



SANDERSON FARMS  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**2021 Sanderson Farms Championship**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> of 48 events in the 2021-22 PGA TOUR Season)

Jackson, Mississippi  
Country Club of Jackson

September 30 - October 3, 2021

Purse: \$7,000,000/\$1,260,000  
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,461

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, September 30, 2021**

*Weather: Overcast, with light showers off and on. High of 82. Wind SSE 7-12 mph.*

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Sahith Theegala	64 (-8)
Nick Watney	65 (-7)
Harold Varner III	65 (-7)
Roger Sloan	66 (-6)
Kurt Kitayama	66 (-6)
Si Woo Kim	66 (-6)

**Things to Know**

- PGA TOUR rookie Sahith Theegala sinks 147' 9" of putts en route to a bogey-free 8-under 64
- After six made cuts in 25 starts on TOUR last season, Nick Watney mixes six birdies and an eagle with one bogey to open with 7-under 65
- Seeking his first TOUR title in his 168<sup>th</sup> start, Harold Varner III makes nine birdies, one shy of his career-most for a round
- 2018 Sanderson Farms Championship runner-up Corey Connors ties his career-best with five consecutive birdies en route to a 5-under 67
- Defending champion Sergio Garcia is T50 after 16 pars and two birdies
- The Sanderson Farms Championship has produced a first-time winner six of the last seven seasons (Sergio Garcia/2020)

**First-Round Lead Notes**

- 6 First-round leaders/co-leaders to convert for the win at the Sanderson Farms Championship since 2000 (most recent: Cameron Champ/2018)
- 0 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR since this season
- 62 Lowest opening-round score since moving to Country Club of Jackson in 2014 (Roberto Castro/2015)

**Comparing the leaders entering the week**

Player	Sahith Theegala	Nick Watney	Harold Varner III
Age	23 (12/4/1997)	40 (4/25/1981)	31 (8/15/1990)
FedExCup	T46	T29	T15
OWGR	454	660	81
Sanderson Farms starts	1	4	2
Sanderson Farms Top 10s	0	1	0
PGA TOUR starts	14	420	167
PGA TOUR wins	0	5	0
PGA TOUR top-10s	0	55	13
Starts in 2020-21	1	1	1

**Sahith Theegala (1<sup>st</sup>/-8)**

- PGA TOUR rookie earned his TOUR card following top-6 finishes in his last two starts in the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals (T4/Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, 6<sup>th</sup>/Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance)
- Before this week, his best position after any round on the PGA TOUR was T8 after round one of The Genesis Invitational in 2017 (finished T49)
- California native is making his 15<sup>th</sup> start on the PGA TOUR and comes off a T47 at the Fortinet Championship two weeks ago

- In only previous start at the Sanderson Farms Championship, missed the cut in 2020 (71-72—143)
- Following birdies on his first three holes (Nos. 10-12), ended his round with a 15' 6" birdie at No. 9; needed 28 putts to sink a total of 147' 9" of putts
- Named National Player of the Year his final season at Pepperdine University (2020 graduate)

#### **Nick Watney (T2/-7)**

- Following three missed cuts and a T8 (2006/Annandale Golf Club) in four previous Sanderson Farms Championship starts, offset a lone bogey with six birdies and an eagle at the par-5 third
- His 7-under 65 marks his lowest score on TOUR in an individual stroke-play event since posting the score in round two of the 2020 Fortinet Championship (T46)
- Needed 27 putts to make a total of 143' 7" of putts
- Comes off a season defined by just six made cuts in 25 starts; having finished No. 204 in the 2020-21 FedExCup (his lowest final position in a season), is using a one-time career earnings exemption for the 2021-22 season (top 50); he entered the season No. 50 on the career earnings list
- Began the 2021-22 season with four sub-par scores at the Fortinet Championship two weeks ago to finish T30
- Most recent of five PGA TOUR titles came at THE NORTHERN TRUST in 2012

#### **Harold Varner III (T2/-7)**

- Beginning on No. 10, offset two bogeys with nine birdies, including four-straight on Nos. 1-4; nine birdies falls one shy of his career record for most in a single round on TOUR (2015 World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba/round two)
- Needed 25 putts to sink a total of 114' 4" of putts
- In two previous Sanderson Farms Championship starts, finished T39 in 2015 and missed the cut in 2018
- Remains in search of his first career TOUR title in his 168<sup>th</sup> start; best finish of T2 came at the 2021 RBC Heritage
- Finished 44<sup>th</sup> in last season's FedExCup to advance to the Playoffs for a sixth-consecutive season
- Wife, Amanda, is expecting the couple's first child in early October

#### **Miscellaneous Notes**

- Making his fourth start in the Sanderson Farms Championship, **Roger Sloan** made seven birdies and one bogey to sit T4 at 6-under 66; in August, followed a sixth-place finish at the Barracuda Championship with a playoff loss at the Wyndham Championship to move into the top-125 in the FedExCup (92<sup>nd</sup>) and advance to the Playoffs for a second time
- Making his first start in the Sanderson Farms Championship, PGA TOUR rookie **Kurt Kitayama** opened with a career-low and bogey-free 6-under 66 (T4); California native's best finish in 18 TOUR starts was T17 at the 2017 Puerto Rico Open
- Making his fifth Sanderson Farms Championship start, **Si Woo Kim** opened with a 6-under 66 (T4); comes off a T11 at the season-opening Fortinet Championship two weeks ago
- Beginning his round on No. 10, 2018 Sanderson Farms Championship runner-up **Corey Connors** tied his career-best with five consecutive birdies on Nos. 14-18 en route to a 5-under 67 (T7); finished T17 in last year's event
- **Hayden Buckley**, who grew up in Tupelo, birdied six of his last eight holes to open with a 5-under 67 (T7); 29 putts resulted in 133' 2" of total made putts
- Playing on a sponsor exemption, Little Rock, Mississippi resident **Andy Ogletree** opened is T7 at 5-under 67
- Defending Sanderson Farms Championship winner **Sergio Garcia** (T50/-2) made 16 pars and two birdies
- For the third season (2019-21), the Sanderson Farms Championship features a stand-alone date and full FedExCup points

#### **Scoring Averages at the par-72 Country Club of Jackson:**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>R1:</b>	35.576	35.028	70.604	---

#### **Course Statistics**

	<b>Toughest Hole</b>	<b>Easiest Hole</b>
<b>R1:</b>	Par-4 6 <sup>th</sup> (4.194)	Par-5 3 <sup>rd</sup> (4.618)

#### **Bogey-free rounds:**

**R1 (8):** Sahith Theegala (64), Kurt Kitayama (66), Patton Kizzire (67), Adam Hadwin (67), Austin Cook (68), Matthew Wolff (68), Doc Redman (69), Sergio Garcia (70)