



Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship

Firestone Country Club (South Course) | Akron, Ohio | June 24-27, 2021

First-Round Notes

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Course Setup: Par 70 / 7,092 yards (R1 average: 73.111)

Weather: Mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid-80s and winds S at 6-12 mph.

Media Contacts:

Chris Richards, chrisrichards@pgatourhq.com, 678-644-4258

Connor Stange, connorstange@pgatourhq.com, 402-560-3758

Allie LeClair, allieleclair@pgatourhq.com, 920-901-9032

	Player	To Par	Scores
1.	Steve Stricker	-7	33-30 – 63 (-7)
T2.	Ken Duke	-3	35-32 – 67 (-3)
T2.	Paul Broadhurst	-3	32-35 – 67 (-3)
T4.	Four players tied	-1	

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#) (Golf Channel coverage: 7:00-9:00 p.m. ET (Tape Delay))
- [PGATOURmedia.com](#) (transcripts and other resources available for download)

Steve Stricker, 33-30—63 (-7)

- In his 100th round on PGA TOUR Champions, Stricker shot a bogey-free 7-under 63. Starting on No. 10, Stricker shot 5-under 30 on the back nine, birdying Nos. 16-18, before carding 33 on the front nine.
- Stricker holds a four-shot lead over **Ken Duke** and **Paul Broadhurst**, setting the tournament record for largest first-round lead. The previous mark was three strokes (Gil Morgan, 2004).
- Stricker's 63 is the lowest first round in Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship history. The previous mark of 64 had been posted nine times in the first round of this event, most recently by Stricker in 2019.
 - This is the fifth time Stricker has shot 63 on PGA TOUR Champions. His best 18-hole score on the Champions Tour is 62 (2019 U.S. Senior Open, R1).
 - This is Stricker's lowest round of the 2020-21 season (34 rounds). His previous best was 64 (2020 Sanford International, R2).
 - In addition to Stricker's nine rounds at Firestone Country Club for the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS, Stricker played in the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational (2007-14) and World Series of Golf (1996). In his 45th

competitive round at Firestone Country Club, Thursday's 63 is his lowest 18-hole score. His previous best was a final-round 64 en route to a T2 finish in 2012.

- This is the sixth time Stricker has held a lead/co-lead after the first round on PGA TOUR Champions, and third consecutive year he's held at least a share of the lead at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. Stricker is 2-for-5 in converting his first-round leads/co-leads into victories.
- Making his third start at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS, Stricker's first-round scoring average at this event is 65.00.
 - In 2019, Stricker led by two strokes after a first-round 64.
 - In 2020, Stricker was T1 with five other players after shooting 68 in the first round.
 - In Stricker's previous two starts at this event, he has finished T23 (2020) and sixth (2019).
- Stricker has won two majors on PGA TOUR Champions (2019 Regions Tradition, 2019 U.S. Senior Open). This week is his 10th major start on the Champions Tour.
- Making his 11th start of the season, Stricker has posted eight top-10s, including a win at the 2021 Chubb Classic.
- Stricker owns six wins on PGA TOUR Champions in 32 starts since joining in 2017. He has finished in the top three on 17 occasions (53%).

Ken Duke, 35-32—67 (-3)

- Duke made seven birdies, tied for the most in the field on Thursday, en route to 3-under 67.
- Duke, who sits T2, matches his best first-round position on PGA TOUR Champions (2020 Hoag Classic).
- This is Duke's lowest round of the 2021 calendar on PGA TOUR Champions (24 rounds) and his third-lowest first-round score of the 2020-21 season.
- Duke's 67 is his lowest 18-hole score at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship (nine rounds). His best finish is T13 (2019).
- Making his 23rd start of the season, Duke has two top-10 finishes (T9, 2020 Cologuard Classic; T10, 2020 Hoag Classic).
- Since joining PGA TOUR Champions in 2019, Duke has six top-10s in 43 starts. His best finish is T2 (2019 Sanford International).

Paul Broadhurst, 32-35—67 (-3)

- Broadhurst turned in one of two bogey-free rounds on Thursday and is T2 at 3-under.
- This was only his second first-round score in the 60s this calendar year; he opened with a 3-under 69 at the Insperity Invitational in May.
- The five-time winner on PGA TOUR Champions has six career top-10s in senior majors, including a victory at the 2018 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship.
- His T16 finish last year was his best in four starts at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS.

Other Notes

- Defending champion and Charles Schwab Cup leader **Jerry Kelly** posted 1-under 69. He is one of four players at T4, along with Marco Dawson, Bob Estes and Gene Sauers.
- Two players who have won at Firestone Country Club, **Darren Clarke** (2003 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational) and **Jose Maria Olazabal** (1990 and 1994 World Series of Golf), finished the day T8 after each shooting even-par 70.
- After missing the last five events with a back injury, **Kevin Sutherland** opened with an even-par 70 and is T8.
- Making his tournament debut, **Jim Furyk** opened with a 1-over 71 and is T16.