



2023 Honda Classic
(17th of 44 events in the FedExCup Regular Season)

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
PGA National Resort (Champion)

February 23-26, 2023
Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,125 yards

FedExCup points: 500 (winner)
Purse: \$8.4 million (\$1,512,000/winner)

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, February 25, 2023

Weather: Mostly sunny. High of 85. Wind ESE 8-12 mph, with gusts to 16 mph.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Chris Kirk	69-62-66—197 (-13)
Eric Cole	67-66-66—199 (-11)
Justin Suh	66-64-70—200 (-10)
Shane Lowry	68-68-65—201 (-9)
Ben Taylor	67-65-69—201 (-9)

Things to Know

- In search of his fifth career PGA TOUR title and first since 2015, Chris Kirk birdies final two holes of the day to claim his sixth 54-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (2-for-5 attempting to convert)
- Florida resident and PGA TOUR rookie Eric Cole posts a second straight 4-under 66 and sits solo-second at 11-under 199
- Making his tournament debut, 36-hole leader Justin Suh seeks to become the fourth player in the last five years to make The Honda Classic his maiden TOUR title
- 2022 Honda Classic runner-up Shane Lowry seeks a third career TOUR title and first since the 2019 Open Championship
- The Honda Classic has served as the first career TOUR title for three of the last four winners (Keith Mitchell/2019, Sungjae Im/2020, Sepp Straka/2022)

Third-Round Lead Notes

- 9 Third-round leaders/co-leaders to win since the event moved to PGA National in 2007
Most recent: Matt Jones/2021
- 9 Third-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2022-23
Most recent: Jon Rahm/The Genesis Invitational

Chris Kirk (1st/-13)

Category	Entering the week
Age	37 (May 8, 1985)
FedExCup	No. 34
OWGR	No. 47
Starts – wins – top-10s in PGA TOUR career	310-4-39
Starts – wins – top-10s on TOUR in 2022-23	9-0-2
Starts – wins – top-10s at The Honda Classic	11-0-1

- Followed a career-low-tying 8-under 62 with a 4-under 66, highlighted by birdies on his last two holes of the day; since the event moved to PGA National in 2007, five of eight 54-hole leaders with at least a two-stroke lead have gone on to win
- One of six players to birdie the par-3 17th in round three, the hole which produced the fewest birdies of the day
- Beginning at his ninth hole in round one (No. 18) through the 12th hole in round three, completed 40 consecutive holes with scores of par or better
- When holding a 54-hole lead/co-lead, has converted for the win on two of five occasions (2011 Sanderson Farms Championship, 2013 RSM Classic)
- Seeks his 40th career PGA TOUR top-10 finish this week and third top-five this season (3rd/Sony Open in Hawaii, T3/The American Express)
- Making his 179th start since the most recent of his four PGA TOUR victories (2015 Charles Schwab Challenge)
- Stood T2 after 54 holes of the 2022 Honda Classic, eventually finishing T7 for his only top-10 finish in 11 starts in the event

Miscellaneous notes

- Making his 12th start of the season, PGA TOUR rookie and Delray Beach, Florida resident **Eric Cole** (2nd/-11) birdied two of his last three holes, Nos. 16 and 18, to post a 4-under 66; in his most recent start before this week, finished T15 at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am for his lone top-20 of the season; father, Bobby, won the 1977 Buick Open; last son of a PGA TOUR winner to win on TOUR was Kevin Tway at the 2018 Fortinet Championship
- Following his career-low round on TOUR of 6-under 64 in round two, 36-hole leader **Justin Suh** (3rd/-10) made an eagle-2 from 153 yards (8-iron) at the par-4 12th and posted an even-par 70 in his tournament debut; finished T20 at the Farmers Insurance Open, marking his lone top-25 finish in 12 starts this season; would become the fourth player in the last five years to earn maiden PGA TOUR victory at The Honda Classic (Keith Mitchell/2019, Sungjae Im/2020, Sepp Straka/2022)
- Coming off a solo-second at the 2022 Honda Classic in his fifth start in the event, **Shane Lowry** (T4/-9) recorded a 5-under 65 in his bid for a third career PGA TOUR title and first since the 2019 Open Championship; following four rounds of par-or-better at last week's Genesis Invitational, finished T14
- Making his Honda Classic debut, England's **Ben Taylor** (T4/-9) is vying for a third top-five finish of the season (3rd/Cadence Bank Houston Open, T4/Sony Open in Hawaii) and first career win
- **Ryan Gerard** (T8/-7) birdied No. 18 to post a 1-over 71 in his second PGA TOUR start (2022 U.S. Open/MC); the last Open Qualifier to finish in the top 10: Aaron Baddeley, 2022 Butterfield Bermuda Championship (T6); last Open Qualifier to finish in the top five: Doc Redman, 2019 Rocket Mortgage Classic (2nd); last Open Qualifier to win: Corey Connors, 2019 Valero Texas Open
- Defending champion **Sepp Straka** (T8/-7) birdied his first four holes en route to a 4-under 66 in his bid to become the first to successfully defend a Honda Classic title since Jack Nicklaus in 1978