



### 2022 Valero Texas Open

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

San Antonio, Texas  
TPC San Antonio (The Oaks Course)

March 31 - April 3, 2022  
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,438

FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)  
Purse: \$8,600,000 (\$1,548,000 winner)

#### First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 31, 2022

Weather: Sunny. High of 81. Variable wind 5-10 mph, with gusts to 15 mph.

#### First-Round Leaderboard

Russell Knox	65 (-7)
Rasmus Hojgaard	66 (-6)
Matt Kuchar	67 (-5)
Denny McCarthy	67 (-5)
J.J. Spaun	67 (-5)
Aaron Rai	67 (-5)

#### Things to Know

- Following missed cuts in his last three Valero Texas Open starts, Russell Knox posts a bogey-free 7-under 65
- Knox's 7-under 65 marks his first score in the 60s in 19 rounds at the Valero Texas Open
- Coming off a sixth-place showing at last week's Corales Puntacana Championship, Denmark's Rasmus Hojgaard opens his first Valero Texas Open with a 6-under 66, including a double-bogey-six at his last hole of the day (No. 9)
- Making his 500<sup>th</sup> career start on the PGA TOUR, nine-time PGA TOUR winner Matt Kuchar turns in a 5-under 67
- Making his second Valero Texas Open start (2<sup>nd</sup>/2013), Rory McIlroy offsets six bogeys with six birdies to open with an even-par 72
- Defending champion Jordan Spieth makes one birdie, one bogey and 16 pars in his seventh Valero Texas Open

#### First-Round Lead Notes

- 0 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win the Valero Texas Open since it moved to TPC San Antonio in 2010
- 4 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win in 2021-22 season (most recent: Sam Burns, Valspar Championship)

#### Russell Knox (1<sup>st</sup>/-7)

Category	Entering the week
Age	36 (June 21, 1985)
Country	Scotland
FedExCup	58
OWGR	169
Starts – wins – top-10s in TOUR career	256-2-25
Starts – wins – top-10s in 2021-22	15-0-2
Starts – wins – top-10s at Valero	6-0-0

- Highlighted by four consecutive birdies (Nos. 12-15), opened with a bogey-free 7-under 65, his lowest score of the season in relation to par
- The 7-under 65 marks his first score in the 60s in 19 rounds at the Valero Texas Open
- Comes off three consecutive missed cuts in the event and, in six previous starts at TPC San Antonio, has never opened with a sub-par score
- Claims 18-hole lead/co-lead for a fourth time on TOUR; best of the first three was T9/2020 Fortinet Championship
- Needs a win this week to earn a spot into next week's Masters Tournament field
- Seeks a third top-10 finish of the season (T6/THE PLAYERS Championship, T7/Sony Open in Hawaii)
- Seeks a third career PGA TOUR title: 2015 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, 2016 Travelers Championship

### Additional Player Notes

- Making his first start in the Valero Texas Open, Denmark's **Rasmus Hojgaard** (2<sup>nd</sup>/-6) was 8-under par through 17 holes, before ending his round at the par-4 ninth with a double bogey; sank 174' 9" of putts, second-most of any player since the event moved to TPC San Antonio in 2010 (Nicholas Lindheim/2018/R2/179' 2"); comes off a sixth-place finish at last week's Corales Puntacana Championship, his best of nine starts on the PGA TOUR; most recent of three DP World Tour (former European Tour) wins came at the 2021 Omega European Masters, where he posted a final-round 63 to win by a stroke when Bernd Wiesberger double-bogeyed the 72<sup>nd</sup> hole
- Making his 500<sup>th</sup> PGA TOUR start, **Matt Kuchar** sits T3 after opening his 17<sup>th</sup> Valero Texas Open with a 5-under 67; marks his lowest opening-round score since the event moved to TPC San Antonio in 2010; seeks a 10<sup>th</sup> career TOUR title and first since the 2019 Sony Open in Hawaii
- Coming off a runner-up finish at THE PLAYERS Championship in his most recent start on the PGA TOUR, **Anirban Lahiri** birdied four of his last five holes to open with a 4-under 68; closed last year's Valero Texas Open with back-to-back 3-under 69s to finish fifth at 10-under 278
- **Rory McIlroy** mixed six birdies with six bogeys to open his second Valero Texas Open with an even-par 72; closed the 2013 event with a 6-under 66 to finish second
- A week before defending his Masters Tournament title, **Hideki Matsuyama** opened his second Valero Texas Open with a 2-over 74 (2021/T30)