



## 2021 The Honda Classic

(The 24<sup>th</sup> of 50 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida  
PGA National (Champion Course)

March 18-21, 2021  
Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,125

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

### Second-Round Notes – Friday, March 19, 2021

Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 83. Wind WNW 10-15 mph.

**36-Hole Cut:** 68 professionals at 1-over 141 from a field of 144 professionals

#### Second-Round Leaderboard

Aaron Wise	64-64—128 (-12)
Brandon Hagy	69-62—131 (-9)
Matt Jones	61-70—131 (-9)
Sam Ryder	69-63—132 (-8)

#### Things to Know

- Aaron Wise holds 36-hole lead/co-lead for first time in his 88<sup>th</sup> TOUR start
- Wise' 12-under 128 marks low 36-hole tournament score since the event moved to PGA National in 2007 (129/Rory McIlroy/2014) and ties tournament record (Dan Pohl/1989); also matches his career low 36-hole score
- Brandon Hagy posts career low 8-under 62
- Matt Jones dropped from No. 2 in the first round to No. 133 in the second round in proximity to the hole category
- Sam Ryder seeks first victory in 90<sup>th</sup> start on TOUR
- In bid to join Jack Nicklaus as players to successfully defend at The Honda Classic, Sungjae Im sits T16
- Eight rounds of 64 or better through the first 36 holes marks the most since the event moved to PGA National in 2007 (previous most: five, in 2012 and 2014)

#### Second-Round Lead Notes

- 4 Second-round leaders/co-leaders to win since the event moved to PGA National in 2007  
Most recent: Keith Mitchell/2019
- 5 Second-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2020-21  
Most recent: Harris English/Sentry Tournament of Champions
- 128 Ties 36-hole tournament record (Dan Pohl/1989); lowest 36-hole score since moving to PGA National in 2007 (Aaron Wise/2021)

#### Comparing the top three entering the week

Statistic	Aaron Wise	Matt Jones	Brandon Hagy
Age	24 (6/21/1996)	40 (4/19/1980)	29 (3/21/1991)
FedExCup	56	60	178
OWGR	152	83	348
Starts at The Honda Classic	2	7	3
Top-10s at The Honda Classic	0	1	0
PGA TOUR starts	87	329	80
PGA TOUR wins	1	1	0
Starts in 2020-21	11	15	11
Top 10s in 2020-21	1	2	0
Top-10s PGA TOUR	9	27	1

#### Aaron Wise (1<sup>st</sup>/-12)

- Jupiter, Florida resident holds 36-hole lead/co-lead for first time in his career; only previous lead/co-lead after any round on TOUR was share of 54-hole lead at 2018 AT&T Byron Nelson, which he won

- 12-under 128 36-hole total marks low 36-hole tournament score since the event moved to PGA National in 2007 (129/Rory McIlroy/2014) and ties tournament record (Dan Pohl/1989); also matches his career low 36-hole score (2018 AT&T Byron Nelson)
- Becomes first player with multiple 64s or better in the same week at The Honda Classic since the event moved to PGA National (Champion) in 2007
- Makes two eagles (Nos. 18 and 3), marking the third time with multiple eagles in a single round on TOUR
- Seeks second TOUR title after claiming 2018 AT&T Byron Nelson in his rookie season; with that victory became second player to win on Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada, Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR (Mackenzie Hughes)
- Advanced to the TOUR Championship in his rookie season en route to No. 24 in the FedExCup in 2018
- Making third appearance at The Honda Classic (T33/2018, T35/2020)
- Closed with 8-under 63 to finish solo-second at 2020 Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN, his best result in 11 starts this season

#### Brandon Hagy (T2/-9)

- Got into field as second-to-last alternate on Wednesday when Kramer Hickok withdrew
- Bogey-free 8-under 62 marks career low round on PGA TOUR (221<sup>st</sup> round)
- Posts low 36-hole total of his career on TOUR (previous low, 133/2017 RBC Canadian Open)
- Making fourth appearance at The Honda Classic (T21/2017, MC/2019, T21/2020)
- Owns one top-10 in 80 career TOUR starts – T5/2017 RBC Canadian Open where he shared the first-round lead with four other players; sat T2, one stroke back through 36-holes, en route to T5 finish
- Makes fifth cut in 12<sup>th</sup> start this season with T21 at The American Express (where he held 18-hole lead) his best result entering this week
- Advanced to FedExCup Playoffs once, finishing No. 113 in 2017, his rookie season on TOUR
- Made limited starts in 2018 and 2019 after suffering wrist (2018) and back injuries (2019)
- Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday's final round

#### Miscellaneous Notes

- First-round leader **Matt Jones** (T2/-9) ranked 133<sup>rd</sup> in proximity to the hole (44 feet, 2 inches) in the second round after ranking No. 2 (25 feet, 6 inches) in round one
- In 90<sup>th</sup> start on TOUR **Sam Ryder** (4<sup>th</sup>/-8) seeks first victory; 63 marks lowest score on TOUR since 2018 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (62/R4); shot four rounds in the 70s to finish T53 in this event last year, his only prior appearance; best finish among eight career top-10s is T2/2018 John Deere Classic; T10/Farmers Insurance Open marks best result in 14 prior starts this season
- Reigning The Open Championship winner **Shane Lowry** (T5/-7), coming off a solo-eighth finish at last week's THE PLAYERS Championship, holed a shot from off the green for eagle at his final hole, the par-18th to shoot 66, his low round of the season (34 rounds)
- Following a shoulder injury, The Honda Classic marks the final event remaining for **Camilo Villegas** (9<sup>th</sup>/-6) to earn 136 FedExCup points (3-way T3 or better) and remain in the Major Medical category or 24 FedExCup points (2-way T32 or better) to play the remainder of the season out of the 126-150 category; should he fail to reach either of these goals he will move to No. 2 in the reorder category
- With a pair of 68s, defending The Honda Classic champion **Sungjae Im** sits T16 in his bid to join **Jack Nicklaus** (1977-78) as players to successfully defend their title in the event
- Jupiter resident and 2017 The Honda Classic champion **Rickie Fowler** sits T31 at 2-under in his 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive The Honda Classic start; last four results at this event – Won/2017, MC/2018, T2/2019, MC/2020
- **Chase Koepka** (T31/-2) becomes 10<sup>th</sup> player since 2007 to birdie all three 'Bear Trap' holes in a single round and first since 2019 (Chase Wright/R4)
- **Brian Gay** (T31/-2) makes eagles at No. 18 in the first and second rounds to become the first player to make two eagles in a week on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole at PGA National (Champion) since 2007
- Making his seventh start in The Honda Classic and first since 2016, **Phil Mickelson** (T42/-1) notches three birdies in a row (Nos. 2-4) before a triple bogey at No. 11; plays last seven holes 3-under to make the cut
- Following runner-up finishes in his last two PGA TOUR starts (Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard and THE PLAYERS Championship), **Lee Westwood** fails to advance to the weekend after rounds of 70-78
- **Luke List** (MC) had the distinction of making the 100<sup>th</sup> eagle on No. 18 since 2007
- Through 36 holes, eight rounds of 64 or better have been scored; prior to this week, the most 64s or better in the opening two rounds at PGA National (Champion) since 2007 was five (twice, 2012 and 2014)

#### Bogey-free rounds:

**R1 (1):** Matt Jones (61)

**R2 (5):** Brandon Hagy (62), Sam Ryder (63), Brice Garnett (64), Adam Hadwin (65), Brendan Steele (65)

#### Course Statistics

	<b>Toughest Hole</b>	<b>Easiest Hole</b>
<b>R1:</b>	Par-3 17 <sup>th</sup> (3.573)	Par-5 18 <sup>th</sup> (4.301)
<b>R2:</b>	Par-4 14 <sup>th</sup> (4.408)	Par-5 18 <sup>th</sup> (4.331)

**Scoring Averages at PGA National:**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>R1:</b>	35.308	36.182	71.490	---
<b>R2:</b>	35.218	35.451	70.669	71.081

Morning Scoring Average: (R1) 70.97 (R2) 70.50

Afternoon Scoring Average: (R1) 72.01 (R2) 70.83

**“Bear Trap” averages**

**R1:** No. 15 (3.238/5<sup>th</sup>-toughest), No. 16 (3.986/15<sup>th</sup>-toughest), No. 17 (3.573/toughest)

**R2:** No. 15 (3.162/6<sup>th</sup>-toughest), No. 16 (4.275/T4<sup>th</sup>-toughest), No. 17 (2.845/16<sup>th</sup> toughest)



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