



2023 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
(18th of 44 events in the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Regular Season)

Orlando, Florida
Bay Hill Club & Lodge

March 2-5, 2023
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,466

FedExCup points: 550 (winner)
Purse: \$20 million (\$3.6 million winner)

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, March 4, 2023

Weather: Partly cloudy. High of 87. Wind WSW 15-20 mph, with gusts to 25 mph.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Kurt Kitayama	67-68-72—207 (-9)
Viktor Hovland	71-71-66—208 (-8)
Scottie Scheffler	68-72-68—208 (-8)
Tyrrell Hatton	71-72-66—209 (-7)
Rory McIlroy	73-69-68—210 (-6)
Harris English	69-72-69—210 (-6)

Things to Know

- Following an even-par 72, second-round leader Kurt Kitayama carries a one-stroke lead over defending champion Scottie Scheffler and Viktor Hovland into the final 18 holes of Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
- Three of the top-four finishers at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational are currently within two shots of the lead: Scheffler (2022 champion, currently T2), Hovland (T2/T2), Tyrrell Hatton (T2/4th)
- With a win, reigning PGA TOUR Player of the Year Scheffler would return to World No. 1 if Jon Rahm does not finish in a two-way tie for second or better (currently T44); full scenarios below
- Scheffler would become the first player since Tiger Woods in 2007 to successfully defend multiple titles in a season
- Hovland has yet to have an over-par score in 31 rounds on TOUR this season (longest active streak on TOUR)
- The top three players not otherwise exempt will earn spots in The 151st Open Championship via the Open Qualifying Series

Third-Round Lead Notes

- 13 Third-round leaders/co-leaders to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational since 2000 (most recent: Tyrrell Hatton/2020)
- 10 Third-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2022-23 (most recent: Chris Kirk/The Honda Classic)

Kurt Kitayama (1st/-9)

Category	Entering the week
Age	30 (January 14, 1993)
FedExCup	No. 39
OWGR	No. 46
Starts – wins – top-10s in PGA TOUR career	49-0-4
Starts – wins – top-10s on TOUR in 2022-23	8-0-1
Starts – wins – top-10s at the Arnold Palmer Invitational	Tournament debut

- Holds the 54-hole lead/co-lead for the first time on TOUR
- Has entered the final round T2 on four occasions, most recently at the 2023 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (T29)
- Leads the field in Driving Accuracy (31 of 42), Sand Saves (5/5; T1)
- Making 50th career PGA TOUR start; would become the first player since Robert Gamez (1990) to win in his debut appearance at the Arnold Palmer Invitational
- Three-time runner-up on TOUR (T2/2022 Mexico Open at Vidanta, 2nd/2022 Genesis Scottish Open, 2nd/2022 CJ CUP in South Carolina)

Scottie Scheffler (T2/-8)

- PGA TOUR wins (5): 2022 WM Phoenix Open, 2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, 2022 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, 2022 Masters Tournament, 2023 WM Phoenix Open
- Scenarios to return to World No. 1 (currently No. 2):
 - Wins and Jon Rahm (currently T44) does not finish solo-second or in a two-way tie for second

- Finishes solo-second, Rahm finishes worse than a 2-way T9 and Rory McIlroy does not win
 - Finishes in a two-way T2, Rahm finishes worse than solo-25th and McIlroy does not win
- Would become the first player since Tiger Woods in 2007 to successfully defend multiple titles in a season
- Seeking to post the fourth successful title defense of the season (Max Homa/Fortinet Championship, McIlroy/THE CJ CUP in South Carolina, Scheffler/WM Phoenix Open); there were five successful title defenses on TOUR last season (most since 2007)
- Would join Loren Roberts (1994-95), Tiger Woods (2000-03, 2008-09, 2012-13), Matt Every (2014-15) as back-to-back winners of the Arnold Palmer Invitational
- Seeking to become the eighth multiple winner of the event, joining Tiger Woods (8), Jerry Heard (2), Gary Koch (2), Tom Kite (2), Loren Roberts (2), Ernie Els (2) and Matt Every (2)
- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Tee to Green

Viktor Hovland (T2/-8)

- 66 matches his best score in 19 rounds at the event (R2/2022) and his first sub-70 score in nine weekend rounds at Bay Hill
- PGA TOUR wins (3): 2020 Puerto Rico Open, 2020 and 2021 World Wide Technology Championship
- Leads the field in Proximity to the hole (27'4")
- Making his fifth start at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, with his best showing a T2 by one stroke to Scottie Scheffler in 2022
- With his second-round ace on No. 7, would join Justin Rose (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am) as players this season to make a hole-in-one and go on to win

Miscellaneous notes

- **Tyrrell Hatton** (4th/-7) equals his best score in 27 rounds at the Arnold Palmer Invitational with a 6-under 66; previous 66s also came in the third round (2019/T29, 2021/T21); has three top-five finishes in six prior starts at Bay Hill, led by a win in 2020 and T2 in 2022; would become the eighth multiple winner of the event and first since Matt Every in 2015
- 2018 Arnold Palmer Invitational champion **Rory McIlroy** (T5/-6) has finished worse than T13 just once (T27/2016) in eight prior starts at the event
- After entering the week with four missed cuts in his last five starts (T12/The Genesis Invitational), **Harris English** (T5/-6) sits three strokes behind Kitayama in his 11th start at the event (best finish: T9/2020)
- **Pierceson Coody** (T7/-5) trails by four in attempt to become the first sponsor exemption to win on TOUR since Martin Laird at the 2020 Shriners Children's Open
- **Ludvig Aberg** (T12/-3), the first amateur to make the cut at the Arnold Palmer Invitational since Viktor Hovland in 2019, trails by six following a third-round 1-over 73; currently No. 1 in the PGA TOUR University Velocity Global Ranking (Texas Tech), seeking to become the first amateur to finish in the top 10 of a TOUR event since Michael Thorbjornsen at the 2022 Travelers Championship (4th)
- With a second-consecutive 4-over 76, **Jon Rahm** (T44/+1) posts back-to-back rounds of 76 or worse for the first time since the first two rounds of the 2018 U.S. Open (78-77)