/Scott Brown (R4/2017)
- Duo with a combined age of 90 (Gay/47, Sabbatini/43) combined for 10 PGA TOUR victories (Sabbatini/6, Gay/4) and a total of 1,078 TOUR starts before this week (Sabbatini/514, Gay/564)
- Currently 99<sup>th</sup> (Gay) and 107<sup>th</sup> (Sabbatini) in the FedExCup standings
- Gay - 14 cuts in 16 starts this season with one top-10 (T7/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am)
- Sabbatini - 11 cuts in 14 starts this season with one top-10 (T10/RBC Heritage last week)

- Gay, T5 in the 2001 Zurich Classic before it was a team event, teamed with last season's PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year Aaron Wise to miss the cut in 2018
- Sabbatini, T2 in the 2009 Zurich Classic before it was a team event, missed the cut with Bryson DeChambeau (2017) and John Daly (2018)

#### **Scott Stallings/Trey Mullinax (T2/-11)**

- Duo posted 11 birdies, including their final four holes (Nos. 6-9)
- 7-under 29 is one stroke shy of the nine-hole tournament record (Four-ball): 2017, R4 - Kevin Kisner/Scott Brown, R4 - Brooks Koepka/Chase Koepka, R4 - Justin Thomas/Bud Cauley
- Two top-10s for three-time PGA TOUR winner Stallings in 14 starts this season (3<sup>rd</sup>/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, T9/Valspar Championship)
- Mullinax, seeking his first TOUR win, has four top-25s in 15 starts this season with T15/Waste Management Phoenix Open his best result
- T2/2018 Valero Texas Open is Mullinax's career-best in 70 starts on TOUR
- Stallings missed the cut with Aaron Baddeley (2017) and Roberto Castro (2018)
- Mullinax partnered with Jonathan Randolph for T31/2018 and with Bobby Wyatt for MC/2017

#### **Cody Gribble/Joey Garber (T2/-11)**

- Duo birdied Nos. 15-18 to close out their round
- Garber is making his Zurich Classic debut, while Gribble finished T34 with former LSU star John Peterson in 2018 and missed the cut with Jim Herman in 2017
- Gribble's lone TOUR win came at 2016 Sanderson Farms Championship
- Best results this season: Garber (T10/Puerto Rico Open), Gribble (T40/Desert Classic)

#### **Martin Laird/Nick Taylor (T4/-10)**

- Only team at 10-under or better to record a bogey (No. 3) in Four-ball format
- Taylor partnered fellow Canadian Mackenzie Hughes in 2017/MC, while Laird partnered with fellow Scot Russell Knox in 2018/T7
- Lone top-10 for Laird in 13 starts this season is T7/Sanderson Farms Championship
- Taylor's best finish in 15 starts this season is T16/THE PLAYERS Championship
- In 2018, Taylor teamed with Adam Hadwin en route to a T4 finish for Canada at the World Cup of Golf, a tournament which utilizes the same format as the Zurich Classic

#### **Chez Reavie/Lucas Glover (T4/-10)**

- Pair made 10 birdies in the first round, including five in-a-row (Nos. 5-9) before making the turn
- Third consecutive year Reavie/Glover have partnered at the Zurich Classic (T22/2018, T39/2017)
- In 2018, Reavie/Glover shot 12-under 60 to share first-round lead with Xijun Zhang/Zecheng Dou and equal the 18-hole tournament record (Four-ball), set by Retief Goosen/Tyrone Van Aswegen (R2/2017) and Kevin Kisner/Scott Brown (R4/2017)
- Glover owns four top-10s at the Zurich Classic (T3/2005, T7/2006, T8/2007, T4/2013)
- Reavie made two cuts in seven appearances at the Zurich Classic before it became a team event (T42/2008, 70<sup>th</sup>/2011)
- Reavie's lone PGA TOUR victory is 2008 RBC Canadian Open, while Glover counts 2009 U.S. Open among his three wins
- Best results this season: Reavie (T3/Sony Open in Hawaii), Glover (T4/The Honda Classic)

#### **Kevin Kisner/Scott Brown (T4/-10)**

- Highlight was hole-in-one by Kisner with 5-iron at 201-yard third hole, his first on the PGA TOUR
- In Wednesday press conference, Kisner said, "I just wrote one down at the Masters for Bryson (DeChambeau), his first one ever, 16 at Augusta on Sunday. It was pretty cool."
- Duo was defeated by Cameron Smith/Jonas Blixt in a Monday playoff at 2017 Zurich Classic
- After holding 54-hole lead in 2018 Zurich Classic, shot final-round 5-over 77 to finish T15
- Prior to final-round 77 in 2018, the pair had played the previous seven rounds at this event in a combined 47-under
- Both play out of Palmetto Golf Club in Aiken, South Carolina
- Kisner seeks fourth PGA TOUR title (2019 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, 2017 Charles Schwab Challenge, 2015 The RSM Classic) while Brown searches for his second victory (2013 Puerto Rico Open)

#### **J.T. Poston/Stephan Jaeger (T4/-10)**

- Eagle at No. 7 marks the only eagle on a par-5 by any team at 9-under or better

- In 2018 Zurich Classic, Jaeger (Keith Mitchell) and Poston (Chris Kirk) partnered with different players en route to missed cuts, both teams shooting second-round 78s in Foursomes. In 2017, Poston paired with Dominic Bozzelli for a T32 finish

#### **Russell Knox/Brian Stuard (T4/-10)**

- Eagle 2 at No. 16 by Stuard (hole-out from 96 yards) highlighted a 7-under 29 on their outward nine
- Stuard was the last champion of the Zurich Classic before it became a team event, going bogey-free to win the 2016 event in a weather-delayed 54 holes
- Stuard partnered with Chris Stroud (T11/2017, T28/2018) in the two previous Zurich Classic's
- Knox finished T7 with fellow Scot Martin Laird in 2018, but missed the cut with Kevin Streelman in 2017
- Best finishes this season: Stuard (T4/Valero Texas Open), Knox (T10/Waste Management Phoenix Open)

#### **Cameron Davis/Kyle Jones (T4/-10)**

- Pair of PGA TOUR rookies have combined for 35 career PGA TOUR starts (Davis/19, Jones/16) before this week
- Davis won the 2017 Australian Open in his home country
- Best PGA TOUR results: Jones (T23/2018 The RSM Classic), Davis (T15/2016 Mayakoba Golf Classic)

#### **Miscellaneous Notes**

- Long-time friends Keegan Bradley/Jon Curran (T17/-8) team for the second time at Zurich Classic (MC/2018). Duo partnered to win the unofficial CVS Health Charity Classic team event in 2015 and 2016
- C.T. Pan, last week's winner at RBC Heritage, and 2018 John Deere Classic winner Michael Kim were the only team (T68/-4) to record a double bogey (No. 4) in first-round Four-ball format
- Since 1990, 17 players have made the Zurich Classic their maiden victory on the PGA TOUR, including nine in the last 14 years; Cameron Smith (2017), Brian Stuard (2016), Seung-Yul Noh (2014), Billy Horschel (2013), Jason Dufner (2012), Andres Romero (2008), Nick Watney (2007), Chris Couch (2006) and Tim Petrovic (2005)
- There have been eight international winners of the Zurich Classic since 2000 (2017/Cameron Smith/Australia – Jonas Blixt/Sweden, 2015/Justin Rose/England, 2014/Seung-Yul Noh/South Korea, 2008/Andres Romero/Argentina, 2004/Vijay Singh/Fiji, 2002/K.J. Choi/South Korea, 2000/Carlos Franco/Paraguay)
- Four Zurich Ambassadors (**bold**): **Jason Day**/Adam Scott (T23/-7), **Sergio Garcia/Tommy Fleetwood** (T23/-7), **Billy Horschel**/Scott Piercy (T40/-6)

#### Scoring Averages:

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Format</b>
R1	32.350	33.225	65.575	Four-ball

#### Bogey-free rounds:

R1 (51 teams)