



## 2021 Zurich Classic of New Orleans

(The 30<sup>th</sup> of 50 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Avondale, Louisiana  
TPC Louisiana

April 22-25, 2021  
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425

Purse: \$7,400,000/\$1,069,300 each winner  
FedExCup points: 400 each winner

### First-Round Notes – Thursday, April 22, 2021

**Weather:** Sunny. High of 69. E wind 8-15 mph.

#### First-Round Leaderboard

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Viktor Hovland/Kris Ventura   | 62 (-10) |
| Brice Garnett/Scott Stallings | 62 (-10) |
| Seven teams                   | 63 (-9)  |

#### Things to Know

- Format: Four-ball in first and third rounds, Foursomes in second and fourth rounds
- Making their first starts in the Zurich Classic, Viktor Hovland and Kris Ventura open with a bogey-free 10-under 62
- Brice Garnett and Scott Stallings birdie eight of their last 11 holes to post 10-under 62
- Louisiana native Sam Burns and two-time Zurich Classic champion Billy Horschel birdie first four holes en route to a 63
- In bid for a third top-10 finish in the event together since 2017, Charley Hoffman and 2007 Zurich Classic winner Nick Watney open with 8-under 64
- Defending champions Jon Rahm and Ryan Palmer are T16 after a 7-under 65
- The Zurich Classic of New Orleans switched from individual stroke play to the two-man team format in 2017; is the only official FedExCup team event on the PGA TOUR
- Since becoming a team event, no first-round leaders/co-leaders have converted for the win at the Zurich Classic

#### Player Notes

##### Viktor Hovland/Kris Ventura (T1/-10)

- Both making their first start in the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, the Norwegian natives combined for birdies on nine of their last 12 holes to open with a bogey-free 10-under 62
- Hovland and Ventura are the only Norway natives on the PGA TOUR and look to become the second international team to win the event (2017/Cameron Smith/Australia and Jonas Blixt/Sweden)
- Former Oklahoma State University teammates and members of the 2018 NCAA Championship winning team
- Hovland is the winner of the 2020 Puerto Rico Open and 2020 Mayakoba Golf Classic; earlier this season, posted three consecutive top-five finishes (Farmers Insurance Open/T2, The Genesis Invitational/T5, WGC-Workday Championship at The Concession/T2)
- Ventura has collected two top-10s on TOUR this season: T7/2020 Fortinet Championship (Napa, California), T6/2020 Sanderson Farms Championship

##### Brice Garnett/Scott Stallings (T1/-10)

- First time playing together, the team birdied eight of their last 11 holes to post a 10-under 62
- In 2018, Garnett finished T4 with Chesson Hadley; Stallings' best finish in the team format years was a T13 with Trey Mullinax in 2019
- Garnett's T4 in 2018 is his best effort in five previous Zurich Classic starts; in nine previous starts in the event, Stallings' best showing was T11 in 2016
- Garnett seeks his third top-10 finish of the season (T5/Puerto Rico Open, T9/Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship) and second career PGA TOUR victory (2018/Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship)
- Stallings has one top-10 finish this season (T6/Sanderson Farms Championship); most recent of three career TOUR titles came at the 2014 Farmers Insurance Open

### Billy Horschel/Sam Burns (T3/-9)

- Team birdied their first four holes (Nos. 10-13) en route to a 9-under 63
- Horschel is the only player to win the Zurich Classic in both the individual (2013) and team format (with Scott Piercy in 2018)
- Horschel is making his 10<sup>th</sup> start in the Zurich Classic, while Burns is making his third (MC/2018 and 2019)
- Zurich ambassador and two-time Zurich Classic winner Horschel is playing for the first time in the event with Shreveport, Louisiana native and former LSU star Burns
- Horschel captured his sixth career PGA TOUR title earlier this season at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play; Burns recorded his career-best finish, solo-third, earlier this season at The Genesis Invitational

### Miscellaneous Notes

- Paired together for the first time, **Tony Finau** (fifth appearance) and **Cameron Champ** (second appearance) birdied seven of their first 11 holes before opening with a 9-under 63; Finau seeks a second career TOUR title (2016 Puerto Rico Open), while Champ seeks his third (2018 Sanderson Farms Championship, 2019 Fortinet Championship)
- As a part of April's National Black Golf Month, **Cameron Champ** was made an honorary citizen of New Orleans by Mayor LaToya Cantrell and the New Orleans Recreation Development (NORD) Commission this week
- Playing together for the first time, **Brendan Steele** and **Keegan Bradley** birdied five of their last eight holes to sit T3 at 9-under 63; both have competed each year since the event went to a team format in 2017, with Steele's T10 finish in 2018 with Jamie Lovemark the lone top-10 finish between them
- **Sebastian Cappelen** and **Mark Hubbard** birdied four of their last six holes to open with 9-under 63; Cappelen, a Denmark native, is making his first start in the event, while Hubbard is making his fourth; in Hubbard's only previous start since switching to the team format, finished 42<sup>nd</sup> in 2017 with Jonathan Randolph
- Playing in the event together for a fourth time, **Charley Hoffman** and **Nick Watney** opened with 8-under 64; previous finishes together: T5/2017, T31/2018, T9/2019; other teams who have competed together all four years: Kelly Kraft/Kevin Tway, Chez Reavie/Lucas Glover, Kevin Kisner/Scott Brown
- Defending champions **Jon Rahm** and **Ryan Palmer** are T16 after a 7-under 65; en route to winning in 2019, they were four off the 18-hole lead with an 8-under 64
- Playing on sponsor exemptions, **Rocco Mediate** (age 58) and **Woody Austin** (age 57) are T51 at 4-under 68
- Since 1990, 17 players have made the Zurich Classic their maiden victory on the PGA TOUR, including nine in the last 14 years; Cameron Smith (2017), Brian Stuard (2016), Seung-Yul Noh (2014), Billy Horschel (2013), Jason Dufner (2012), Andres Romero (2008), Nick Watney (2007), Chris Couch (2006) and Tim Petrovic (2005)
- Zurich Ambassadors (**bold**): **Billy Horschel**/Sam Burns (T3/-9), **Justin Rose**/Henrik Stenson (T16/-7), **Collin Morikawa**/Matthew Wolff (T70/-2)

### Scoring Averages:

|    | <b>Front 9</b> | <b>Back 9</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Format</b> |
|----|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| R1 | 33.150         | 33.513        | 66.663       | Four-ball     |