



### 2021 Sony Open in Hawaii

(14th of 50 events in the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Season)

Honolulu, HI  
Waialae Country Club

January 14-17, 2021  
Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,044

Purse: \$6,600,000 (\$1,188,000)  
500 FedExCup points to winner

### Third-Round Notes – Saturday, January 16, 2021

Weather: Partly cloudy. High of 81. Wind ESE 8-14 mph.

#### Third-Round Leaderboard

Brendan Steele	65-66-61—192 (-18)
Kevin Na	67-66-61—194 (-16)
Joaquin Niemann	62-69-63—194 (-16)

#### Things to Know

- Following a career-low 61, **Brendan Steele** holds the outright 54-hole lead for the second straight year at the Sony Open in Hawaii
- Steele would become the first player to lose a playoff and win the same event the following season since Ryuji Imada (2008 AT&T Classic)
- After equaling his career-low round with a bogey-free 9-under 61, **Kevin Na** (T2) is now tied with Brandt Snedeker and Justin Thomas for the most rounds of 61 or better since 2010 (4)
- Today marks the 16<sup>th</sup> time since 2003 with multiple rounds of 61 or better in a single round on TOUR; it is the second time at Waialae CC (2017/R2)
- Following a playoff loss in Kapalua last week, **Joaquin Niemann** (T2) would become the first player since Dustin Johnson (2020 BMW Championship, TOUR Championship) to lose a playoff and then win the following week
- **Chris Kirk** (T4) is making his last start under his Major Medical Exemption; needs to earn 148.934 points to remain in that category for the rest of the season
- Former University of Georgia standouts Kirk (T4), **Russell Henley** (T4) and **Keith Mitchell** (T9) are all inside the top 10 and vying to win on the heels of Harris English winning the Sentry Tournament of Champions; it would be the first time players from the same college won in back-to-back weeks since Michael Thompson (3M Open) and Justin Thomas (WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational) in 2020
- The 66.66 scoring average Saturday was the lowest single-round scoring average on TOUR since the 2003 American Express (Indian Wells/66.28)
- Due to anticipated heavy showers Sunday afternoon (coupled with a poor forecast Monday), final-round tee times are moved up to run from 8:20 – 10:20 a.m. HT; the final round will air live on the Golf Channel from 4 – 8 p.m. ET

#### Third-Round Lead Notes

- 9 Third-round leaders/co-leaders at Sony Open in Hawaii to win (since 2006)  
Most recent: Matt Kuchar/2019
- 5 Third-round leaders/co-leaders to win this season  
Most recent: Harris English/Sentry Tournament of Champions

#### Brendan Steele (-18/1st)

Age: 37 (April 5, 1983)  
Turned Professional: 2005

FedExCup	177
OWGR	114
Starts at Sony Open	2
Top-10s at Sony Open	1
Career PGA TOUR starts	247
Career PGA TOUR wins	3

Career PGA TOUR top-10s	28
PGA TOUR starts in 2020-21	6
PGA TOUR top-10s in 2020-21	0

- Posted a career-low 9-under 61 for a two-stroke lead over Kevin Na and Joaquin Niemann; previous best score was 62, set three times and most recently at the 2020 Travelers Championship (second round)
- At 18-under 192, tops his previous-best 54-hole score by four strokes (196/2015 CIMB Classic)
- Holds the 54-hole lead/co-lead for the sixth time on TOUR, going on to win once (2011 Valero Texas Open)
- Marks the second straight season with the outright 54-hole lead at the Sony Open; led Cameron Smith by three strokes entering the final round in 2020 before falling to the Aussie in a playoff
- Would become the first player to lose a playoff and win the same event the following season since Ryuji Imada (2008 AT&T Classic)
- Seeking his first top-10 finish since the 2020 Travelers Championship (T6)
- A win on Sunday would come in his 248<sup>th</sup> start at the age of 37 years, 9 months, 12 days
- PGA TOUR victories (3): 2011 Valero Texas Open, 2016 Safeway Open, 2017 Safeway Open

#### Additional Player Notes

- **Kevin Na** (-16/T2) equaled his career-low round with a bogey-free 9-under 61; is now tied with Brandt Snedeker and Justin Thomas for the most rounds of 61 or better since the start of 2010 (4)
- **Joaquin Niemann** (-16/T2) would become the first player to lose a playoff and win the following week since Dustin Johnson (2020 BMW Championship, TOUR Championship); is 41-under in his last seven rounds on TOUR
- 2015 Sanderson Farms Championship winner **Peter Malnati** (-15/T4) had four top-10 finishes in his first 157 starts on TOUR; a top-10 finish this week would be his third in his last six starts
- **Charley Hoffman** (-15/T4) missed the cut and failed to post a par-or-better score in two prior Sony Open starts (2006, 2020)
- 2013 champion **Russell Henley** (-15/T4) is seeking to become the tournament's sixth repeat winner
- **Chris Kirk** (-15/T4) is making his last start under his Major Medical Exemption; needs to earn 148.934 points to remain in that category for the rest of the season
- **Stewart Cink** (-15/T4) has the longest active streak of par or better rounds (27) at the Sony Open in Hawaii; his last over-par score was a second-round 71 in 2013
- Second-round leader **Nick Taylor** (-14/T9) carded a 2-under 68
- **Webb Simpson** (-13/T13) has the longest active streak of top-20 finishes at the Sony Open in Hawaii entering 2021 (6)
- **Billy Horschel** (-13/T13) played his first 51 holes this week without a bogey, the longest streak of his career to start an event; first bogey of the week came on the par-4 16<sup>th</sup> hole during the third round
- Making his 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive start at the Sony Open in Hawaii, **Charles Howell III** (-9/T39) has posted three rounds in the 60s this week; of his 75 rounds at Waialae, 61 have been in the 60s and 67 at par-or-better; a 3-over 73 to open in 2010 is his worst score at the Sony Open
- Defending champion **Cameron Smith** is T39 at 9-under

#### Bogey-free rounds:

R1 (12): Jason Kokrak (62), Vaughn Taylor (64), Jim Herman (64), Si Woo Kim (64), Billy Horschel (65), Nick Taylor (66), Emiliano Grillo (66), Cameron Smith (67), Charles Howell III (67), Grayson Murray (67), Sungjae Im (68), Sam Ryder (68)

R2 (15): Stewart Cink (63), Nick Hardy (63), Harris English (64), Adam Scott (64), Marc Leishman (65), K.J. Choi (65), James Hahn (65), Pat Perez (65), Lanto Griffin (65), Billy Horschel (66), Sergio Garcia (66), Bronson Burgoon (66), Chris Baker (67), Troy Merritt (67), Matt Jones (67)

R3 (13): Brendan Steele (61), Kevin Na (61), Joaquin Niemann (63), Sergio Garcia (64), Kevin Kisner (64), Charley Hoffman (64), Robby Shelton (65), Si Woo Kim (65), Marc Leishman (65), Charles Howell III (66), Kyoung-Hoon Lee (66), Sepp Straka (66), Hudson Swafford (67)

#### Course Statistics

Toughest Hole	Easiest Hole
<b>R1:</b> Par-4 13 <sup>th</sup> (4.153)	Par-5 9 <sup>th</sup> (4.264)
<b>R2:</b> Par-4 13 <sup>th</sup> (4.236)	Par-5 9 <sup>th</sup> (4.177)
<b>R3:</b> Par-4 13 <sup>th</sup> (4.137)	Par-5 9 <sup>th</sup> (4.205)

#### Scoring Averages at Waialae Country Club:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
<b>R1</b>	34.028	34.292	68.319	-

<b>R2</b>	34.361	34.194	68.558	68.438
<b>R3</b>	33.301	33.356	66.658	68.078