



2021 THE NORTHERN TRUST

(First of three FedExCup Playoffs events)

Jersey City, New Jersey
Liberty National Golf Club

August 19-22, 2021
Par/Yards: 71/7,410

FedExCup Points: 2,000 (winner)
Purse: \$9,500,000 (\$1,710,000/winner)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, August 19, 2021

Weather: Mostly cloudy. High of 87. Wind SW 10-14 mph, with gusts to 25 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Justin Thomas	63 (-8)
Jon Rahm	63 (-8)
Harold Varner III	66 (-5)
Six players	67 (-4)

Things to Know

- Justin Thomas and Jon Rahm share the 18-hole lead after matching 8-under 63s, three strokes better than any other player
- Thomas and Rahm both entered the week in the top 10 in the FedExCup standings and top five in the Official World Golf Ranking
- Bryson DeChambeau (71) becomes the fourth player on record (since 1983) to make two or fewer pars and record a score of even-par or better
- Harold Varner III (FedExCup No. 72 entering the week) finished T3 at THE NORTHERN TRUST at Liberty National in 2019, moving inside the top 70 to qualify for the BMW Championship
- Players currently projected to move inside the top 70 (6): Harold Varner III, Adam Scott, Andrew Putnam, Erik van Rooyen, Keith Mitchell, Harry Higgs
- Players currently projected to fall out of the top 70 (6): Shane Lowry, Tyrrell Hatton, Talor Gooch, Martin Laird, Troy Merritt, J.T. Poston

First-Round Lead Notes

- 1 First-round leader/co-leader to win THE NORTHERN TRUST in the FedExCup era (2007-present)
Patrick Reed (2016)
- 5 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win in 2020-21
(most recent: Matt Jones/The Honda Classic)

Comparing the co-leaders (entering the week)

Category	Justin Thomas	Jon Rahm
Age	28 (April 29, 1993)	26 (November 10, 1994)
FedExCup	No. 9	No. 5
OWGR	No. 5	No. 1
PGA TOUR starts	175	109
PGA TOUR wins	14	6
PGA TOUR top-10s	59	52
Starts in 2020-21	20	19
Wins in 2020-21	1	1
Top-10s in 2020-21	5	12
Starts at THE NORTHERN TRUST	6	4
Wins at THE NORTHERN TRUST	0	0
Top-10s at THE NORTHERN TRUST	3	3

Justin Thomas (T1/-8)

- 10th career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR; 4-for-9 to date converting to victory (2016 CIMB Classic, 2017 Sony Open in Hawaii, 2017 THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, 2019 BMW Championship)
- Third 18-hole lead/co-lead of the season, tied with Sebastian Munoz for most on the PGA TOUR
- Eighth lead/co-lead after any round in a FedExCup Playoffs event, second-most in FedExCup Playoffs history (Dustin Johnson, 12)
- Fourth career first-round score of 63 or better on TOUR and first since 2017 THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES (Won)
- Entered the week with a stroke average of 68.79 in FedExCup Playoffs events, fourth-lowest in FedExCup Playoffs history (min. 50 rounds)
- 14-time PGA TOUR winner, the most among players currently younger than 30
- Won THE PLAYERS Championship earlier in the season (only player to win THE PLAYERS and the FedExCup in the same season: Rory McIlroy, 2019)
- 2017 FedExCup champion; two career wins in the FedExCup Playoffs (2017 Dell Technologies Championship, 2019 BMW Championship)
- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Approach the Green (4.595)

Jon Rahm (T1/-8)

- Seventh career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR; 1-for-6 to date converting to victory (2018 The American Express)
- Fourth career first-round score of 63 or better on TOUR and first since the 2019 World Golf Championships-FedEx St. Jude Invitational
- Entered the week with a stroke average of 68.43 in FedExCup Playoffs events, lowest in FedExCup Playoffs history (min. 50 rounds)
- Last three starts on the PGA TOUR: WD/the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday (led by six strokes after 54 holes and was forced to withdraw), Won/U.S. Open, T3/The Open Championship
- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Tee to Green (6.759)
- Six-time PGA TOUR winner, including the 2021 U.S. Open
- One career win in the FedExCup Playoffs (2020 BMW Championship)
- Leads the PGA TOUR in top-10 finishes this season with 12

FedExCup Playoffs notes

Players projected to move into top 70

Player	Position	YTD Rank	Proj. Rank*
Harold Varner III	3 rd	72	24
Adam Scott	T4	82	48
Andrew Putnam	T15	75	64
Erik van Rooyen	T15	76	65
Keith Mitchell	T10	101	66
Harry Higgs	T15	80	69

Players projected to move out of top 70

Player	Position	YTD Rank	Proj. Rank*
Shane Lowry	T52	66	71
Tyrrell Hatton	T72	63	73
Talor Gooch	T89	64	74
Martin Laird	T89	65	75
Troy Merritt	T72	69	80
J.T. Poston	T113	70	81

Miscellaneous Notes

- **Harold Varner III** stands solo-third after a 5-under 66; Varner, who entered the week No. 72 in the FedExCup standings, was one of four players to enter 2019 THE NORTHERN TRUST outside the top 70 in the FedExCup standings and go on to qualify for the BMW Championship (T3; moved from No. 102 to 29th)
- **Bryson DeChambeau** (T52) made two pars en route to an even-par 71; DeChambeau, who co-leads the field in birdies with nine, became the fourth player on record (since 1983) to make two or fewer pars and record a score of even-par or better (most recent: Jarrod Lyle, 2011 John Deere Classic)
- **Adam Scott** records a 4-under 67 in his first round since losing in a playoff at the Wyndham Championship; last player to lose in a playoff and win the following week: Dustin Johnson (lost in a playoff at 2020 BMW)

Championship, won 2020 TOUR Championship)

- Defending champion and 2020 FedExCup champion Dustin Johnson cards a 1-under 70 and stands T34

Course Statistics

	Toughest hole	Easiest hole
R1:	Par-4 15 th (4.415)	Par-5 6 th (4.260)

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	36.195	35.089	71.285	-

Bogey-free rounds

R1 (2): Jon Rahm (63), Robert Streb (67)