



## PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES 2023 HONDA CLASSIC



### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

February 20-26 • 17th of 44 FedExCup Regular Season events  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida  
PGA National Resort (The Champion) • Par 70 • 7,125 yds.  
**Purse** \$8.4 million • **Winner** \$1,512,000 + 500 FedExCup pts.  
144 players • 72-hole stroke-play  
**Defending champion** Sepp Straka

### BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

	ESPN+	GOLF	NBC
<b>R1</b>	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
<b>R2</b>	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
<b>R3</b>	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.
<b>R4</b>	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.

### CONTACT

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### 2022-23 PGA TOUR SEASON

#### FedExCup Playoffs

TOUR Championship.....  
BMW Championship.....  
FedEx St. Jude Championship.....

#### FedExCup Regular Season

Wyndham Championship.....  
3M Open.....  
Barracuda Championship.....  
The Open Championship.....  
Barbasol Championship.....  
Genesis Scottish Open.....  
John Deere Classic.....  
Rocket Mortgage Classic.....  
Travelers Championship.....  
U.S. Open.....  
RBC Canadian Open.....  
the Memorial Tournament.....  
Charles Schwab Challenge.....  
PGA Championship.....  
AT&T Byron Nelson.....  
Wells Fargo Championship.....  
Mexico Open at Vidanta.....  
Zurich Classic of New Orleans.....  
RBC Heritage.....  
Masters Tournament.....  
Valero Texas Open.....  
Corales Puntacana Championship.....  
WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play.....  
Valspar Championship.....  
THE PLAYERS Championship.....  
Puerto Rico Open.....  
Arnold Palmer Invitational.....  
The Honda Classic.....

The Genesis Invitational.....Jon Rahm (3)  
WM Phoenix Open.....Scottie Scheffler  
AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.....Justin Rose  
Farmers Insurance Open.....Max Homa (2)  
The American Express.....Jon Rahm (2)  
Sony Open in Hawaii.....Si Woo Kim  
Sentry Tournament of Champions.....Jon Rahm  
The RSM Classic.....Adam Svensson  
Cadence Bank Houston Open.....Tony Finau  
World Wide Technology Championship..Russell Henley  
Butterfield Bermuda Championship..Seamus Power  
THE CJ CUP in South Carolina.....Rory McIlroy  
ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP.....Keegan Bradley  
Shriners Children's Open.....Tom Kim  
Sanderson Farms Championship..Mackenzie Hughes  
Fortinet Championship.....Max Homa

*Italics* First-time PGA TOUR winners

### TOP STORYLINES

Beginning with this week's Honda Classic, the PGA TOUR will be conducting tournaments in Florida over each of the next four weeks: The Honda Classic, Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, THE PLAYERS Championship and Valspar Championship.

2022 Honda Classic winner **Sepp Straka** became the first player from Austria to win on the PGA TOUR. With a win Sunday, Straka would become the first repeat winner at The Honda Classic since Jack Nicklaus in 1977-78. Five players successfully defended a title during the 2021-22 season, the most since 2007 (5).

#### Successful title defenses in 2021-22

Patrick Cantlay, BMW Championship  
Rory McIlroy, RBC Canadian Open  
K.H. Lee, AT&T Byron Nelson  
Sam Burns, Valspar Championship  
Viktor Hovland, World Wide Technology Championship

#### Successful title defenses in 2022-23

Scottie Scheffler, WM Phoenix Open  
Rory McIlroy, THE CJ CUP in South Carolina  
Max Homa, Fortinet Championship

PGA National's 15th, 16th and 17th holes make up one of the most difficult three-hole stretches on the PGA TOUR, known as the Bear Trap. Among non-major courses that have been played in at least seven seasons since the event moved to PGA National in 2007, "The Bear Trap" ranks as the fourth-toughest stretch (+0.63 on average).

#### Toughest three-hole stretches on TOUR (non-majors) since start of 2007 season (min. seven times played)

Avg to par	Holes	Course	Tournament
+0.88	16-17-18	Quail Hollow Club	Wells Fargo Championship
+0.65	16-17-18	Muirfield Village Golf Club	the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday
+0.64	5-6-7	PGA National (Champion)	The Honda Classic
+0.63	15-16-17	PGA National (Champion)	The Honda Classic
+0.63	8-9-10	Pebble Beach Golf Links	AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am
+0.63	10-11-12	Torrey Pines Golf Course (South)	Farmers Insurance Open

#### Bear Trap superlatives

Best score to par	-5	Adam Hadwin, Scott Pinckney
Most balls in the water	19	Ryan Palmer
Most rounds played without a ball in the water	18	Jim Furyk

With just two weeks remaining until THE PLAYERS Championship, those in the field not otherwise exempt for some of the PGA TOUR's biggest events have a chance to qualify at The Honda Classic. The winner this week will receive spots in THE PLAYERS Championship and the Masters Tournament. In addition, the top 10 players in the FedExCup through The Honda Classic will qualify for THE PLAYERS Championship. The list to fill the field at THE PLAYERS will be based on the FedExCup standings through The Honda Classic. Last season, 12 players from outside the top 10 in the FedExCup standings through The Honda Classic (down to No. 69 Michael Thompson) qualified for THE PLAYERS.

Several key dates are approaching to qualify for some of golf's biggest events:

<b>After The Honda Classic</b>	Top 50 OWGR get into THE PLAYERS Championship
<b>After THE PLAYERS Championship</b>	Top 64 OWGR get into the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play
<b>After the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play</b>	Top 50 OWGR get into the Masters Tournament

Competing as an exempt international player designated by the Commissioner, **Adrian Meronk** will make his sixth PGA TOUR start following a T45 at last week's The Genesis Invitational. At No. 53 in the Official World Golf Ranking, Meronk is looking for a chance to qualify for THE PLAYERS Championship.

## WINNERS (SINCE 1972)

Year	Player
2022	Sepp Straka
2021	Matt Jones
2020	Sungjae Im
2019	Keith Mitchell
2018	Justin Thomas
2017	Rickie Fowler
2016	Adam Scott
2015	Padraig Harrington
2014	Russell Henley
2013	Michael Thompson
2012	Rory McIlroy
2011	Rory Sabbatini
2010	Camilo Villegas
2009	YE Yang
2008	Ernie Els
2007	Mark Wilson
2006	Luke Donald
2005	Padraig Harrington
2004	Todd Hamilton
2003	Justin Leonard
2002	Matt Kuchar
2001	Jesper Parnevik
2000	Dudley Hart
1999	Vijay Singh
1998	Mark Calcavecchia
1997	Stuart Appleby
1996	Tim Herron
1995	Mark O'Meara
1994	Nick Price
1993	Fred Couples
1992	Corey Pavin
1991	Steve Pate
1990	John Huston
1989	Blaine McCallister
1988	Joey Sindelar
1987	Mark Calcavecchia
1986	Kenny Knox
1985	Curtis Strange
1984	Bruce Lietzke
1983	Johnny Miller
1982	Hale Irwin
1981	Tom Kite
1980	Johnny Miller
1979	Larry Nelson
1978	Jack Nicklaus
1977	Jack Nicklaus
1975	Bob Murphy
1974	Leonard Thompson
1973	Lee Trevino
1972	Tom Weiskopf

bold in field

## ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

**Adam Svensson**, the highest-ranked player in the field in the FedExCup (No. 10) is making his third tournament start (T59/2019, T9/2022). Svensson earned his first TOUR victory in the fall at The RSM Classic, marking the only first-timewinner on TOUR this season. The Palm Beach resident won Final Stage of 2015 Korn Ferry Tour Q-School at PGA National by seven strokes.

At No. 18 in the Official World Golf Ranking, **Sungjae Im** is the highest-ranked player in the field. Im earned his first career PGA TOUR title at the 2020 Honda Classic and will be making his fifth tournament start and 10th this season.

There are three rookies in the top 30 of the FedExCup standings, with No. 18 **Thomas Detry** in the field this week (other rookies: No. 13 Taylor Montgomery, No. 27 Davis Thompson). Detry enters the week with a pair of top-10s (T9/ Sanderson Farms Championship, 2nd/Butterfield Bermuda Championship) and has made nine cuts in as many starts this season. The Belgium native will be making his tournament debut.

**Shane Lowry** is making his sixth start at The Honda Classic. In his most recent start at the event, Lowry finished runner-up in 2022, his third career runner-up on TOUR and best result since winning the 2019 Open Championship.

Two-time Honda Classic winner (2005, 2015) **Padraig Harrington** is making his first PGA TOUR start since The Open Championship (MC). The six-time PGA TOUR winner holds past champion status on TOUR and won four times on PGA TOUR Champions last season, including the U.S. Senior Open and Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

**Marcus Byrd**, a three-time winner on the APGA, earned an exemption at The Honda Classic via his victory at the APGA Farmers Insurance Invitational. Last week, Byrd made his second career PGA TOUR start competing as The Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption (MC/The Genesis Invitational).

Making his first PGA TOUR start as a professional, Korn Ferry Tour member **Pierceson Coody** is competing on a sponsor exemption. Since turning pro last June, Coody has won twice in 15 starts on the Korn Ferry Tour and is fourth on the Korn Ferry Tour's points list. Pierceson's twin brother, **Parker Coody** will join him at The Honda Classic after earning one of the four Open Qualifying spots. Parker shot 6-under 66, birdieing five of his first six holes, at Tesoro Club before returning Tuesday morning for the playoff. Most recent twins to play in the same TOUR event are Rasmus and Nicolai Hojgaard (2022 Genesis Scottish Open).

**Milestone:** Eight-time PGA TOUR winner **Geoff Ogilvy** is making his 400th career start on the PGA TOUR and 10th start at The Honda Classic (last: MC/2016). Ogilvy will be making his second start of the season after making finishing 74th at AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, his first made cut since 2018 (T32/AT&T Byron Nelson).

## 2022 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Sepp Straka	71	64	69	66	270 (-10)
2	Shane Lowry	70	67	67	67	271 (-9)
3	Kurt Kitayama	64	69	71	68	272 (-8)
4	Daniel Berger	65	65	69	74	273 (-7)
T5	Alex Noren	69	69	70	68	276 (-4)
T5	Gary Woodland	69	69	71	67	276 (-4)
T7	Chris Kirk	65	68	71	73	277 (-3)
T7	Matthias Schwab	67	72	70	68	277 (-3)

## STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

Top 10 FedExCup	10	Adam Svensson (10)
Top 30 FedExCup	4	
Top 10 OWGR	0	
Top 50 OWGR	8	Sungjae Im (18)
PGA TOUR winners	67	Zach Johnson (12)
Past champions	7	Defending: Sepp Straka
FedExCup Champions	2	Most recent: Billy Horschel (2014)
PLAYERS winners	2	Most recent: Webb Simpson (2018)
Major winners	7	Padraig Harrington (3)

## TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Category	Value	Player	Year
Low 18-hole score	61	2 players; most recent: Matt Jones	2021 (R1)
Low 36-hole score	128	2 players; most recent: Aaron Wise	2021
Low 54-hole score	196	Davis Love III	2003
Low 72-hole score	264	Justin Leonard	2003
Holes-in-one (1983-present)	14	14 players; most recent: Grayson Murray	2020 (R3, No. 17)
Largest 18-hole lead	4	Mike Sullivan	1987
Largest 36-hole lead	6	Tim Herron	1996
Largest 54-hole lead	5	2 players; most recent: Rory Sabbatini	2011
Largest margin of victory	5	3 players; most recent: Matt Jones	2021
Best come from behind win	7	Padraig Harrington	2005
Playoffs	9	Most recent: Justin Thomas def. Luke List	2018