



2019 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions
(The 8th of 49 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Shanghai, China
Sheshan International Golf Club

October 31-November 3, 2019
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,264

FedExCup points: 550 (winner)
Purse: \$10,250,000

First-Round Notes – Thursday, October 31, 2019

Weather: Sunny. High of 73. Wind SE 3-6 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Haotong Li | 64 (-8) |
| Victor Perez | 65 (-7) |
| Sungjae Im | 66 (-6) |
| Adam Scott | 66 (-6) |
| Matthew Fitzpatrick | 66 (-6) |
| Xander Schauffele | 66 (-6) |

Things to Know

- Haotong Li became the first player ever from China to hold a lead/co-lead after any round in a World Golf Championships event
- Defending champion Xander Schauffele opened with a 6-under 66 and is two shots back
- Coming off a T3 at the ZOZO Championship, 2019 FedExCup champion Rory McIlroy opened with a 5-under 67 (T7)
- Louis Oosthuizen made the third hole-in-one of his career from 197 yards with a 6-iron on the par-3 sixth
- Nine different countries are represented in the top nine after the first round – China, France, South Korea, Australia, United States of America, England, Canada, Austria and Northern Ireland

First-Round Lead Notes

- 1 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win the WGC-HSBC Champions since 2009 (Francesco Molinari/2010)
- 1 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win in 2019-20 (Tiger Woods/ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP)

Haotong Li (1st/-8)

- First time ever holding the lead/co-lead after any round on the PGA TOUR
- Previous best in 24 prior rounds at Sheshan International Golf Club was a 6-under 66 in the first and third round in 2015
- 8-under 64 is his second lowest round on the PGA TOUR behind only his 63 in the final round of the 2017 Open Championship
- Holds the highest ranking of any Chinese player in the Official World Golf Rankings at No. 59
- Has three top-10s in 34 career PGA TOUR starts
- Finished in the top 20 in each of the last four World Golf Championships events – T11/2018 WGC-HSBC Champions, T19/2019 WGC-Mexico Championship, T9/2019 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, T20/2019 WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational
- Has made six consecutive starts at the WGC-HSBC Champions with a career-best T7 in 2015
- Finished T7 at the 2015 WGC-HSBC Champions to become the first Chinese player ever to finish in the top 10 at a WGC event
- Won three times on PGA TOUR Series-China in 2014, claiming Player of the Year honors
- Finished T11 in 2018 at 4-under 284, the best of any Chinese player in the field
- Two-time European Tour winner. He is first Chinese golfer to qualify for the International Team to face the United States Team in the Presidents Cup in Royal Melbourne Golf Club, Australia in December.

Li Quotes

I emphasised that before entering this year's WGC-HSBC Champions, I don't feel quite well with my status and my momentum because in the previous tournament, I wasn't really playing that well. But I never expected today that I had such a great round today in day one. Actually, from the start, in the first few holes, I already made some good putts which makes me feel more confident, and birdied 17 and 18, two in a row and know I gained momentum throughout today and to have a good finish. Obviously it would be great joy for Chinese golfers and Chinese golf fans to have a Chinese player winning a WGC-HSBC Champions here in China, but for the next three days, anything could happen. So I don't want to think too much about it. I just want to focus and concentrate on the upcoming three days because anything can happen. I just wanted to do a good job to keep this momentum going for the next three days.

Xander Schauffele (T3/-6)

- Led the field in birdies in the first round with nine
- Needed only 24 putts in the opening round, tied for second best in the field
- Played the par-4s in 5-under-par, two shots better than any player in the field in the first round
- Won his first World Golf Championships event at the 2018 WGC-HSBC Champions with birdies on the 71st and 72nd holes to force a playoff with Tony Finau, which he won with a birdie on the first extra hole
- Finished T10 in his first start of the 2019-20 PGA TOUR season at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP last week
- Four-time PGA TOUR winner finished a career-best second in the 2019 FedExCup standings after a two-win season

Schauffele Quotes

You know, Austin (his caddie) helped me a lot, kept me cool and made a few putts which I had to do, someone tells me to shoot 66 for the first round of the week, I think I'd take it. It was nice, a few 35-footers, 40-footers. I felt like I was going to make anything. The greens are perfect. My whole goal was to keep it out of the rough and hit it anywhere on the green and kind of get into my round. I didn't have any practice. I didn't play the Pro-Am. I didn't play any practice round. I was just trying to ease my way into the round and luckily I did. Maybe I should just keep my flu going and if I can rattle off a 66 every day, I think that would be enough. I think a couple more nights of sleep, I'll be in better shape. But it was a dream start with what things were looking like.

Xinjun Zhang (T10/-4)

- Has posted under-par rounds in 12 of his last 13 rounds on TOUR following a 68
- No. 20 in the FedExCup standings with two top-10s in five starts in the 2019-20 season – T7/Safeway Open, T4/Houston Open
- Two career victories on PGA TOUR Series-China
- Secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season after finishing No. 1 on the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour regular season points list with two victories – Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch and Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS
- Finished 167th in the FedExCup standings in 2018 with one top-10 – T5/2018 Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship

Additional Player Notes

- **Louis Oosthuizen (T10/-4)** made the fifth hole-in-one in tournament history, and fifth of the 2019-20 PGA TOUR season, with a 6-iron on the 197-yard par-3 6th. It's the third hole-in-one of Oosthuizen's TOUR career – 2016 Masters Tournament (R4/16th hole) and 2016 Open Championship (R1/14th hole)
- Seven Chinese players are in the field: **Haotong Li (1st/-8)**, **Xinjun Zhang (T10/-4)**, **Yechun Yuan (T14/-3)**, **Zecheng Dou (T41/-1)**, **Zheng-kai Bai (T55/+1)** **Wenchong Liang (T64/+2)**, **Ashun Wu (78th/+8)**
- 2017 FedExCup champion **Justin Rose (T14/-3)** opened with two eagles, two birdies and three bogeys in his first round of the 2019-20 season on the PGA TOUR. Rose hit 12/14 fairways (86%), best in the field
- **Corey Connors (T7/-5)**, who has recorded three consecutive top-15s, opened with a 5-under 67 in his second career WGC start. Finished T27 at the 2019 WGC-FedEx St. Jude invitational in his first career WGC start
- 2019 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year **Sungjae Im (T3/-6)** opened with a 6-under 66. Im finished T3 at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP in his last start
- 17 players have played all three weeks of the Asian Swing – **Jordan Spieth, Hideki Matsuyama, Ian Poulter, Billy Horschel, Sergio Garcia, Sungjae Im, Tommy Fleetwood, Lucas Glover, Corey Connors, Byeong Hun An, Chez Reavie, Rafa Cabrera Bello, Jazz Janewattananond, Kevin Tway, Andrew Putnam, Abraham Ancer and Charles Howell III**
- France's **Victor Perez (2nd/-7)** played the four par-5s in 6-under-par, best in the field. Leads the field in putts per hole (1.22)
- The par-4 9th at Sheshan International Golf Club was the toughest hole on the PGA TOUR for the 2018-19 season at a stroke average of 4.44. The 9th played to an average of 4.218 in Thursday's first round.
- Sheshan International's par-5 8th was the toughest par-5 on the PGA TOUR for the 2018-19 season with a stroke average of 5.084 – one of only four par-5s on TOUR to play to an over-par score a season ago.
- The par-3 17th at Sheshan International Golf Club was the toughest par-3 on the PGA TOUR for the 2018-19 season with a stroke average of 3.338.

Course Statistics

Toughest Hole

R1: Par-4 9th hole (4.218)

Easiest Hole

R1: Par-5 2nd hole (4.372)

Scoring Averages

R1: 35.051 35.833 70.884

Bogey-free rounds

R1 (2): Yechun Yuan (69), Bryce Easton (70)