



## 2023 Valero Texas Open

(The 24<sup>th</sup> of 44 events in the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Regular Season)

San Antonio, Texas

TPC San Antonio (The Oaks Course)

March 30 – April 2, 2023

Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,438

FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$8,900,000 (\$1,602,000 winner)

### Partial First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 30, 2023

*Weather: Cloudy. High of 79. Wind SE 12-22 mph. The first round was delayed due to fog for 48 minutes, with the round beginning at 8:18 a.m. Play was suspended due to fog at 8:42 a.m. for 2 hours, 38 minutes, resuming at 11:20 a.m. Play was suspended due to darkness at 7:23 p.m. with the entire afternoon wave yet to complete the round. Those players will be back in position Friday at 7:45 a.m.*

### Partial First-Round Leaderboard

Justin Lower	-5 (thru 9 holes)
Matt Kuchar	68 (-4)
Padraig Harrington	68 (-4)
MJ Daffue	68 (-4)
Roberto Diaz	68 (-4)
Patrick Rodgers	-4 (thru 13 holes)

### Things to Know

- Justin Lower sits atop the Valero Texas Open leaderboard at 5-under through nine holes; Padraig Harrington, Matt Kuchar, MJ Daffue and Roberto Diaz share the clubhouse lead at 4-under 68
- 51-year-old Harrington seeks to become the third-oldest winner in PGA TOUR history
- 2001 and 2022 Valero Texas Open runner-up Kuchar is one week removed from tying Tiger Woods for the most match victories in WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play history
- Coming off a victory at last week's Corales Puntacana Championship, Matt Wallace posts an opening-round 69
- Thursday's weather delay was the first at the Valero Texas Open since 2021, when the start of the third round was delayed by two hours, 30 minutes

### First-Round Lead Notes

- 0 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win the Valero Texas Open since it moved to TPC San Antonio in 2010
- 2 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2022-23 (most recent: Jon Rahm/Sentry Tournament of Champions)

### Justin Lower (1<sup>st</sup>/-5 thru nine holes)

- Enters the week with five straight missed cuts on TOUR; last made cut came at the 2023 WM Phoenix Open (T50)
- Missed the cut in debut appearance at the 2022 Valero Texas Open (75-78)
- Only 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR came at the 2022 Fortinet Championship (finished T4)

### Matt Kuchar (T2/-4)

- Opening 68 is his fifth round of 68 or better in 41 rounds since the event moved to TPC San Antonio in 2010
- Most recently advanced out of group play at last week's WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play before falling to Jason Day, 1-up, in the Round of 16; week included two match victories, which pulled him into a tie with Tiger Woods for most match victories (36) at the event
- Making his 18<sup>th</sup> start at the Valero Texas Open, led by T2 finishes in 2001 and 2022
- Last of his nine PGA TOUR victories came at the 2019 Sony Open in Hawaii

### Padraig Harrington (T2/-4)

- Opens with a 68, equaling his best score in 18 rounds at the Valero Texas Open (2013/R1, 2016/R3)
- Currently T2 at the time of the suspension; the last time he sat inside the top-3 on the leaderboard after a round came at the last of his six PGA TOUR victories (2015 Honda Classic)

- Finished T10 in debut appearance at the 2013 Valero Texas Open for the best finish in five prior starts
- Victory on Sunday would come at the age of 51 years, 7 months and 2 days, which would make him the third-oldest winner in TOUR history:
  - Sam Snead – 52 years, 10 months, 8 days (1965 Wyndham Championship)
  - Art Wall – 51 years, 7 months, 10 days (1975 Greater Milwaukee Open)

#### **Additional Player Notes**

- **Roberto Diaz** (T2/-4) is seeking to become the first Sponsor Exemption to win on TOUR since Martin Laird at the 2020 Shriners Children's Open
- After opening with a double bogey on the par-4 first hole, **MJ Daffue** (T2) closes with an eagle on No. 18 for a 4-under 68; best finish in 29 PGA TOUR starts is T12 at the 2020 Sanderson Farms Championship
- Coming off a victory at last week's Corales Puntacana Championship, **Matt Wallace** (T7) posts an opening-round 3-under 69; attempting to become the first player to win in back-to-back tournaments since Tony Finau (2022 3M Open, Rocket Mortgage Classic) and in back-to-back starts since Jon Rahm (2023 Sentry Tournament of Champions, The American Express)
- **J.J. Spaun** sits even-par through 11 holes in bid to become the first player since Zach Johnson (2009) to successfully defend his title at the Valero Texas Open
- Making his 500<sup>th</sup> PGA TOUR start, four-time PGA TOUR winner **Lucas Glover** opens with a 3-over 75; first-career TOUR start came at this event in 2001 (T66)
- **Brandon Matthews** withdrew during the round with a back injury