



U.S. Senior Open Championship

Warren Golf Course at Notre Dame | Notre Dame, Indiana | June 27-30, 2019

First-Round Notes

Thursday, June 27, 2019

Course Setup: Par 70 / 6,891 yards (R1 scoring average: 71.213)

Weather: Mostly cloudy with a high of 89. Winds out of the SW at 5-10 mph.

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	Player	To Par	Scores
T1.	David Toms	-8	29-33—62
T1.	Steve Stricker	-8	32-30—62
T3.	Kirk Triplett	-6	31-33—64
T3.	Jerry Kelly	-6	32-32—64
T5.	Vijay Singh	-5	31-34—65
T5.	Duffy Waldorf	-5	32-33—65
T5.	Toru Suzuki	-5	34-31—65

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-round tee times](#) (TV coverage: 1-8 p.m. SF1)
- Media kits: [PGATOURMedia.com](#) | [USGA Media](#) (includes transcripts)

David Toms, 29-33—62 (-8)

- Defending champion Toms carded a career-best 8-under 62 with 10 birdies, the most birdies recorded in any U.S. Senior Open round.
- The score matches the tournament's lowest opening-round score (Kirk Triplett/2017) and matches the lowest round in tournament history. Before today, only two players had shot 62.
- With birdies on Nos. 6-10, Toms became the 12th player in tournament history to match the most consecutive birdies with five.
- Last year, Toms became just the second player to win the U.S. Senior Open after missing the cut the year prior (Kenny Perry/2013).
- Should Toms go on to win he would join Miller Barber (1984-'85), Gary Player (1987-'88) and Allen Doyle (2005-'06) as the only players to win back-to-back U.S. Senior Opens.
- This season, Toms ranks first in five of six major categories, including the All-Around Ranking: Greens in Regulation (73.84), Birdie Average (4.52 per round), Putting Average (1.723 putts per GIR), Scoring Average (69.29).
- Toms' lone victory on PGA TOUR Champions was the 2018 U.S. Senior Open and owns four top-10 finishes in major championships.

Steve Stricker, 32-30—62 (-8)

- In his first U.S. Senior Open appearance, Stricker opened with 8 birdies to card a career-best 8-under 62, matching the lowest round in tournament history. Before today, only two players had shot 62.
- Stricker has now posted 18 rounds par or better in 23 rounds this season.
- Should Stricker go on to win, he would become the ninth player to win the event in the first start (most recent: Roger Chapman, 2012).
- Stricker attempted to qualify for this year's U.S. Open where he has made 20 appearances and has 13 top-25 finishes. He advanced to the U.S. Open through sectional qualifying in 2017 and 2018.
- He entered the week off a runner-up finish at the American Family Insurance Championship. In seven starts this year on PGA TOUR Champions, Stricker has posted four finishes in the top 10, including his first major championship win at the Regions Tradition.
- Stricker owns 15 finishes in the top 10 in 20 starts on Tour and ranks No. 10 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

First-Round Lead Notes

- Five first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this year on PGA TOUR Champions: **Kevin Sutherland**, **Scott McCarron**, **Tom Pernice Jr.** & **Scott Hoch** (team event), and **Jerry Kelly**. McCarron led after 18-holes and went on to win at both the Mitsubishi Electric Classic and the Mastercard Japan Championship.
- Since 2000, five players who led or shared the first-round lead went on to win the U.S. Senior Open: **Colin Montgomerie** (2014), **Olin Browne** (2011), **Peter Jacobsen** (2004) and **Bruce Fleisher** (2011) all led, while **Kenny Perry** (2013) shared the lead.
- The last 18-hole leader to win a major championship was **Miguel Angel Jimenez** at the 2018 Regions Tradition.

Kirk Triplett, 31-33—64 (-6)

- Triplett carded seven birdies en route to a 6-under 64, his lowest round of the year.
- Triplett is making his eighth appearance at the U.S. Senior Open. His best finish at the event came in 2017 when he finished runner-up by two strokes to Kenny Perry.
- This season, Triplett won the Hoag Classic in a playoff over Woody Austin and owns four runner-up finishes. He ranks No. 4 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

Jerry Kelly, 32-32—64 (-6)

- Coming off a win last week at the American Family Insurance Championship, Kelly carded a 6-under 64 with seven birdies to exit the opening round T3.
- Kelly is making his third start at the U.S. Senior Open Championship. He held a solo lead each of the first three rounds at last year's event, but ultimately finished runner-up by one stroke to David Toms.
- Kelly owns four victories and top-12 finishes in each of his last seven starts. During this span, he has improved from No. 23 to No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

Other Notes

- 1982 U.S. Open champion **Tom Watson** became the third player in U.S. Senior Open history to shoot his age with a 1-under 69 (T33) in the first round. Watson will turn 70-years-old on September 4th, 69 days from today.
- **Duffy Waldorf** carded a 5-under 65 (T5) to match his best round of the year. He entered the week after a fourth-place finish at the American Family Insurance Championship, his best finish in 13 starts this season.
- In his fifth start at the U.S. Senior Open, **Vijay Singh** opened with a season-best 5-under 65 (T5). His best finish at the event is T5, which came in his first appearance in 2014.
- Making just his third start on PGA TOUR Champions, **Toru Suzuki** carded a career-best 5-under 65 to exit the first round T5. Suzuki competed at both the 2019 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship (T55) and 2019 Mastercard Japan Championship (T33).
- Two-time U.S. Open champion **Retief Goosen** is making his tournament debut this week and exited the first round T8 with a 4-under 66.
- This week's winner will receive a 10-year exemption into the U.S. Senior Open and exemptions into the 2020 U.S. Open.