



# Hoag Classic

Newport Beach Country Club | Newport Beach, California | March 6-8, 2020

## Final Round Notes

Sunday, March 8, 2020

**Course Setup:** Par 71 / 6,606 yards (R3:70.038; Cumulative: 70.244)

**Weather:** Partly cloudy with a high of 65. Winds out of the SW 10-15 mph.

**Summary:** Ernie Els birdied two of the last four holes to emerge from a crowded leaderboard and win the Hoag Classic with a 15-under total at Newport Beach Country Club. Making his third start on Tour, Els won for the first time since the 2013 BMW International Open on the European Tour and he became the 30th World Golf Hall of Fame member to win on PGA TOUR Champions.

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	Player	To Par	Scores	Money	Charles Schwab Cup
1.	Ernie Els	-16	66-64-67—197	\$270,000	3rd
T2.	Glen Day	-14	70-65-64—199	\$132,000	15th
T2.	Fred Couples	-14	67-66-66—199	\$132,000	6th
T2.	Robert Karlsson	-14	68-65-66—199	\$132,000	11th

### Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [PGATOURmedia.com](#) (transcripts and other resources available for download)

### Ernie Els, 66-64-67—197 (-16)

- In just his third start on PGA TOUR Champions, Els entered the final round of the Hoag Classic with a one-shot lead. He birdied Nos. 1, 3 and 6 to hold his lead, but a bogey on No. 8 moved him into a five-way tie. He bogeyed No. 11 to trail by one, but a birdie on No. 12 turned the round into a three-way tie with Glen Day and Robert Karlsson with six holes left to play.
- Els birdied the par-5 15<sup>th</sup>, the same hole he eagled on both Friday and Saturday, to lead by one. He played his remaining three holes even to secure his first victory on PGA TOUR Champions by two strokes over Glen Day, Fred Couples and Robert Karlsson.
- The victory is Els' first since winning the 2013 BMW International Open on the European Tour and first in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since The Open Championship in 2012.
- With Bernhard Langer winning the Colouard Classic, Els' win marks the first time that members of the World Golf Hall of Fame won back-to-back weeks since Retief Goosen (2019 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS) and Bernhard Langer (The 2019 Senior Open Championship).
- Els ranked first in the field this week for putts per GIR (79 on 47) while recording 88 total putts.

- The South African moves to No. 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings with total earnings of \$450,030.

#### **Glen Day, 70-65-64—199 (-14)**

- Day secured five birdies from Nos. 1-11 to move 14 places up the leaderboard and grab a share of a five-way lead. He birdied Nos. 14-17 to move into a three-way tie with Ernie Els and Robert Karlsson at 15-under, until he bogeyed the final 18th hole. Day finished runner-up, two strokes behind winner Els.
- His finish marks the best finish on PGA TOUR Champions (previously: T3, 2018 3M Championship) and his 8-under 64 final round ties for his best round (64, Rd. 2, 2017 3M Championship; 2019 Regions Tradition).
- With a T9 finish at last week's Cologuard Classic and a runner-up finish today, it records as the first time since 2016 that Day has finished back-to-back weeks in the top 10 (T10, Hoag Classic; T9 SAS Championship).
- Day earns \$132,000 and moves to No. 15 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

#### **Fred Couples, 67-66-66—199 (-14)**

- Couples began the final round T6, three strokes off the lead. He birdied three of his first four holes and a fourth on No. 7 moved him into a five-way tie for the lead. Couples bogeyed No. 8 to trail by one.
- At the turn, the World Golf Hall of Fame member recorded birdies on Nos. 10 and 12 but played the remaining holes even to finish one stroke back. Els moved ahead by two by the time Couples had already secured his final round score of 5-under 66.
- Couples runner-up finish marks his fourth top-10 finish in his first four starts of the season, a feat he has only accomplished four times in his PGA TOUR Champions career (2010, 2017, 2019, 2020).
- Couples ranked first in the field this week in driving distance 299.0 (recorded on holes 15 and 16).
- The Newport Beach resident has made 8 starts, playing 24 rounds at the Hoag Classic and has never finished outside the top 10. He owns two titles (2010, 2014), two runner-up finishes (2013, 2020) and has only recorded one round over par (73, Rd.3, 2012).
- Couples earns \$132,000 and holds his position in the Charles Schwab Cup standings at No. 6.

#### **Robert Karlsson, 68-65-66—199 (-14)**

- Making his third start on PGA TOUR Champions, Karlsson carded rounds of 68-65-66 in his Hoag Classic debut.
- His runner-up finish records as his best in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since losing in a playoff to Harrison Frazar at the 2011 FedEx St. Jude Classic.
- Karlsson has finished the first three starts of his PGA TOUR Champions career in the top 25 (T23, Chubb Classic; 8th, Cologuard Classic).
- The Swede made 132 starts on the PGA TOUR from 1995-2016, owns two runner-up finishes, 12 finishes in the top 10 and 30 finishes in the top 25.

#### **Other Notes**

- In all, five players had at least a share of the lead on Sunday: Ernie Els, Fred Couples, Glen Day, School McCarron and Robert Karlsson.
- Charles Schwab Cup leader **Bernhard Langer** finished T31 to hold his place as No. 1 in the standings with \$528,137 in season earnings.
- Defending Champion, **Kirk Triplett** posted rounds of 70-65-71 to finish T15, recording as the best finish by a defending champion this season.
- Playing as an open qualifier, **Cliff Kresge** carded his first ace on PGA TOUR Champions (15th of his career) in the final round with a 5-iron at the par-3 8th hole from 201-yards out. Kresge finished T43.
- First-round leader **David Morland IV** finished T7 after rounds of 61-70-71, earning his way into the next event, the Rapiscan Systems Classic.