

## 2023 Ascension Charity Classic

### First-Round Notes

Friday, September 8, 2023



**Ascension**  
**CHARITY CLASSIC**

presented by **EMERSON**

Norwood Hills Country Club – West Course | St. Louis, Missouri

21<sup>st</sup> of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2023 Season

#### Media Contacts:

Julie Nelson, [julienelson@pgatourhq.com](mailto:julienelson@pgatourhq.com), 281-961-3569

Mark Williams, [markwilliams@pgatourhq.com](mailto:markwilliams@pgatourhq.com), 904-655-5380

- **Course Setup:** Par 71 / 6,992 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average:** 69.474
- **Weather:** Mixed skies. Upper 70s. Wind N 5-10 mph
- **Interviews:** [Transcripts](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#)
- [Leaderboard](#)
- [PGATOURMedia.com](http://PGATOURMedia.com)

Pos.	Player	To Par	Score
T1	Billy Mayfair	-7	64
T1	Y.E. Yang	-7	64
T1	Kevin Sutherland	-7	64
T1	Tim O'Neal	-7	64

#### Things to Know

- The Ascension Charity Classic is being contested for the third time, each time at Norwood Hills Country Club.
- 64s by **Billy Mayfair**, **Y.E. Yang**, **Kevin Sutherland** and **Tim O'Neal** marks the tournament 18-hole record
- Former champion **David Toms** sat T9 after the opening round en route to victory in 2021, while **Padraig Harrington** was tied for the first-round lead before winning this event in 2022
- Four players tied for the opening-round lead is the most this season
- The last 18-hole leader/co-leader to win on PGA TOUR Champions was **Vijay Singh** at the 2023 Ally Championship two weeks ago

#### Billy Mayfair – 34-30—64 (-7)

- Began with a bogey at the par-3 10<sup>th</sup> hole before adding eight birdies, including four in a row on holes 15 through 18, to open with a 7-under 64
- Hit nine of 14 fairways and 17 of 18 greens en route to his opening-round 64, matching his second-lowest round on PGA TOUR Champions (five times), and two strokes shy of his low round (62/2021 Shaw Charity Classic)
- Seeks his first PGA TOUR Champions title in his 157<sup>th</sup> start after winning five times on the PGA TOUR, most recently at the 1998 Buick Open
- Notched four runner-up finishes on PGA TOUR Champions since turning 50 in 2016 (August 6), most recent: 2021 Boeing Classic (T2)
- 0-for-5 when attempting to convert an 18-hole lead/co-lead into victory on PGA TOUR Champions, most recent: 2022 Boeing Classic (T33)
- Makes third appearance at the Ascension Charity Classic (T29/2021, T41/2022), posting his third round in the 60s (68/R2/2021, 69/R1/2022)

#### Y.E. Yang – 34-30—64 (-7)

- Mixed eight birdies and one bogey to equal his low round on PGA TOUR Champions (64/R3/2023 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open)
- Holds the first-round lead/co-lead for the first time in his career on PGA TOUR Champions

- Seeks his first PGA TOUR Champions title after finishing runner-up at this event in 2022, his lone top-three result in 44 prior starts on PGA TOUR Champions
- Both his PGA TOUR victories came in 2009 – The Honda Classic and the PGA Championship, where he defeated Tiger Woods by three strokes
- Makes second appearance at the Ascension Charity Classic (2<sup>nd</sup>/2022); four rounds at Norwood Hills Country Club: 68-66-66-64

**Kevin Sutherland – 32-32—64 (-7)**

- Hit seven of 14 fairways and 13 of 18 greens en route to a bogey free 7-under 64 in the opening round, one of three players to be bogey free (Alex Cejka/66, Kirk Triplett/67)
- Holds the first-round lead/co-lead for the eighth time on PGA TOUR Champions; 1-for-7 in converting previous first-round leads/co-leads
- Seeks sixth PGA TOUR Champions title, but first since the 2021 Cologuard Classic
- Makes third appearance at the Ascension Charity Classic (T9/2021, T16/2022) with all seven rounds at Norwood Hills Country Club under par

**Tim O'Neal - 31-33—64 (-7)**

- Ascension ambassador hit eight of 14 fairways and 17 of 18 greens en route to a 7-under 64, his low 18-hole score on PGA TOUR Champions (62 rounds); cards one eagle (No. 11), one bogey (No. 18) and six birdies
- Holds the first-round lead/co-lead for the third time on PGA TOUR Champions (2022 Pure Insurance Championship/T19, 2023 Regions Tradition/T11)
- In his first full season, seeks first PGA TOUR Champions title in his 20<sup>th</sup> start; owns two top-10 finishes in 19 prior starts (T10/2023 Mitsubishi Electric Classic, T9/2023 Boeing Classic)
- Makes second appearance at the Ascension Charity Classic (T33/2022)

**Additional Notes**

- **Brian Gay** and **Wes Short, Jr.** sit one stroke back at 6-under 65, while World Golf Hall of Fame member **Retief Goosen** is T7 among a group of four players at 5-under 66
- Former champion **David Toms** sits T16 at 3-under 68
- **Stephen Ames**, No. 2 in the Schwab Cup standings, posts 2-over 73 to sit T69, while **Bernhard Langer**, No. 3 in the Schwab Cup standings, is T16 with 3-under 68
- **Robert Damron**, making his second PGA TOUR Champions start, but first in the United States, sits T43 at 1-under 70
- **Scott Parel** withdrew with illness following the first round