



## Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship

Firestone Country Club | Akron, Ohio | July 8-14, 2019

### FINAL First-Round Notes

Friday, July 12, 2019

**Course Setup:** Par 70 / 7,004 yards (R1 average: 73.221)

**Weather:** Partly cloudy with morning temperatures in the low 70s. Wind from the NNW at 4-8 mph.

**Note:** Play resumed at 7 a.m. with 63 players needing to complete their first round. Second-round tee times will run from 9:45 a.m. – 2:20 p.m. off the No. 1 tee.

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	Player	To Par	Scores
1.	Steve Stricker	-6	31-33 – 64
2.	Scott Parel	-4	34-32 – 66
3.	Scott Verplank	-2	35-33 – 68
T4.	Jerry Kelly	-1	35-34 – 69
T4.	Retief Goosen	-1	35-34 – 69
T4.	Three others	-1	-

#### Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-round tee times](#) (Golf Channel coverage: 1:30-4 p.m. ET)
- [PGATOURmedia.com](#) (transcripts and other resources available for download)

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#### Steve Stricker, 31-33 – 64 (-6)

- Stricker played two shots Friday morning – he hit a 140-yard approach on No. 18 and made the ensuing birdie putt. His second-round tee time is 1:03 p.m.
- On Thursday, Stricker made a hole-in-one on the 182-yard 7th hole with a 7-iron. It was the 15th hole-in-one in tournament history, first of Stricker’s career on this Tour, and fifth on PGA TOUR Champions this season.
- One of Stricker’s three aces on the PGA TOUR came at the 2011 Memorial Tournament (second round, No. 8), which he went on to win.
- Stricker had four top-10s in nine starts at Firestone on the PGA TOUR. He had a 69.69 scoring average and 19 of his 36 rounds were in the 60s (best: 64, R4/2012 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational).
- Winner of the Regions Tradition and U.S. Senior Open, Stricker is looking to become the fourth player to win three majors in one season on PGA TOUR Champions (Gary Player/1988, Jack Nicklaus/1991, Bernhard Langer/2017).
- In his two major victories, Stricker made three total bogeys over the 144 holes (1/Regions Tradition, 2/U.S. Senior Open). He has been bogey-free in six of 13 rounds at majors this season, including his first-round 64.
- Stricker has led/co-led after eight of the 13 rounds at majors this season.
- In eight starts on PGA TOUR Champions this season, Stricker has two wins and five top-10s and he’s No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

### First-Round Lead Notes

- This season, a first-round leader/co-leader has won six out of 15 tournaments, including Steve Stricker's win at the U.S. Senior Open.
- Since 1990, the first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win this tournament six times. Most recently, Bernhard Langer led wire-to-wire and won in 2015.

### Scott Parel, 34-32 – 66 (-4)

- Parel's first shot Friday morning was his approach into the par-4 8th hole. He was even-par on the seven holes he completed Thursday, and 4-under on his 11 holes he completed Friday morning.
- His 66 matches his best first-round score in a major. At the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship in May, he was the first-round leader after a 4-under 66.
- Parel has six top-10s and three runner-up finishes this season and is currently No. 7 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

### Other Notes

- **Ken Duke** (-1/T4), **Tommy Tolles** (E/T9) and **David McKenzie** (E/T9) were three of the 15 players that finished their first rounds on Thursday. These are three of the 17 players in the field that did not play in a PGA TOUR event at Firestone Country Club.
- Duke gained entry Thursday morning when Fred Funk withdrew.
- Defending champion **Vijay Singh** is T9 after a first-round 70. He had six top-10s in 14 starts at Firestone Country Club on the PGA TOUR, including a win at the 2008 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational.
- **Scott McCarron**, winner of the 2017 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship at Caves Valley, is 4-over and tied for 44th. McCarron has led the Charles Schwab Cup each of the last nine weeks, and his lead has been more than \$400,000 the last five weeks.
- **Bernhard Langer**, the only three-time winner of the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, carded a first-round 76 and is T58.
- **Fred Couples**, one of five winners of THE PLAYERS Championship in this week's field, is T50 at 5-over. Winner of the 2011 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS, Couples was recognized Thursday evening with the 2019 Ambassador of Golf Award, which honors a person who has fostered the ideals of the game on an international level and whose concern for others extends beyond the golf course.
- **Mark O'Meara** withdrew on the 10th tee Friday morning due to a back injury.