



2020 The Genesis Invitational

(18th of 49 events in the 2019-20 PGA TOUR Season)

Pacific Palisades, CA
The Riviera Country Club

February 13-16, 2020

Purse: \$9,300,000 (\$1,674,000)
Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,322

First-Round Notes – Thursday, February 13, 2020

Weather: Sunny, with a high of 64. Light SE wind in the morning, switching to SW wind at 5-9 mph in the afternoon.

First-Round Leaderboard

Matt Kuchar	64 (-7)
Kyoung-Hoon Lee	67 (-4)
Russell Henley	67 (-4)
Wyndham Clark	67 (-4)
Adam Schenk	67 (-4)
Harold Varner III	67 (-4)

Things to Know

- Matt Kuchar ties his low 18-hole score at The Genesis Invitational (2013/R1)
- Kuchar holds 18-hole lead/co-lead for 11th time on TOUR, converting two of previous 10 to victory
- Tournament host Tiger Woods opens with front-nine 4-under 31 before playing back nine 2-over for 2-under 69
- Rory McIlroy posts two eagles in a round for the fifth time in his PGA TOUR career (595 rounds)
- Defending champion J.B. Holmes sits T17 at 2-under

First-Round Lead Notes

- 3 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win The Genesis Invitational since 2000 (Phil Mickelson/2009, Aaron Baddeley/2011, J.B. Holmes/2019)
- 2 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win in 2019-20 (Tiger Woods/ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, Nick Taylor/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am)
- 63 Best first-round score at The Genesis Invitational (8 times; most recent, 2019/J.B. Holmes)

Leader – Entering the Week

Player	Matt Kuchar
Age	41 (June 21, 1978)
FedExCup	95
OWGR	20
Starts in event	13
Top-10s in event	1
PGA TOUR Starts	454
PGA TOUR Wins	9
Starts in 2019-20	6
Top-10s in 2019-20	0

Matt Kuchar (1st/-7)

- Hit 9 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens and required 25 putts while tying his low 18-hole score at The Genesis Invitational; Held first-round lead with 64 in 2013 before finishing T38
- Holds the 18-hole lead/co-lead for the 11th time on TOUR; converted two of previous 10 to victory (2014 RBC Heritage, 2018 Mayakoba Golf Classic)
- Three-stroke lead is largest first-round margin since at this event since 2016 when Camilo Villegas led by three strokes over three players
- 4-under 32 on back nine (started on No. 10) marks lowest 9-hole score on the back nine at Riviera
- Bogey-free 64 marks 96th career bogey-free round on TOUR (1,534 rounds)

- Posts 7-under after being 6-under in previous eight rounds at Riviera
- Made 12 cuts in 13 previous appearances at The Genesis Invitational with T8 in 2016 his lone top-10, the lone time he posted four sub-70 rounds
- Owns 106 career top-10s on PGA TOUR but seeking first this season
- Posted one over-par score in an opening round on TOUR since 73 (+1) at 2019 the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide
- Won the SMBC Singapore Open in January

Tiger Woods (T17/-2)

- Opens with eagle at the par-5 first hole, draining a putt from 24 feet, 8 inches – just the second time since 2003 he has started a tournament with an eagle (2012 World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship/WD after R3)
- Hit 7 of 14 fairways, 11 of 18 greens and needed 28 putts, making a total of 79 feet, 8 inches of putts
- Ranked No. 1 in Strokes Gained: Approach The Green (3.466)
- Tournament host seeks 83rd PGA TOUR title to break tie with Sam Snead for all-time wins record
- Making his 14th start in the event, The Genesis Invitational is one of two events on the PGA TOUR at which he has made double-digit starts and not earned a victory (THE NORTHERN TRUST/10 starts)
- Making third start of the 2019-20 season (1st/ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, T9/Farmers Insurance Open)

Miscellaneous Notes

- **Kyoung-Hoon Lee** (T2/-4) finished T25 in tournament debut in 2019 with rounds of 72-69-68-70; Owns three top-10s in 44 career starts on PGA TOUR (T7/2019 The Honda Classic, T3/2019 Zurich Classic of New Orleans with Matt Every, T5/2019 The RSM Classic)
- **Russell Henley** (T2/-4) included an eagle-birdie-birdie stretch on holes 1-3 in a bogey-free 67 after starting on No. 10; Entered this week off five missed cuts in last five starts; Last top-10 on TOUR was runner-up at 2019 John Deere Classic
- **Wyndham Clark** (T2/-4) is making his first appearance at The Genesis Invitational; 10 of 11 opening rounds this season are par or better (74/+4/ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP)
- **Adam Schenk** (T2/-4) makes third appearance at The Genesis Invitational (T53/2018, MC/2019)
- In his fifth TOUR start in 2020, **Harold Varner III** (T2/-4) is looking to make his first cut of the year; Best result in five previous starts at The Genesis Invitational is T26/2016; Best finish in 125 career starts on TOUR is T3/2019 THE NORTHERN TRUST
- After returning to World No. 1 for the first time since 2015, **Rory McIlroy** (T7/-3) posted two eagles (Nos. 17 and 1) en route to his fourth consecutive sub-70 round at Riviera; Marks the fifth time he has made two eagles in a round on TOUR and the first time since 2019 Farmers Insurance Open/R2
- **Scott Stallings** (T17/-2) made seven birdies, including four-in-a-row to start his round, tying Matt Kuchar for most birdies in the first round
- World No. 2 **Brooks Koepka** (T17/-2), who is making his second start in the event (MC/2017), opens with 2-under 69
- **Phil Mickelson's** (T65/+1) 72 included two double bogeys (Nos. 3 and 9)
- 2010 The Genesis Invitational winner **Steve Stricker** posts 1-over 72 in same grouping with Tiger Woods and Justin Thomas in his 500th PGA TOUR start
- Current FedExCup points leader and runner-up at 2019 The Genesis Invitational **Justin Thomas** (T97/+3) follows last year's final-round 75 with 3-over 74 in the first round

Bogey-free rounds

R1 (5): Matt Kuchar (64), Kyoung-Hoon Lee (67), Russell Henley (67), Joel Dahmen (68), Marc Leishman (70)

Hardest hole: Par-4 12th hole (4.375)

Easiest hole: Par-5 1st hole (4.400)

First-round scoring averages

	Front nine	Back nine	Total	Cumulative
R1:	34.950	36.458	71.408	--