



2021 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
(22nd of 50 events in the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Season)

Orlando, Florida
Bay Hill Club & Lodge

March 4-7, 2021
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,466

FedExCup Points: 550 (winner)
Purse: \$9,300,000 (\$1,674,000 winner)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 4, 2021

Weather: Mostly sunny. High of 74. Wind NNW 9-13 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Rory McIlroy	66 (-6)
Corey Conners	66 (-6)
Bryson DeChambeau	67 (-5)
Jason Kokrak	68 (-4)
Byeong Hun An	68 (-4)
Sebastian Munoz	68 (-4)

Things to Know

- Rory McIlroy and Corey Conners open with 66s to share the 18-hole lead
- McIlroy has finished T6 or better in four consecutive years at the event, including a win in 2018
- McIlroy made five consecutive birdies (Nos. 2-6), tying the second-longest streak of his PGA TOUR career
- Conners leads the field in Strokes Gained: Approach the Green at 5.550, the most in a round by a player on TOUR in that category this season
- Conners played his first seven holes in 6-under, his best score through seven holes in a round on TOUR
- Records with the 18-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR: McIlroy, 3-for-15; Conners, 0-for-1
- 2020 U.S. Open champion Bryson DeChambeau is one stroke off the lead after opening with 67

First-Round Lead Notes

- 3 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational since 2000 (most recent: Jason Day/2016)
- 4 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win in 2020-21 (most recent: Patrick Reed/Farmers Insurance Open)

Comparing the co-leaders (entering the week)

Category	Rory McIlroy	Corey Conners
Age	31 (May 4, 1989)	29 (January 6, 1992)
FedExCup	40	48
OWGR	8	60
Starts at Arnold Palmer Invitational	6	2
Wins at Arnold Palmer Invitational	1	0
Top-10s at Arnold Palmer Invitational	4	0
Career PGA TOUR starts	191	100
Career PGA TOUR wins	18	1
Career PGA TOUR top-10s	91	9
PGA TOUR starts in 2020-21	8	12
PGA TOUR wins in 2020-21	0	0
PGA TOUR top-10s in 2020-21	3	3

Rory McIlroy (T1/-6)

- 16th career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR; 3-for-15 to date converting to victory (wins: 2011 U.S. Open, 2012 BMW Championship, 2014 The Open Championship)

- Birdied five consecutive holes (Nos. 2-6), tying the second-longest birdie streak of his PGA TOUR career; birdied the same holes during the second round of the 2015 Arnold Palmer Invitational

Streak	Tournament	Rd.	Result
6	2018 BMW Championship	R1	5 th
5	2021 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard	R1	TBD
5	2015 Wells Fargo Championship	R3	Won
5	2015 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard	R2	T11

- Also opened the 2020 Arnold Palmer Invitational with a 6-under 66 before finishing T5
- Four consecutive finishes of T6 or better at the event (T4/2017, Won/2018, T6/2019, T5/2020)
- In search of first victory on TOUR since the 2019 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions
- Hit a 354-yard drive on No. 9, the longest drive of any player in the field on any hole (made par)

Corey Connors (T1/-6)

- Second 18-hole lead/co-lead of his PGA TOUR career and first since the 2018 Valspar Championship (led outright after each of the first three rounds before finishing T16)
- Played his first seven holes in 6-under, his best score through seven holes in a round on TOUR (previous: -5, four times; most recent: R4/2020 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP @ SHERWOOD); opening seven holes: B-B-B-P-P-B-E
- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Tee to Green (5.472) and Strokes Gained: Approach the Green (5.550); both career-highs
- 5.550 marks the highest SG: Approach the Green in a round by any player on TOUR this season (previous: Rob Oppenheim, 5.233, R1/The American Express)
- Hit 15 of 18 greens in regulation, tied with Matthew Fitzpatrick for most in the field
- Missed the cut in both prior appearances at the event

Bryson DeChambeau (3rd/-5)

- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Off the Tee (2.767)
- Two top-fives in four prior starts at the event (2nd/2018, 4th/2020)
- Won the U.S. Open in September, his seventh PGA TOUR victory and first major championship title

Additional Player Notes

- **Jason Kokrak** (T4/-4) earned his first career PGA TOUR victory earlier in the season at THE CJ CUP @ SHADOW CREEK; entered the week No. 17 in the FedExCup standings and No. 31 in the Official World Golf Ranking
- At No. 33, **Victor Perez** (T7/-3) is the highest-ranked player in the Official World Golf Ranking that is not a PGA TOUR member
- Defending champion **Tyrrell Hatton** records a 5-over 77, his highest score on TOUR since the 2020 U.S. Open (78/R2)
- No American has won the Arnold Palmer Invitational since 2015; of the top 14 players on the leaderboard, 10 are from outside the United States
- **Si Woo Kim** withdrew at the end of the first round

Course Statistics

	Toughest Hole	Easiest Hole
R1:	Par-4 18 th (4.398)	Par-5 16 th (4.398)

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	36.772	36.390	73.163	-

Bogey-free rounds

R1 (2): Lee Westwood (69), Doug Ghim (71)