



## 2022 Mexico Open at Vidanta

(The 28<sup>th</sup> of 47 events in the 2021-22 PGA TOUR Season)

Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico

April 28-May 1, 2022

FedExCup points: 500 (winner)

Vidanta Vallarta Resort (Norman Signature Course) Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,456

Purse: \$7,300,000/\$1,314,000

### First-Round Notes – Thursday, April 28, 2022

Weather: Sunny. High of 83. Wind SW 8-13 mph, increasing in the afternoon with gusts to 29 mph.

### First-Round Leaderboard

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Jonathan Byrd | 64 (-7) |
| Jon Rahm      | 64 (-7) |
| Brendon Todd  | 64 (-7) |
| Trey Mullinax | 64 (-7) |
| Bryson Nimmer | 64 (-7) |
| Kurt Kitayama | 64 (-7) |
| Four players  | 65 (-6) |

### Things to Know

- The Mexico Open at Vidanta, previously known as *Abierto Mexicano de Golf* and hosted by multiple Tours, dates to 1944
- World No. 2 Jon Rahm holds first-round lead/co-lead for ninth time on PGA TOUR
- Monday qualifier Bryson Nimmer is one of six first-round co-leaders
- Kurt Kitayama is the only first-round co-leader who played in the afternoon wave
- First six-way tie for the lead after any round on TOUR since 2019 Travelers Championship (R1)
- 10 players from Mexico are in the field, the most on record in any PGA TOUR event

### First-Round Lead Notes

**Jonathan Byrd:** Sixth time with first-round lead/co-lead, converting for one win (2011 Sentry Tournament of Champions)

**Jon Rahm:** Ninth time with first-round lead/co-lead, converting for one win (2018 American Express)

**Brendon Todd:** Second time with first-round lead/co-lead (2020 PGA Championship/T17)

**Trey Mullinax:** Second time with first round lead/co-lead (2017 Puerto Rico Open/T44)

**Bryson Nimmer:** First time with a lead/co-lead after any round on TOUR

**Kurt Kitayama:** Second time with first-round lead/co-lead on TOUR (2022 Honda Classic/3<sup>rd</sup>)

4 First-round leaders/co-leaders have won individual strokeplay events on TOUR in 2021-22 (most recent: Sam Burns, Valspar Championship)

### Co-leaders entering the week:

| Category                                   | Jonathan Byrd | Jon Rahm      | Brendon Todd | Trey Mullinax | Bryson Nimmer | Kurt Kitayama |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Age  | 44 (1/27/78)  | 27 (11/10/94) | 36 (7/22/85) | 29 (6/29/92)  | 25 (11/9/96)  | 29 (1/14/93)  |
| FedExCup                                   | 153           | 23            | 85           | 144           | -             | 122           |
| OWGR                                       | 569           | 2             | 156          | 317           | 688           | 208           |
| Starts – wins – top-10s in PGA TOUR career | 444-5-46      | 122-6-59      | 240-3-20     | 98-0-5        | 8-0-0         | 30-0-1        |
| Starts – wins – top-10s on TOUR in 2021-22 | 11-0-1        | 10-0-4        | 16-0-1       | 16-0-1        | 3-0-0         | 13-0-1        |

### Jonathan Byrd (T1/-7)

- Posts front-nine 29 (-6) en route to opening-round 64 (-7)
- Marks second round of 64 this season (64/R1/The RSM Classic/T37)
- One top-10 finish in 11 starts this season (T9/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am)
- Most recent of five TOUR titles was 2011 Sentry Tournament of Champions
- Playing out of past champion beyond 150 in 2020-21 FedExCup category

#### **Jon Rahm (T1/-7)**

- Hit 12 of 13 fairways and 15 of 18 greens with 28 putts en route to his 18<sup>th</sup> round of 64 or better on TOUR (427 rounds)
- Bogey-free 64 included five birdies and an eagle at the 311-yard par-4 7<sup>th</sup> hole, where he drove the green and holed a putt from 41 feet, 8 inches; marks his 43<sup>rd</sup> bogey-free round on TOUR
- For the eighth time since 2018, fires an opening round of 64 or better, most of any player on TOUR in that period

#### **Brendon Todd (T1/-7)**

- Posts seven birdies for bogey-free 64, including four consecutive birdies on Nos. 4-7
- Marks his lowest first-round score on TOUR since 64 at 2020 WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational/T15
- Lone top-10 in 16 starts this season came at Valero Texas Open (T8)
- Most recent of three PGA TOUR titles came in Mexico (2020 World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba)

#### **Trey Mullinax (T1/-7)**

- Highlight of his 7-under 64 was eagle at par-4 7<sup>th</sup> hole when his tee shot finished 7 feet, 7 inches from the hole
- 64 marks his second-lowest opening-round score in his 99<sup>th</sup> TOUR start (63/2017 Puerto Rico Open/T44)
- Makes 17<sup>th</sup> start with six made cuts in 16 prior starts this season; T4 at Sanderson Farms Championship his lone top-10
- Matches his low round of the season (64/R3/Sanderson Farms Championship)

#### **Bryson Nimmer (T1/-7)**

- Monday qualified in Texas on April 18 with a round of 65 to get into the field this week
- After starting on No. 10, dropped shots on Nos. 1 and 2 before playing his last five holes 5-under en route to 64, his lowest score in 27 rounds on the PGA TOUR
- Making his ninth TOUR start and fourth this season; prior starts this season include Puerto Rico Open (69<sup>th</sup>), Corales Puntacana Championship (T11 after he successfully Monday qualified) and RBC Heritage (MC)
- Made his TOUR debut at 2019 Puerto Rico Open (T47) as an amateur

#### **Kurt Kitayama (T1/-7)**

- First-year PGA TOUR member has made five cuts in 13 starts this season; seeks second career top-10 on TOUR (3<sup>rd</sup>/2022 Honda Classic)
- Also shot 64 in opening round of 2022 Honda Classic where he finished third, his lone top-10 on TOUR
- Californian is a two-time DP World Tour winner (2018 AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open, 2019 Oman Open); was one of six players in a sudden-death playoff at 2019 Turkish Airlines Open, eventually won by Tyrrell Hatton
- UNLV product turned professional in 2015 and competed on the Korn Ferry Tour, posting T13 in his first-ever event with rounds of 67-69-69-63 at the Air Capital Classic
- PGA TOUR debut came at 2016 Shriners Children's Open (MC) after making nine birdies to shoot 63 and advance via Monday qualifying

#### **Miscellaneous notes**

- **Aaron Rai** (T7/-6) comes into this week off a T4 at last week's Zurich Classic of New Orleans (partnering David Lipsky), one of two top-10 results on TOUR (T6/2022 Farmers Insurance Open)
- **Aaron Wise** (T7/-6) owns two opening rounds of 65 or better this season – both in Mexico (63/World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba)
- PGA TOUR rookie **Sahith Theegala** (T7/-6) matches his lowest opening round on TOUR (64/2021 Sanderson Farms Championship/T8)
- **Scott Brown's** (T7/-6) best result in seven starts this season is T28 at Corales Puntacana Championship; since joining the TOUR in 2012 he has never gone a season without posting at least one top-10 finish
- **Scott Guthrie** (T21/-4) aced No. 5 with a 7-iron, his second hole-in-one on TOUR (2009 Turning Stone Resort Championship)
- After starting the tournament double bogey, bogey **Kiradech Aphibarnrat** (T61/-1) aced the 189-yard fifth hole with a 5-iron for his first hole-in-one on the PGA TOUR; played the five par-3s in 4-under
- Major champions in the field: **Jon Rahm** (T1/-7), **Patrick Reed** (T21/-4), **Gary Woodland** (T21/-4), **Graeme McDowell** (T61/-1), **Jason Dufner** (T96/+1)
- Players from Mexico: **Abraham Ancer** (T78/E), **Isidro Benitez** (T143/+8), **Santiago De la Fuente** (142/+7), **Roberto Diaz** (T96/+1), **Armando Favela** (T61/-1), **Manuel Inman** (141/+6), **Jose Cristobal Islas** (T139/+5), **Alvaro Ortiz** (T34/-3), **Carlos Ortiz** (T61/-1), **Jose Antonio Sifa** (T116/+3)