



2021 Waste Management Phoenix Open
(The 17th of 50 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Scottsdale, Arizona **February 4-7, 2021** **Purse: \$7,300,000 (\$1,314,000 winner)**
TPC Scottsdale **Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,261 yards** **500 FedExCup points to winner**

First-Round Notes – Thursday, February 4, 2021

Weather: Mostly sunny, with a high of 70. Wind W 6-12 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Score
T1	Matthew NeSmith	63 (-8)
T1	Mark Hubbard	63 (-8)
T3	Nate Lashley	64 (-7)
T3	Sam Burns	64 (-7)

Things to Know

- In first start since a missed cut at The American Express, Mark Hubbard birdies five of his last six holes to open with career-low 8-under 63
- In Waste Management Phoenix Open debut, Matthew NeSmith ties career-low score with 8-under 63
- 2005 University of Arizona grad and Scottsdale resident Nate Lashley opens with a bogey-free 7-under 64 a year after finishing T3 in the event
- With a 6-under 65, 53-year-old Steve Stricker becomes the second player in tournament history over 50 to break 66
- World No. 2 and Arizona State grad Jon Rahm posts 3-under 68 in sixth start in the event; has never finished lower than T16
- Despite a double-bogey, bogey start, Rory McIlroy posts 1-under 70 in his Waste Management Phoenix Open debut
- Webb Simpson sits T108 at 2-over 73 in bid to become the third player to successfully defend the event's title since 1970

First-Round Lead Notes

- 60 Lowest R1 score (Phil Mickelson/2013/Won)
- 4 First-round leaders/co-leaders of the Waste Management Phoenix Open since 2000 to convert for the win
- 4 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win in 2020-21, including Patrick Reed at last week's Farmers Insurance Open

Comparing the co-leaders (entering the week)

Category	Matthew NeSmith	Mark Hubbard
Age	27 (9/29/1993)	31 (5/24/1989)
FedExCup	82	135
OWGR	195	153
Starts at WMPO	0	3
Wins at WMPO	0	0
Top-10s at WMPO	0	1
Career PGA TOUR starts	37	119
Career PGA TOUR wins	0	0
Career PGA TOUR top-10s	2	3
PGA TOUR starts in 2020-21	9	11
PGA TOUR wins in 2020-21	0	0
PGA TOUR top-10s in 2020-21	1	0

Matthew NeSmith (63/-8)

- Making his first start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open, made four birdies and an eagle on his outgoing nine (Nos. 10-18) en route to a career-low-tying 8-under 63 (R2/2020 The RSM Classic)

- Take an 18-hole lead/co-lead for the first time on the PGA TOUR
- 2016 University of South Carolina grad seeks his first career PGA TOUR title in his 38th start
- Two previous top-10 finishes on TOUR: T6/2020 Puerto Rico Open, T8/2020 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
- In nine starts this season, has made five cuts; in addition to the T8 in Las Vegas, also finished inside the top-15 at The RSM Classic (T15)
- 2020-21 marks his second full season on the PGA TOUR
- Was one of eight rookies to qualify for the FedExCup Playoffs last season; finished 100th in the standings
- Won the 2019 Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco on the Korn Ferry Tour; earned TOUR membership later that season after finishing No. 1 in the Korn Ferry Tour Finals 25

Mark Hubbard (63/-8)

- Making his fourth start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open, birdied five of his last six holes to finish with career-low 8-under 63
- The bogey-free 63 comes a year after finishing T9 at TPC Scottsdale; finished T42 in 2017 and T60 in 2016
- Marks his fourth 18-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR (most recent: 2020 RBC Heritage/T33)
- Best finish among five made cuts in 11 starts this season is T17 at THE CJ CUP @ SHADOW CREEK
- Best finish in 119 TOUR starts is T2/2019 Vivint Houston Open

Nate Lashley (64/-7)

- 2005 University of Arizona grad and Scottsdale resident opened with a bogey-free 7-under 64 in his second start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open; opened with a 5-under 66 last year en route to a T3 finish
- En route to his lone PGA TOUR victory, opened with a 9-under 63 at the 2019 Rocket Mortgage Classic
- Comes off missed cuts in his last two starts at the Sony Open in Hawaii and The American Express
- Best finish of the 2020-21 season is 4th at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship; won that tournament in 2017 as a Korn Ferry Tour event; rookie season on the PGA TOUR was the 2017-18 season

Miscellaneous Notes

- Beginning on No. 10, **Sam Burns (T3)** made eight birdies in a 10-hole stretch (Nos. 13-4) to open with a 7-under 64; in two previous Waste Management Phoenix Open starts, missed the cut in 2019 and 2020
- With wife, Nicki, serving as caddie, 53-year-old **Steve Stricker (5th)** made seven birdies against one bogey to open with a 6-under 65 in his 19th Waste Management Phoenix Open start; joins Tom Lehman (2011/R1/65) as players over the age of 50 to shoot 65 or better in the event
- Making his fourth consecutive start in the Waste Management Phoenix Open, World No. 4 **Xander Schauffele (T6)** opened with a 5-under 66; has four top-5 finishes in six starts this season
- **Billy Horschel (T6)** birdied four of his last six holes, and nine total, to open with a 5-under 66 following last year's T9
- Coming off T7 finishes in his last three TOUR starts, 2016 Arizona State University grad and World No. 2 **Jon Rahm (T21)** opened with a 3-under 68; in five starts at TPC Scottsdale, has not finished worse than T16 (2017)
- Beginning on No. 10, **Rory McIlroy (T50)** overcame a double-bogey, bogey start to get in with a 1-under 70 in his Waste Management Phoenix Open debut
- Playing in different groups, **Bo Hoag (T12/67)** and **Hunter Mahan (T115/74)** holed their second shots on the par-4 sixth hole from 112 and 120 yards, respectively
- Seeking a sixth top-10 finish in his 11th Waste Management Phoenix Open start, defending champion **Webb Simpson (T108)** opened with 2-over 73; with a win, would join Johnny Miller (1974-1975) and Hideki Matsuyama (2016-2017) as players to successfully defend

Course Statistics

Toughest Hole **Easiest Hole**
R1: Par-4 11th (4.341) Par-5 13th (4.515)

Scoring Averages at TPC Scottsdale:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	34.568	35.795	70.364	

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 (7): Matthew NeSmith (63), Mark Hubbard (63), Nate Lashley (64), Adam Hadwin (67), Andrew Putnam (67), Ryan Armour (68), Cameron Champ (68)