



**2019 QBE Shootout**

**Naples, Fla.**

**Tiburon Golf Club (Gold)**

**December 13-15, 2019**

**Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,382**

**Purse: \$3,500,00 (\$870,000)**

**First-Round Notes – Friday, December 13, 2019**

**Weather:** Mostly cloudy, with a high of 80. Wind SSW 6-12 mph.

**Format:** R1/Scramble, R2/Modified Alternate Shot, R3/Four-Ball

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Harold Varner III/Ryan Palmer	55 (-17)
Jason Kokrak/J.T. Poston	57 (-15)
Rory Sabbatini/Kevin Tway	58 (-14)
Charley Hoffman/Kevin Kisner	58 (-14)
Billy Horschel/Brendon Todd	59 (-13)
Charles Howell III/Bubba Watson	59 (-13)
Kevin Chappell/Chez Reavie	60 (-12)
Corey Connors/Andrew Putnam	61 (-11)
Ian Poulter/Graeme McDowell	61 (-11)
Patton Kizzire/Brian Harman	62 (-10)
Sean O'Hair/Lexi Thompson	64 (-8)
Viktor Hovland/Matthew Wolff	65 (-7)

**Harold Varner/Ryan Palmer (55/1<sup>st</sup>)**

- In the Scramble format, first-time team combined for 15 birdies, an eagle (par-5 17<sup>th</sup>) and two pars (Nos. 5 and 16) to tie the Scramble format record of 55 since moving to Tiburon Golf Club in 2001 (2005/Greg Norman, Steve Elkington and 2014/Jason Day, Cameron Tringale)
- Past performances at the QBE Shootout: Varner/6<sup>th</sup> in 2018 with Bubba Watson; Palmer/9<sup>th</sup> in 2014 with Jimmy Walker
- The first-round lead/co-lead at the QBE Shootout has held up 16 times, most recently Brian Harman and Patton Kizzire last year
- In six starts on the PGA TOUR this season, Varner has collected two top-20 finishes and missed no cuts. In three starts this season, Palmer has secured two top-15 finishes

**Jason Kokrak/J.T. Poston (57/2<sup>nd</sup>)**

- QBE Shootout rookies combined for 15 birdies and three pars to open with a 15-under 57
- The only occasion on which a team comprised of two first-time players won the QBE Shootout was in 2011 (Keegan Bradley and Brendan Steele).
- Kokrak and Poston are two of nine players making their QBE Shootout debut this week. The others: Corey Connors, Viktor Hovland, Chez Reavie, Andrew Putnam, Kevin Tway, Brendon Todd and Matthew Wolff

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

- Playing with Kevin Kisner, Charley Hoffman aced the 207-yard 12<sup>th</sup> hole with a 6-iron, which they followed with an eagle-2 at No. 13. The duo opened with a 14-under 58
- Founded by World Golf Hall of Fame Member Greg Norman in 1989, this week's QBE Shootout marks the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the event. Tiburon Golf Club at The Ritz-Carlton Resort in Naples, Fla. is hosting for a 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year
- Criteria for the 24-person field: Defending champions (playing as a team), top 12 players available from the 2018-19 FedExCup points list through the TOUR Championship, 10 special exemptions (a minimum of four to be selected from the top 40 on the PGA TOUR career money list)
- With a win this week, defending champions Brian Harman and Patton Kizzire (62/-10) would become the third team to successfully defend their QBE Shootout title; Brad Faxon/Scott McCarron (2000-01) and Jeff Sluman/Hank Kuehne (2003-04)
- Paired this year with Sean O'Hair, Lexi Thompson is just the second woman to compete in the QBE Shootout. Annika Sorenstam teamed with Fred Couples in 2006. Thompson is making her fifth start in the event and fourth consecutive. O'Hair and Thompson opened with an 8-under 64
- Charles Howell III, competing this year with Bubba Watson, is making his 11<sup>th</sup> start in the QBE Shootout, more than any other player