



**2023 Mexico Open at Vidanta**  
*(The 28<sup>th</sup> of 44 events in the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Regular Season)*

**Vallarta, Mexico**  
**Vidanta Vallarta Resort**

**April 27-30, 2023**  
**Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,456**

**FedExCup points: 500 (winner)**  
**Purse: \$7,700,000/\$1,386,000**

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, April 27, 2023**

*Weather: Sunny. High of 81. Wind SW 8-13 mph, increasing in the afternoon with gusts to 32 mph.*

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Austin Smotherman	63 (-8)
Erik van Rooyen	64 (-7)
Tano Goya	64 (-7)
Stephen Jaeger	65 (-6)
Eric Cole	65 (-6)
Taylor Pendrith	65 (-6)
Raul Pereda	65 (-6)
Tony Finau	65 (-6)

**Things to Know**

- Austin Smotherman takes his second-career 18-hole lead/co-lead on the PGA TOUR with a bogey-free 63
- Smotherman won the 2018 Mexico Open when it was played as a PGA TOUR Latinoamerica event
- Erik van Rooyen ties his lowest opening-round score with 64
- PGA TOUR rookie Tano Goya (64) cards his low round of the season
- Defending champion and World No. 1 Jon Rahm opens with 67 and sits T14
- Mexico's Raul Pereda posts 65 in his PGA TOUR debut as a sponsor exemption
- Tony Finau (65) sits inside the top five after 18 holes for the first time since his win at the 2022 Cadence Bank Houston Open

**First-Round Lead Notes**

- 1 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win the Mexico Open at Vidanta (Jon Rahm, 2022)
- 4 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2022-23 (most recent: Jon Rahm, Masters Tournament)

**Austin Smotherman (1<sup>st</sup>/-8)**

Category	Entering the week
Age	28 (May 19, 1994)
FedExCup	160
OWGR	342
Starts – wins – top-10s in PGA TOUR career	43-0-1
Starts – wins – top-10s on TOUR in 2022-23	17-0-0
Starts – wins – top-10s at the Mexico Open	1-0-0

- Second career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (2022 Butterfield Bermuda Championship/T23)
- Birdies his final four holes (Nos. 6-9) to post 8-under 63, his second-lowest round on TOUR (62/2022 Butterfield Bermuda Championship/R1)
- SMU product won the 2018 Abierto Mexicano de Golf in Tijuana on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica, his first professional victory
- Seeks his first top-10 of the 2022-23 season in his 18<sup>th</sup> start (best finish: T23, 2022 Butterfield Bermuda Championship)
- Best finish in 43 career starts entering the week is a solo eighth at the 2022 Barracuda Championship
- Finished T67 at the 2022 Mexico Open at Vidanta

### **Erik van Rooyen (T2/-7)**

- Eagles the par-4 15<sup>th</sup> hole from 141 yards and cards a 64, tying his lowest opening-round score in 76 starts on TOUR (2019 RBC Canadian Open/T20)
- Sits T2 after 18 holes for the fourth time in his career (2018 Open Championship, 2019 RBC Canadian Open, 2021 Palmetto Championship at Congaree)
- Owns one PGA TOUR title at the 2021 Barracuda Championship
- Two top-10s in 13 starts this season (T6/The American Express, T10/Valspar Championship)

### **Tano Goya (T2/-7)**

- PGA TOUR rookie posts bogey-free 64, tying his low round of the season (R4/The American Express); marks his highest position after 18 holes in his 22<sup>nd</sup> TOUR start (previous: T8/2023 Puerto Rico Open)
- One top-25 in 16 starts this season (T11/Puerto Rico Open)

### **Miscellaneous notes**

- The second-highest ranked player in the field at No. 16, **Tony Finau** (T4/-6) hit 16 of 18 Greens in Regulation for a 65 and sits inside the top five after round one for the first time since his win at the 2022 Cadence Bank Houston Open (T1); one of four players in the field who has won on TOUR this season (Nico Echavarria, Jon Rahm, Matt Wallace)
- Making his PGA TOUR debut as a sponsor exemption, Mexico's **Raul Pereda** (T4/-6) posts a bogey-free 65 and is the first player to shoot 65 or better in TOUR debut round since Robin Roussel (64/2022 Barbasol Championship); Jacksonville University product is one of seven Mexicans in the field and finished runner-up at the 2022 Peru Open, his best finish in 38 career starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica
- Defending champion and World No. 1 **Jon Rahm** (T14/-4) played his first four holes in 1-over before rallying to post 4-under 67; has four TOUR wins in 11 starts this season, including his most recent title at the Masters Tournament
- Players from Mexico: **Jose Cristobal Islas** (T100/+1), **Roberto Lebrija** (T138/+6), **Omar Morales** (T123/+3), **Alvaro Ortiz** (T81/E), **Raul Pereda** (T4/-6), **Jose de Jesus Rodriguez** (T114/+2), **Sebastian Vazquez** (T14/-4)