



## Morocco Champions

Samanah Golf Club | Marrakech, Morocco | January 27 – February 1, 2020

### First-Round Notes

Thursday, January 30, 2020

**Course Setup:** Par 72 / 7,369 yards (R1: 71.504)

**Weather:** Sunny with a high of 77. Winds out of the NW 3-8 mph.

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|     | Player              | To Par | Scores   |
|-----|---------------------|--------|----------|
| 1.  | Stephen Ames        | -9     | 31-32—63 |
| T2. | Jose Maria Olazábal | -5     | 30-37—67 |
| T2. | Colin Montgomerie   | -5     | 32-35—67 |
| T2. | Bernhard Langer     | -5     | 36-31—67 |
| T2. | Retief Goosen       | -5     | 35-32—67 |

#### Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#) (11:40 – 1:30 p.m. off Nos. 1 and 10)
- [PGATOURmedia.com](http://PGATOURmedia.com) (transcripts and other resources available for download)

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#### Stephen Ames, 31-32—63 (-9)

- In his 2020 season debut, Ames began with a birdie on No. 1 and No. 4 to sit atop the leaderboard early in the opening round. He finished with one bogey, seven birdies and an eagle to card a 9-under 63.
- Ames' 9-under 63 ties the Samanah Golf Club course record previously set by Daniel Brooks of England in the 2009 Samanah Masters.
- Ames played the par-5s in 5-under, making an eagle on No. 5 and birdies on Nos. 9, 12 and 18.
- His opening round score matches his opening round score shot at the 2019 Chubb Classic, where he co-led following the first round (ultimately finished T6).
- He has never converted an opening-round lead/co-lead into a victory on PGA TOUR Champions.
- Ames was the 18-hole leader/co-leader five times during his PGA TOUR career, but never converted any of those into victories. In his four victories, only once was he inside the top 20 through 18 holes (T3, 2004 BMW Championship). He was T41 at the 2006 PLAYERS Championship and T44 and T21 at the 2007 and 2009 Children's Miracle Network Classic, respectively.
- His sole victory on PGA TOUR Champions came in 2017 when he won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic by four strokes over Bernhard Langer.
- Ames competed in the Trophée Hassan four years (1993-1996).

### First-round lead notes

- Charles Schwab Cup leader **Miguel Angel Jiménez** converted a first-round lead into a victory at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, the first event of the season.
- Over the course of the 2019 season, eight first-round leaders/co-leaders went on to win.
- Should a non-American player win this week, it would mark the first time in 29 years that the season's first two tournaments were won by international players.

### Jose Maria Olazábal, 30-37—67 (-5)

- Olazábal carded eight birdies and two bogeys to finish at 5-under 67, tying his lowest round on PGA TOUR Champions (R2/2017 Boca Raton Championship; R1/2017 Shaw Charity Classic).
- Olazábal is making his 30th career start on PGA TOUR Champions. In his first 29 starts, he notched two top-10 finishes, including a career-best T3 at the 2018 Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge (with partner Jiménez).
- Sitting at T2 through 18 holes, this marks just the third time on PGA TOUR Champions that he has been inside the top 10 after the opening round of an event.
- The two-time Masters champion won six times during his PGA TOUR career, with his last victory coming at the 2002 Farmers Insurance Open. He won 23 times on the European Tour (inclusive of the two Masters victories) and competed in the Trophee Hassan II in Morocco just one time (2012).

### Colin Montgomerie, 32-35—67 (-5)

- Montgomerie carded an eagle on No. 5, four birdies and a bogey en route to a 5-under 67 in the opening round.
- It is the 11th time on PGA TOUR Champions Montgomerie has been T2 or better after 18 holes. He has converted a second-place standing into a victory once (2015 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship).
- In eight years on PGA TOUR Champions, Montgomerie has recorded seven victories, eight runner-up finishes, and 56 finishes in the top 10. His last win came at the 2019 Invesco QQQ Championship, the second playoffs event.
- Montgomerie won the Trophee Hassan in 1997 and developed Montgomerie Marrakech in 2014.

### Bernhard Langer, 36-31—67 (-5)

- Langer carded a bogey-free 5-under 67 with three birdies and an eagle on No. 12.
- Langer finished T6 at the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, as he missed the opportunity to enter a four-man playoff with a double-bogey on No. 17 and a bogey on No. 18.
- The World Golf Hall of Fame member has won at least twice every season since 2012 and owns PGA TOUR Champions victories in England, Wales and Scotland.
- Langer is seeking his 41st victory on PGA TOUR Champions, moving him closer to breaking the all-time wins record held by Hale Irwin with 45.
- Langer is the Tour's all-time money leader and has won the money title 11 of the last 12 years. The five-time winner of the Charles Schwab Cup has 40 victories, 35 runner-up finishes, and 176 finishes in the top 10.

### Retief Goosen, 35-32—67 (-5)

- Making just his 25th start on PGA TOUR Champions, Goosen carded an eagle on No. 16, four birdies and a bogey to finish the opening round at 5-under 67 in a four-way tie for second.
- The South African finished T4 at the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.
- As the 2019 Rookie of the Year and Byron Nelson recipient, Goosen recorded 12 top-10s, including a victory at the 2019 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. He finished the 2019 season No. 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings after nearly winning the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship, only to lose on the third playoff hole against Jeff Maggert.

### Other Notes

- Season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai champion, **Miguel Angel Jiménez** (T17) carded a 2-under 70 in the opening round.

- Winner of the 2019 Charles Schwab Cup and 2019 Player of the Year, **Scott McCarron** (T28) carded a 1-under 71 in the opening round of his second event of the season. McCarron finished T9 at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai and is seeking his fourth international win.
  - 2019, Japan Championship
  - 2018, Shaw Charity Classic
  - 2017, Shaw Charity Classic
- **Scott Parel** (T6) led the Tour in first-round scoring average in 2019 (68.80) and was third in 2018 (68.64), trailing only Langer and Jiménez. Entering the week, not many players had played Samanah Golf Club before, except for Parel. He competed in the eGolf Tour's Samanah Classic in 2011, finishing T39 against a field that included future PGA TOUR winners Brian Harman, Chesson Hadley, Adam Long, Brice Garnett, Nick Taylor and Billy Hurley.