



2021 The Honda Classic

(The 24th of 50 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

March 18-21, 2021

Purse: \$7,000,000 (\$1,260,000/winner)

PGA National (Champion Course)

Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,125

First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 18, 2021

Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 86. Wind SSW 15-20 mph, gusting to 30 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Matt Jones	61 (-9)
Aaron Wise	64 (-6)
Russell Henley	64 (-6)
Five players	66 (-4)

Things to Know

- Matt Jones' 61 ties low 18-hole score at The Honda Classic and supplants previous record for low opening-round score at PGA National by two strokes
- Three strokes is the largest opening-round lead in The Honda Classic since 1987
- Russell Henley opens with 64 to match his lowest 18-hole score in the event; opened with 64 en route to winning The Honda Classic in 2014
- 54-year-old Steve Stricker opens with 4-under 66 in first start at The Honda Classic since 2007 (T5)
- In bid to join Jack Nicklaus as players to successfully defend a Honda Classic title, Sungjae Im opens with 68
- Fourteen eagles at the par-5 18th hole in round one marks the most in The Honda Classic history

First-Round Lead Notes

- 3 First-round leaders/co-leaders at The Honda Classic to win since 2000
Most recent: Justin Leonard/2003
- 4 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2020-21: Most recent: Patrick Reed/Farmers Insurance Open

Matt Jones (61/-9)

Statistic	Before this week
Age	40 (4/19/1980)
FedExCup	60
OWGR	83
Starts at The Honda Classic	7
Top-10s at The Honda Classic	1
PGA TOUR starts	329
PGA TOUR wins	1
Starts in 2020-21	15
Top 10s in 2020-21	2

- Reeled off four consecutive birdies on Nos. 2-5 and three straight on Nos. 16-18 en route to bogey-free and career-low 9-under 61; previous low score on TOUR was 62 (R4/2013 Wyndham Championship/T5)
- Posted the day's only bogey-free score
- 61 ties the low 18-hole score at The Honda Classic (Brian Harman/R2/2012)
- 61 marks the low first-round score at The Honda Classic since moving to PGA National in 2007; previously 63 (2014/Rory McIlroy/T2)
- Three strokes marks the largest opening-round lead since 1987 when Mike Sullivan led by four strokes
- Previous low score in seven starts at The Honda Classic was an opening-round 4-under 66 in 2008 (T4); was T1 through 54 holes that year before a 3-over 73 in the final round resulted in the T4
- Hit 10/14 fairways and 14/18 greens in regulation; needed 24 putts to complete his round

- Comes off a T47 in last year's The Honda Classic
- In 15 starts on the PGA TOUR this season, has collected two top-10 finishes; T4/Bermuda Championship, T8/The Genesis Invitational
- Winner of the 2014 Vivint Houston Open on the PGA TOUR

Miscellaneous Notes

- Making his third start in The Honda Classic, **Aaron Wise** opened with three straight birdies on Nos. 1-3 en route to a 6-under 64; marks his lowest score on TOUR since the 2020 Mayakoba Golf Classic, where he closed with an 8-under 63 to finish solo-second
- **Russell Henley** opened with a 6-under 64, matching his lowest score in the event in 31 rounds; previous 64 came in round one of 2014 on his way to victory; comes off a T8 in last year's event
- Making his third start in The Honda Classic and first since a T8 in 2020, Australia's **Cameron Davis** birdied four of his last six holes to open with a 4-under 66; was one of 14 players to eagle the par-5 18th hole; seeks his first career PGA TOUR win in his 63rd start this week
- 54-year-old **Steve Stricker** opened with a 4-under 66 in his sixth start at The Honda Classic and first since a T5 in 2007
- **Joseph Bramlett** birdied his last three holes (Nos. 16-18) to open with a 4-under 66; in first The Honda Classic start, missed the cut last year (77-72)
- Following runner-up finishes in his last two PGA TOUR starts (Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard and THE PLAYERS Championship), **Lee Westwood** opened with an even-par 70; best of eight previous starts at The Honda Classic are fourth-place showings in 2012 and 2020
- Defending The Honda Classic champion **Sungjae Im** opened with a 2-under 68 in his bid to join **Jack Nicklaus** (1977-78) as players to successfully defend their title in the event
- **Luke Donald** (6-over 76) made a nine on the par-3 17th hole, marking the highest score on the hole in tournament history – at the time. A short time later, **Brian Stuard** (9-over 79) made an 11 on the hole to take the distinction
- Jupiter resident and 2017 The Honda Classic champion **Rickie Fowler** opened with an even-par 70 in his 12th consecutive The Honda Classic start
- Making his seventh start in The Honda Classic and first since 2016, **Phil Mickelson** opened with a 1-over 71
- The par-5 18th hole surrendered 14 eagles in round one, the most on that hole in a round in tournament history (nine in 2017)
- **James Hahn** withdrew during round one with a rib injury and **Sean O'Hair** withdrew after his round (10-over 80)

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Matt Jones (61)

Scoring Averages at PGA National:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.308	36.182	71.490	---

Morning Scoring Average: 70.97

Afternoon Scoring Average: 72.01

The par-3 17th hole played the toughest in round one (3.573)

The par-5 18th hole ranked as the easiest (4.301)

"Bear Trap" averages – No. 15 (3.238/5th-toughest), No. 16 (3.986/15th-toughest), No. 17 (3.573/toughest)