



The Ally Challenge

Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club | Grand Blanc, Michigan | September 13-15, 2019

First-Round Notes

Friday, September 13, 2019

Course Setup: Par 72 / 7,104 yards (R1 average: 71.628)

Weather: Mostly cloudy and scattered showers in the morning. High in the upper 70s and wind from the SSW at 12-18 mph, with gusts up to 25 mph.

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	Player	To Par	Scores
T1.	Scott McCarron	-6	34-32 – 66
T1.	Retief Goosen	-6	31-35 – 66
T1.	Tom Gillis	-6	33-33 – 66
T4.	Darren Clarke	-5	33-34 – 67
T4.	Jerry Kelly	-5	34-33 – 67
T4.	Jay Haas	-5	35-32 – 67
T4.	Jerry Smith	-5	33-34 – 67

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-round tee times](#) (Golf Channel coverage: 3-6 p.m. ET, tape delayed)
- [PGATOURmedia.com](#) (transcripts and other resources available for download)

Scott McCarron, 34-32 – 66 (-6)

- This is the fourth time McCarron is a first-round leader/co-leader this season, and the ninth time in his career. He has converted his last two first-round leads/co-leads into wins (Insperity Invitational, Mitsubishi Electric Classic).
- At last year's inaugural Ally Challenge, McCarron was in a three-way tie for the lead after two rounds, but he finished T33 after a final-round 77, tied for the worst score of his PGA TOUR Champions career.
- McCarron has led the [Charles Schwab Cup standings](#) since he won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in April, a streak of 14 consecutive weeks. He leads the Tour in scoring (69.36 average), birdies (4.24 per round) and top-10s (12), and he's coming off his third runner-up finish of the season at the Shaw Charity Classic.

Retief Goosen, 31-35 – 66 (-6)

- Goosen was 5-under on the front nine en route to a 6-under 66, his 10th first-round score of par or better.
- Goosen turned 50 on February 3, 2019, and was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame during the week of the U.S. Open. One month later, he tallied his first victory at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, breaking a winless streak of 10 years, 3 months, 22 days and 190 starts in PGA TOUR-sanctioned events.
- This is the first time he is a first-round leader/co-leader on PGA TOUR Champions. When he won the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS, he was T4 after a 1-under 69 on Thursday.
- He is the first rookie to win a major since Paul Broadhurst (2016 Senior Open Championship).
- The South African has six top-10s this season and is No. 6 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Tom Gillis, 33-33 – 66 (-6)

- Gillis is the only player from Michigan (Lake Orion) in the field, and he's one of three co-leaders after a first-round 66. It was his best first-round score in 23 starts on PGA TOUR Champions.
- In eight starts at the Buick Open, Gillis made the cut twice (best: T52/2007) and his best score was 68 (twice).
- His 66 included just 23 putts, best in the field, and he ranked second in putting average (1.545 putts per GIR).
- Gillis is coming off a fourth-place finish at the Shaw Charity Classic, his second top-10 of the year, and he's currently No. 47 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

First-Round Lead Notes

- This season, a first-round leader/co-leader has won seven times in 19 tournaments. The last player to do so was Doug Barron at the DICK'S Sporting Goods Open.
- At last year's Ally Challenge, Brandt Jobe opened with a 7-under 65 and led by one. Paul Broadhurst, the eventual winner, was T5 at 5-under through 18 holes.

Darren Clarke, 33-34 – 67 (-5)

- Clarke's 5-under 67 is tied for his best first-round score this season.
- He finished T49 at the 2007 Buick Open, his only start at the event.
- He has four top-10s this season and is 33rd in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Jerry Kelly, 34-33 – 67 (-5)

- Kelly hit 14 of 14 fairways and 13 of 18 greens en route to a 5-under 67. On the season, he ranks No. 5 in driving accuracy (76.34%) and T4 in greens in regulation (71.26%).
- He had one top-10 (T8/2004) in four starts at the Buick Open.
- Kelly has nine top-10s this season, including a win at the American Family Insurance Championship in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin, and is No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Other Notes

- **Jay Haas** hit 16 of 18 greens in regulation and is one of four players at 5-under 67. He has two top-10s this season, including a T2 finish at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship, and is 32nd in the Charles Schwab Cup.
- **Jerry Smith** opened with a round in the 60s (67/T4) for the first time since the Chubb Classic and just the third time this season. Entering this week, he ranked 57th on Tour in first-round scoring average (72.69).
- Smith's best finish this season was T25 at the Chubb Classic and he's currently No. 73 in the Charles Schwab Cup. This week is the fourth-to-last tournament before the top-72 players qualify for the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs.
- Defending champion **Paul Broadhurst** is T32 after a first-round 71.
- A day after he turned 50 years old, **Angel Cabrera** is T37 after carding an even-par 72 in his first round on PGA TOUR Champions.
- The field includes nine players that won the Buick Open when it was played at Warwick Hills.
 - **Woody Austin** (1995) – T8, 68 (-4)
 - **Fred Couples** (1994) – T20, 70 (-2)
 - **Kenny Perry** (2001, 2008) – T20, 70 (-2)
 - **Rocco Mediate** (2000) – T37, 72 (E)
 - **Larry Mize** (1993) – T37, 72 (E)
 - **Billy Mayfair** (1998) – T57, 74 (+2)
 - **Tom Pernice Jr.** (1999) – T64, 75 (+3)
 - **Dan Forsman** (1992) – T69, 76 (+4)
 - **Vijay Singh** (1997, 2004, 2005) – T69, 76 (+4)