



**2020 The American Express**  
**(14<sup>th</sup> of 49 events in the 2019-20 PGA TOUR Season)**

<b>La Quinta, California</b>	<b>January 16-19, 2020</b>	<b>FedExCup points: 500 (winner)</b>
<b>(SC) Stadium/PGA WEST</b>	<b>Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,113</b>	<b>Purse: \$6,700,000</b>
<b>(NT) Nicklaus Tournament/PGA WEST</b>	<b>Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,159</b>	
<b>(LQ) La Quinta CC</b>	<b>Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,060</b>	

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, January 16, 2020**

*Weather: Mostly sunny, with a high of 68. Wind SE at 5-10 mph.*

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Zac Blair	64 (-8)	LQ
Grayson Murray	64 (-8)	SC
Hank Lebioda	65 (-7)	NT
Rickie Fowler	65 (-7)	LQ
Scottie Scheffler	65 (-7)	LQ

**Things to know**

- Zac Blair and Grayson Murray hold a share of the first-round lead on the PGA TOUR for the second time in their respective careers
- Murray's 8-under 64 was one stroke shy of the course record at the Stadium Course
- Tournament host Phil Mickelson sits T74 after 2-under 70
- Martin Laird becomes the first player with multiple aces this season

**First-round lead notes**

- 4 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win The American Express (since 2000); most recent - Jon Rahm/2018
- 1 First-round leader/co-leader to win on TOUR in 2019-20; Tiger Woods/ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP

**Comparing the leaders (entering the week)**

Category	Zac Blair	Grayson Murray
Age	29 (August 20, 1990)	26 (October 1, 1993)
Country	USA	USA
FedExCup	55	202
OWGR	224	463
Starts at The American Express	4	3
Wins at The American Express	0	0
PGA TOUR starts	129	72
PGA TOUR wins	0	1
Starts in 2019-20	9	5
Top-10s in 2019-20	1	0

**Zac Blair – LQ (T1/64)**

- Hit 12 of 14 fairways, 12 of 18 greens and needed 23 putts en route to bogey-free 8-under 64 at La Quinta CC, equaling his career-low round on TOUR (2016 Sony Open in Hawaii/R3, 2015 AT&T Byron Nelson/R2, 2015 Sony Open in Hawaii/R3)
- Holds first-round lead/co-lead for second time on the PGA TOUR (2017 Barbasol Championship/T27)
- Making fifth start at The American Express, advancing to Sunday just once (2017/T34)
- Making his 130<sup>th</sup> PGA TOUR start this week with solo-third at 2016 Sony Open in Hawaii his best result
- Posted one top-10 in nine starts this season (T4/Safeway Open)

**Grayson Murray – SC (T1/64)**

- Hit 6 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens and required 23 putts en route to 8-under 64 at the Stadium Course which included four birdies in a row on holes 15-18 before posting his lone bogey at his final hole (No. 9)
- Holds first-round lead/co-lead for second time on the PGA TOUR (2018 Valero Texas Open/T16)
- Tied his career-most birdies in a round with nine
- Making sixth start this season while competing on a Major Medical Extension after suffering a back injury last season that limited him to 14 events. Needs 304 FedExCup points from remaining seven events (including this week) to satisfy the extension
- Results from first five starts this season – T36, MC, MC, MC, WD
- Making fourth start at The American Express (2017/T12, 2018/T14, 2019/MC)
- Seeking second PGA TOUR win after capturing his first at the 2017 Barbasol Championship

#### **Rickie Fowler – LQ (T3/65)**

- Opening-round 65 included five consecutive birdies on holes 5-9 at La Quinta CC; previous-best round at this event was 66/R4/2014 (Palmer Course at PGA West)
- Is now 18-under par in his last 54 holes at The American Express (20 birdies during that stretch)
- Making his third start at The American Express (2010/MC, 2014/T33)
- Finished T5 at the 2020 Sentry Tournament of Champions in his most recent start
- Chosen by Tiger Woods as Brooks Koepka's replacement at the 2019 Presidents Cup; finished with a 1-0-3 record in Melbourne

#### **Miscellaneous notes**

- Tournament host and World Golf Hall of Fame member **Phil Mickelson** (70/T74/LQ) mixed five birdies with a bogey and a double bogey (No. 8) to be 10 shots higher than his opening-round 60 in last year's event
- **Hank Lebioda** (65/T3/NT) makes his second appearance at The American Express, missing the cut last year with 70-70-68
- **Scottie Scheffler** (65/T3/LQ) included an eagle (No. 6) in a bogey-free trip around La Quinta CC in his first start at The American Express; Seeks his fourth top-10 in his eighth start this season (T7/A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier, T3/Bermuda Championship, T5/The RSM Classic)
- Defending champion **Adam Long** opens with 3-under 69 at La Quinta Country Club to sit T49
- At No. 15 in the Official World Golf Ranking, **Tony Finau** (69/T49/LQ) is the highest-ranked player in the field this week
- **Martin Laird** (69/SC/T49) made a hole-in-one at No. 6 on the Stadium Course, holing a 5-iron from 207 yards for the second ace of his PGA TOUR career (2019 Houston Open), becoming the first player with multiple aces this season
- In his first round on TOUR since completing mandatory military commitment for his country, South Korea's **Seung-Yul Noh** posted a bogey-free 3-under 69 at La Quinta CC and sits T49
- **Dominic Bozzelli** (67/T14/NT) got into the field as an alternate on Monday when Joel Dahmen withdrew
- **Mark Anderson** withdrew before the start of the first round and was replaced by **Zack Sucher** (72/T123/NT); **Si Woo Kim** withdrew after the first round with a back injury (Note: Jeff Gove will play as a professional marker in his place); **Nate Lashley** withdrew after the first round with a wrist injury (Note: Kevin Lucas will play as a professional marker in his place)

#### **Bogey-free rounds**

**R1 (18):** Zac Blair (64/LQ), Cameron Davis (66/NT), Jason Dufner (67/SC), Lucas Glover (67/NT), Brian Harman (67/LQ), Beau Hossler (71/LQ), John Huh (67/NT), Sungjae Im (67/LQ), Andrew Landry (66/SC), Hank Lebioda (65/NT), Ryan Moore (68/LQ), Seung-Yul Noh (69/LQ), Scottie Scheffler (65/LQ), Adam Schenk (66/NT), Chase Seiffert (66/SC), Scott Stallings (67/NT), Brendon Todd (69/NT), Matthew Wolff (67/LQ)

#### **First-round scoring averages**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>SC</b>	34.865	35.788	70.654	-
<b>NT</b>	34.615	35.019	69.635	-
<b>LQ</b>	34.404	35.173	69.577	-