



CHAMPIONS

Hoag Classic

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

Second-Round Notes

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Course Setup: Par 71 / 6,606 yards (R2: 70.526; Cumulative: 70.346)

Weather: Mostly cloudy with a high of 65. Winds out of the SW 6-12 mph.

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	Player	To Par	Scores
1.	Ernie Els	-12	66-64—130
T2.	David Morland IV	-11	61-70—131
T2.	Scott McCarron	-11	63-68—131
T4.	Ken Duke	-10	63-69—132
T4.	Ken Tanigawa	-10	66-66—132

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Final Round Tee Times](#) (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. off Nos. 1 and 10)
- [PGATOURmedia.com](#) (transcripts and other resources available for download)

Ernie Els, 66-64—130 (-12)

- Making his tournament debut, Els followed a bogey-free 66 opening round with a PGA TOUR Champions career-best 7-under 64 second round. He eagled the par-5 15th hole for the second day in a row and enters Sunday leading by one stroke.
- Els' 36-hole total of 12-under 130 records as his lowest on PGA TOUR Champions and lowest in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since shooting 130 following 36-holes at the 2007 RBC Heritage.
- On PGA TOUR Champions, it is the first time Els leads/co-leads entering the final round. On the PGA TOUR, Els converted a final round lead/co-lead into a victory 12 of 16 times.
- Els, who turned 50-years-old on October 17, is making his third start on PGA TOUR Champions. He lost the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai to Miguel Angel Jimenez in a playoff and finished T34 at last week's Cologuard Classic.
- The South African is seeking his first victory on PGA TOUR Champions and first victory in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since winning at The Open Championship in 2012.
- Should Els go on to win, it would be the first time since Retief Goosen (2019 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS) and Bernhard Langer (The 2019 Senior Open Championship) that members of the World Golf Hall of Fame won back to back weeks on PGA TOUR Champions (Bernhard Langer, 2020 Cologuard Classic).

- The World Golf Hall of Fame member owns 19 PGA TOUR victories, 17 runner-up finishes and 126 finishes in the top 10.
- Els is a two-time past champion of the Arnold Palmer Invitational (1998, 2010).

Second-round lead notes

- In 24 years at the Hoag Classic, six finishes have come by way of a playoff and nine finishes have had a one-stroke margin of victory.
- Through four events this season, every winner has come from behind. Most recently, **Bernhard Langer** came from four strokes back to win the Cologuard Classic.
- The largest come-from-behind victory at the Hoag Classic was by five strokes twice (1998, Hale Irwin; 2001, Jose Maria Canizares). In 2019, **Kirk Triplett** came from four strokes back to secure a playoff victory over Woody Austin.

David Morland IV, 61-70—131 (-11)

- Making his tournament debut, Morland opened with a career-best round of 10-under 61, but a 1-under 70 on Saturday left him one stroke short of the lead. He enters the final round T2 at 11-under 131.
- Morland entered the field this week as an open qualifier from Goose Creek Golf Club. He shot 33 on the front-nine holes, before evacuating due to a fire in the surrounding area.
- The 50-year-old owns three starts on PGA TOUR Champions and claimed his best finish at the 2019 Shaw Charity Classic (T36). He competed in the 2019 Champions Tour Qualifying School finishing the final stage T45.
- Morland made 125 starts on the PGA TOUR from 1995-2010, with his best finish coming at the 2001 RBC Canadian Open (T5).
- He currently has full status on the Staysure Tour as he finished T2 at qualifying school in January.
- The Canadian is seeking his first victory on PGA TOUR Champions. Should he go on to win, he would be the first open qualifier to win since Doug Barron at the 2019 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open. Morland would earn status on PGA TOUR Champions from tomorrow through the end of the 2021 season and a two-year exemption into the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.

Scott McCarron, 63-68—131 (-11)

- McCarron followed a season-best 8-under 63 with a 3-under 68 on Saturday. He birdied three of the last four holes to enter Sunday one stroke off the lead.
- In 14 rounds at Newport Beach Country Club, McCarron has only recorded one round over par (72, Rd.2, 2019) and has finished each start inside the top 10. His best finish at Hoag Classic came in 2018 when he finished runner-up to Vijay Singh.
- The 2019 Charles Schwab Cup winner has made a slow start this season. He opened with a T9 at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai but has failed to finish inside the top 10 in his past three starts.
- The UCLA graduate owns 11 wins on PGA TOUR Champions and was named the 2019 Player of the Year after securing three victories in the 2019 season.
- McCarron led the 2019 Charles Schwab Cup race for 20 consecutive weeks. Should he go on to win tomorrow, he would move from No. 18 to No. 4 in the standings with \$365,960 in earnings.

Other Notes

- After a career-best 8-under 63, **Ken Duke** carded a 2-under 69 to sit two strokes off the lead. He enters the final round T4 seeking his first victory or sixth top-10 finish on PGA TOUR Champions.
- Charles Schwab Cup leader **Bernhard Langer** carded an even-par 71 in the second round to enter Sunday T37. With \$515,717 in season earnings, Langer is on pace to hold the Charles Schwab Cup lead for the second week.
- Defending Champion, **Kirk Triplett** sits T12 after rounds of 70-65. He is on pace for the best finish by a defending champion this season (Mark O'Meara finished in 17th place at the Cologuard Classic).
- At age 74, World Golf Hall of Fame member **Hale Irwin** bettered his age for the 43rd time in his career with a 1-over 72. Irwin leads the Tour in shooting or bettering his age (30, Gary Player).