



## 2023 Valero Texas Open

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

San Antonio, Texas March 30 – April 2, 2023 FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)

TPC San Antonio (The Oaks Course) Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,438 Purse: \$8,900,000 (\$1,602,000 winner)

## Completed First-Round Notes – Friday, March 31, 2023

**Weather**: Thursday: Cloudy. High of 79. Wind SE 12-22 mph. The first round was delayed due to fog for 45 minutes, with the round beginning at 8:15 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. Friday: The first round resumed at 7:45 a.m. and was completed at 11:29 a.m. Cloudy. High of 71. Wind S 10-20 mph.

#### First-Round Leaderboard

| Corey Conners   | 64 (-8) |
|-----------------|---------|
| Patrick Rodgers | 66 (-6) |
| Chris Kirk      | 67 (-5) |
| Hayden Buckley  | 67 (-5) |
| Peter Malnati   | 67 (-5) |
|                 |         |

# Things to Know

- 2019 Valero Texas Open champion Corey Conners leads the Valero Texas Open by two strokes in bid to become
  the 10<sup>th</sup> multiple winner of the event and the first player since K.H. Lee (2021, 2022 AT&T Byron Nelson) to record
  his first two PGA TOUR victories at the same event
- Conners holds the first-round lead/co-lead for the fourth time on the PGA TOUR (0-for-3 to date)
- 51-year-old Padraig Harrington seeks to become the third-oldest winner in PGA TOUR history
- Coming off a victory at last week's Corales Puntacana Championship, Matt Wallace posts an opening-round 69
- Thursday's weather delay is 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)

### Corey Conners (1<sup>st</sup>/-8)

| Category                                     | Entering the week    |
|--|----------------------|
| Age  | 31 (January 6, 1992) |
| FedExCup                                     | No. 82               |
| OWGR   | No. 40               |
| Starts – wins – top-10s in PGA TOUR career   | 152-1-18             |
| Starts – wins – top-10s on TOUR in 2022-23   | 10-0-0               |
| Starts – wins – top-10s at Valero Texas Open | 4-1-1                |

- Posts a bogey-free 8-under 64, his best score in 17 rounds at TPC San Antonio; previous low round was 66 during the third- and final-rounds en route to victory in 2019
- 0-for-3 to date with the first-round lead/co-lead, most recently finishing T17 at the 2021 PGA Championship
- Would become the first player since K.H. Lee (2021, 2022 AT&T Byron Nelson) to record first two PGA TOUR
  victories at the same event
- Would become the 10<sup>th</sup> multiple winner of the Valero Texas Open (first since Zach Johnson/2008, 2009)

## **Additional Player Notes**

• In four prior starts at the Valero Texas Open, **Patrick Rodgers** (2<sup>nd</sup>/-6) has made the cut once (T58/2022); opening-round 66 is his first round in the 60s in 11 rounds at TPC San Antonio

- 2023 Honda Classic champion **Chris Kirk** (T3/-5) would join Jon Rahm, Scottie Scheffler and Max Homa as multiple winners this season
- A victory on Sunday for **Padraig Harrington** (T6/-4) 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)
  - o Art Wall 51 years, 7 months, 10 days (1975 Greater Milwaukee Open)
- Harrington and Roberto Diaz, both T6 following matching 4-under 68s, are seeking to become the first Sponsor Exemption to win on TOUR since Martin Laird at the 2020 Shriners Children's Open
- 2001 and 2022 Valero Texas Open runner-up **Matt Kuchar** (T6/-4) 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
- Coming off a victory at last week's Corales Puntacana Championship, **Matt Wallace** (T12/-3) is 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** (T25/-2) opens with a 2-under 70 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 (T113/+3) cards 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
- Davis Love III withdrew following the first round with a wrist and thumb injury