



2023 Corales Puntacana Championship

(The 23rd of 44 events in the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Regular Season)

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Puntacana Resort & Club (Corales Course)

March 23-26, 2023
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,670

Purse: \$3,800,000
Winner: \$684,000

Second-Round Notes – Friday, March 24, 2023

Weather: Mostly sunny. High of 84. Wind ENE 15-20 mph, gusting to 26 mph.

Cut: 72 players at even-par 144 from a field of 118 professionals and two amateurs.

Second-Round Leaderboard

Matt Wallace	67-66—133 (-11)
Sam Stevens	69-65—134 (-10)
Wyndham Clark	69-65—134 (-10)
Tyler Duncan	71-65—136 (-8)
Akshay Bhatia	73-63—136 (-8)
Brice Garnett	66-70—136 (-8)
Nicolai Højgaard	71-65—136 (-8)

Things to Know

- In Corales Puntacana Championship debut, Matt Wallace holds 36-hole lead/co-lead for second time on PGA TOUR
- PGA TOUR rookie Sam Stevens and Wyndham Clark sit one back at the midway point
- Special Temporary Member Akshay Bhatia ties the 18-hole tournament scoring record with a second-round 9-under 63
- 2018 Corales Puntacana Championship winner Brice Garnett and Tyler Duncan are the only players among those at 8-under or better on the leaderboard with a TOUR victory
- Garnett and Jonathan Byrd are the only players to make the cut in all six editions of the event
- Defending champion Chad Ramey withdrew prior to the start of his second round due to back injury

Second-Round Lead Notes

- 2 Second-round leaders/co-leaders to win the Corales Puntacana Championship (Brice Garnett/2018, Hudson Swafford/2020)
- 6 Second-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2022-23 (most recent: Kurt Kitayama/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard)

Matt Wallace (1st/-11)

Category	Entering the week
Age	32 (4/12/1990)
Country	England
FedExCup	108
OWGR	175
Starts – wins – top-10s in PGA TOUR career	79-0-8
Starts – wins – top-10s in 2022-23 Season	11-0-1
Starts – wins – top-10s at Corales Puntacana	Tournament debut

- At 11-under 133, tops his best opening 36-hole score on TOUR by one stroke (134/2021 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP)
- Holds the second-round lead/co-lead for the second time on TOUR (2021 Wells Fargo Championship/T6)
- Seeks first career PGA TOUR title in his 80th start
- Would become the fifth first-time winner on TOUR this season and fourth in tournament history (Brice Garnett/2018, Joel Dahmen/2021, Chad Ramey/2022)
- Four of the five champions of the Corales Puntacana Championship were in their 30s when they won (Chad Ramey was 29)

- Has a pair of top-three finishes on TOUR: T3/2019 PGA Championship, 3rd/2021 Valero Texas Open
- Lone top-10 finish in 11 starts this season: T7 at last week's Valspar Championship
- Owns four DP World Tour titles, three of them coming in 2018

Sam Stevens (T2/-10)

- Matches career-low round on TOUR with a 7-under 65 (Puerto Rico Open/R3)
- Best position after any round on TOUR prior to this week: T3/R3/2023 Puerto Rico Open (T15)
- PGA TOUR rookie is making his tournament debut
- Seeks his first career PGA TOUR title in his 16th start (best: T13/2023 Farmers Insurance Open)
- Would become the second rookie to win on TOUR this season (Nico Echavarria/Puerto Rico Open)

Wyndham Clark (T2/-10)

- Making second tournament start after finishing T22 in 2022 with scores of 70-68-70-71
- Made eagle at No. 4 in round one and two
- Best career finish on TOUR in 129 starts: P2/2020 Bermuda Championship (lost in playoff to Brian Gay)
- Three top-10s this season: T10/The RSM Classic, T10/WM Phoenix Open, 5th/Valspar Championship

Akshay Bhatia (T4/-8)

- Matches career low on TOUR (63/R2/2022 RSM Classic) and ties the 18-hole tournament scoring record with a 9-under 63 (Brice Garnett/R1/2018, Chip McDaniel/R4/2019)
- Records career-high birdies in a round with nine (previous: 8/2023 Puerto Rico Open/R4)
- Making second start at the Corales Puntacana Championship (MC/2020)
- Making second start since joining the TOUR as a Special Temporary Member (MC/2023 Valspar Championship) after runner-up finish at 2023 Puerto Rico Open
- Has unlimited sponsor exemptions for the remainder of the season as he seeks his PGA TOUR card for the 2024 season

Miscellaneous Notes

- **Tyler Duncan** (T4/-8) posts six birdies in a row (Nos. 4 -9) in the second round, matching the tournament record for most consecutive birdies

Player	Cons. Birdies	Year	Holes	Round
Tyler Duncan	6	2023	4-9	2
Josh Teater	6	2021	3-8	4
Adam Long	6	2020	5-10	2
Patrick Rodgers	6	2020	7-12	2
Chip McDaniel	6	2019	7-12	4

- 2018 Corales Puntacana Championship winner **Brice Garnett** (T4/-8) follows first-round co-lead with 2-under 70; with his win in 2018, set tournament records for low 18-hole score (63) and low winning total (270), which have since been matched; also owns largest margin of victory (4 strokes) and remains the only wire-to-wire winner of this event
- Two players have made the cut in all six editions of the Corales Puntacana Championship

Year	Jonathan Byrd	Brice Garnett
2018	T54	Won
2019	4th	T39
2020	T28	T61
2021	T63	T9
2022	T36	T58
2023	T28 thru R2	T4 thru R2

- **Thomas Detry** (T10/-6), the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 82 in the Official World Golf Ranking, extends his streak of par-or-better rounds at this event to 18; making fifth-consecutive tournament start (T33/2019, T33/2020, T13/2021, T15/2022)
- First-round co-leader **Ben Martin** (T10/-6) finished runner-up at this event last year after holding the 18-, 36- and 54-hole leads/co-leads; has one top-10 finish in 14 starts on TOUR this season (T5/The Honda Classic)
- **MJ Daffue** (T19/-5) aced the par-3 17th using a 6-iron from 172 yards to record his second hole-in-one on TOUR (2022 Sanderson Farms Championship/R1); becomes the third player with two aces this season (Wyndham Clark, Ryan Armour); marks the sixth hole-in-one in tournament history and first since Stephan Jaeger in 2021 (No. 2, R1)
- Defending champion **Chad Ramey** withdrew prior to the start of his second round due to back injury