



## Sanford International

Minnehaha Country Club | Sioux Falls, South Dakota | September 17-19, 2021

### Final-Round Notes

Sunday, September 19, 2021

**Course Setup:** Par 70 / 6,636 yards (R3: 71.200; Cumulative: 69.894)

**Weather:** Mostly sunny with highs in the high-80s and winds S at 20-25 mph with gusts up to 40 mph

**Media Contact:**

Connor Stange, [connorstange@pgatourhq.com](mailto:connorstange@pgatourhq.com), 402-560-3758

**Summary:** On a windy final day at the Sanford International, Darren Clarke won in a playoff over K.J. Choi and Steve Flesch. It is Clarke's third victory of 2020-21, matching Jim Furyk for the most on PGA TOUR Champions this season.

	Player	To Par	Scores	Money	Charles Schwab Cup
1.	Darren Clarke*	-12	63-70-65 – 198	\$270,000	9th
T2.	Steve Flesch	-12	67-65-66 – 198	\$144,000	20th
T2.	K.J. Choi	-12	63-66-69 – 198	\$144,000	31st
T4.	Miguel Angel Jimenez	-10	66-68-66 – 200	\$96,300	5th
T4.	Rod Pampling	-10	64-67-69 – 200	\$96,300	11th
6.	Steve Stricker	-9	67-67-67 – 201	\$72,000	10th

\*-Clarke won on the second playoff hole with a birdie. On the first playoff hole, Flesch was eliminated after a bogey when Clarke and Choi each made par.

**Quick Links:**

- [Final Standings](#)
- [PGATOURmedia.com](http://PGATOURmedia.com) (transcripts and other resources available for download)

**Darren Clarke, 63-70-65 – 198 (-12)**

- Starting the round four strokes behind the leader, Clarke bogeyed the first hole before playing bogey-free for the final 17 holes en route to 5-under 65.
- Clarke's 65 matched the low round of the day (John Senden, Tim Petrovic).
- This is Clarke's third win of the season on PGA TOUR Champions, tying him for the most wins in 2020-21 (Jim Furyk). Clarke won the 2020 TimberTech Championship and 2021 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.

- Clarke's 198 total matches his second-lowest 54-hole score on PGA TOUR Champions. His best is 195 (2021 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai).
- With his win, Clarke moves up four spots to No. 9 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.
- Making his fourth appearance at the Sanford International, this is Clarke's first top-10 at the event. His previous best finish was T12 (2020). He shares the 18-hole scoring record at the Sanford International (62/2020/R2).
- This is the first of Clarke's three wins where he didn't hold at least a share of the lead entering the final round. He was co-leader in each of his first two wins.
- This was the seventh playoff this season on PGA TOUR Champions and second consecutive week the tournament was decided in a playoff (Ascension Charity Classic).
- This is the third win on PGA TOUR Champions by a player from Northern Ireland. Clarke owns all three victories.
- This is Clarke's eighth top-10 in 28 starts this season on PGA TOUR Champions. Since joining the Champions Tour in 2018, Clarke has three wins and 12 top-10s.
- During his PGA TOUR career, Clarke won three times, including The 2011 Open Championship. He also won 10 times on the European Tour.

#### **K.J. Choi, 63-66-69 – 198 (-12)**

- Starting the day with a two-stroke lead, Choi made 17 pars and birdied No. 13 en route to 1-under 69.
- Choi led the field in putts per round (27.0).
- Choi falls to 0-for-1 when holding the lead entering the final round on PGA TOUR Champions.
- Choi's 198 total is his lowest 54-hole score on PGA TOUR Champions.
- This is Choi's best finish on PGA TOUR Champions and his fifth top-10 in 14 starts as a rookie. He has finished in the top five in three of his last six starts (T3/2021 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, T4/2021 The Ally Challenge).

#### **Steve Flesch, 67-65-66 – 198 (-12)**

- Flesch held a one-shot lead heading to the 18th hole, but made bogey to shoot 4-under 66 and end up in a playoff. He was eliminated on the first playoff hole after making bogey.
- Flesch led the field in greens in regulation (47-of-54).
- This is Flesch's third runner-up finish of the season (2020 Sanford International, 2021 Shaw Charity Classic).
- Flesch has finished in the top five in three of his last five starts on PGA TOUR Champions. During the 2020-21 season, Flesch has seven top-10s in 31 starts.
- Flesch has finished in the top five in each of his three appearances at the Sanford International (T5/2019; 2nd/2020; T2/2021).
- Since joining PGA TOUR Champions in 2017, Flesch has one win (2018 Mitsubishi Electric Classic) and 19 top-10s.

#### **Other Notes**

- Defending champion **Miguel Angel Jimenez** closed with 4-under 66 to finish T4 at 10-under 200. This is Jimenez's third top-five in his last four starts on PGA TOUR Champions.
- **Rod Pampling** posted 1-under 69 to finish T4 at 10-under 200. He has three top-10s in his last four starts, including a win at the 2021 Boeing Classic.
- 2018 Sanford International champion and U.S. Ryder Cup Team Captain **Steve Stricker** finished sixth after three consecutive 67s. Stricker has finished in the top 10 in 10 of his 12 starts on PGA TOUR Champions this season, including wins at the 2021 Chubb Classic and 2021 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship.
- **Steven Alker** finished T7 for his fourth consecutive top-10 finish to start his PGA TOUR Champions career.
- Two players in this week's field had connections to South Dakota and here is how they finished:
  - **Tom Byrum** – T27 (207)
  - **Rich Beem** – T49 (211)