



Morocco Champions

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

Second-Round Notes

Friday, January 31, 2020

Course Setup: Par 72 / 7,369 yards (R2: 70.318; Cumulative: 70.902)

Weather: Sunny with a high of 77. Winds out of the NE 5-10 mph.

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	Player	To Par	Scores
1.	Stephen Ames	-12	63-69—132
T2.	Bret Quigley	-9	69-66—135
T2.	Bernhard Langer	-9	67-68—135
T2.	Jose Maria Olazábal	-9	67-68—135

Quick Links:

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

Stephen Ames, 63-69—132 (-12)

- In his 2020 season debut, Ames carded rounds of 63-69—132 (12-under) and holds a three-shot lead headed into Saturday's final round of the inaugural Morocco Champions.
- Ames is looking to capture his first PGA TOUR Champions title since winning the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in 2017, with this week marking his 68th Champions Tour start since that victory.
- Ames' 12-under 132 total is the lowest 36-hole score of his PGA TOUR Champions career (previously: 11-under 131, 2019 Chubb Classic).
- It marks the third time on PGA TOUR Champions that Ames will hold a 36-hole lead/co-lead in a 54-hole event:
 - 2017 Mitsubishi Electric Classic (won)
 - 2019 Chubb Classic (T6)
- Ames, a four-time winner on the PGA TOUR, is coming off of a 2019 PGA TOUR Champions campaign in which he recorded four top-10 finishes en route to a 26th-place finish in the season-long Charles Schwab Cup.
- Ames competed in the Trophée Hassan four years (1993-1996).

Second-round lead notes

- Should Ames go on to win, he would be the first wire-to-wire winner this season. In 2019, four players won wire-to-wire.
 - Scott McCarron, Mitsubishi Electric Classic
 - Tom Pernice & Scott Hoch, Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge

- Jeff Maggert, Charles Schwab Cup Championship
- Over the course of the 2019 season, eight 36-hole leaders/co-leaders went on to win 54-hole events.
- 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.

Brett Quigley, 69-66—135 (-9)

- On Friday, Quigley carded a bogey-free 6-under 66 with six birdies to add to his 3-under 69 opening-round score.
- Quigley's second-round 6-under 66 is his lowest in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since he recorded a first-round 66 in the 2014 American Express.
- Quigley is making just the second start of his PGA TOUR Champions career, dating back to at T64 in his Tour debut at last year's Shaw Charity Classic (he turned 50 on August 18, 2019). He made it to the final stage of PGA TOUR Champions Q-School last year, but finished T52.
- The Rhode Island native, who is the nephew of 11-time Champions Tour winner Dana Quigley, earned over \$11 million during a PGA TOUR career that saw him notch five runner-up finishes in 408 starts.
- In 2009, he finished T2 at the Puerto Rico Open, Valspar Championship and John Deere Classic and advanced to the Deutsche Bank Championship in the FedExCup Playoffs.
- Quigley has made one start on TOUR during the 2019-20 season, missing the cut at the Bermuda Championship last fall.
- Quigley spent part of his career on the Korn Ferry Tour, posting victories at the 1996 Philadelphia Classic and 2001 Arkansas Classic in the midst of 75 career starts.

Bernhard Langer, 67-68—135 (-9)

- Langer carded rounds of 68-67—135 (-9) to sit T2, just three strokes off the lead entering Saturday's final round.
- Of Langer's 40 victories, 14 have been final-round comebacks. Most recently, he trailed by three and was T5 before carding a final-round 66 and winning the 2019 Senior Open Championship.
- Langer has won his debut at a tournament six times, the most recent coming at the 2017 Invesco QQQ Championship.
 - 2007 Insperity Invitational
 - 2008 Hoag Classic
 - 2008 Ginn Championship Hammock Beach Resort
 - 2009 Triton Financial Classic
 - 2013 Mitsubishi Electric Classic
 - 2017 Invesco QQQ Championship
- Langer is seeking his second top 10 finish in just two starts this year. He 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.

Jose Maria Olazábal, 67-68—135 (-9)

- Olazábal enters the final round T2, marking the first time in his PGA TOUR Champions career that he has been inside the top 10 through 36 holes of an event. The last time he was T2 or better entering the final round of a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event was at the 2005 Open Championship (T2), where he closed in 74 to finish T3, six shots back of winner Tiger Woods. Olazábal was paired with Woods in Sunday's final grouping that year.
- The two-time Masters champion recorded a hole-in-one on the par-3 17th with a 5-iron from 208 yards, marking the first ace of his Champions Tour career and the first of the 2020 season.

- There were 10 holes-in-one on Tour in 2019, with the first one coming from Ames (Rd. 1, Chubb Classic). Olazábal's only hole-in-one on the PGA TOUR came at the 2004 PLAYERS Championship (Rd. 2, No. 13).
- Olazábal's 9-under 135 total is his lowest start in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since he reached 9-under 135 in the opening two rounds of the 2006 BellSouth Classic in Atlanta.
- Olazábal is making his 30th career PGA TOUR Champions start this week in Morocco. In his first 29 starts, he has 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 Miguel Angel Jiménez).
- Olazábal competed in the Trophée Hassan II in Morocco just one time (2012).

Other Notes

- Season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai champion, **Miguel Angel Jiménez** sits T39 after round of 70-72.
- Winner of the 2019 Charles Schwab Cup and 2019 Player of the Year, **Scott McCarron** (T5) moved 23 places up the leaderboard after adding a 7-under 65 on Friday to his 1-under 71 opening-round score. McCarron finished T9 at the season-opening 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** (T5) 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.