# **DICK'S Sporting Goods Open**

First-Round Notes Friday, June 23, 2023

En-Joie Club | Endicott, New York 14<sup>th</sup> of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2023 Season

#### Media Contacts:

Julie Nelson, julienelson@pgatourhq.com, 281-961-3569 Doug Milne, dougmilne@pgatourhq.com, 904-614-0657

Course Setup: Par 72 / 6,994 yards
Round 1 Scoring Average: 71.364

• Weather: cloudy, with a high of 74. Wind SE 5-10 mph

Interviews: <u>Transcripts</u>Second-Round Tee Times

Leaderboard

PGATOURMedia.com

Pos.	Player	To Par	Score
1	Joe Durant	-8	32-32—64
T2	Jason Schultz	-5	34-33—67
T2	Ernie Els	-5	33-34—67
T4	10 players	-4	

# Things to Know

- Highlighted by birdies on three of his last four holes, Joe Durant opens his eighth consecutive DICK'S Sporting Goods Open with a three-shot lead at 8-under 64 in his bid for a third top-10 finish in the event
- Angling for a second win this season (Hoag Classic) and fourth on PGA TOUR Champions, World Golf Hall of Fame Member Ernie Els opens his third DICK'S Sporting Goods Open with a bogey-free 5-under 67; finished solo-second in his first start at the event in 2021
- In just his third PGA TOUR Champions start since turning 50 in March, **Jason Schultz** cards a 5-under 67 in his bid for a second top-10 finish (T9/2023 Principal Charity Classic)
- Defending champion Padraig Harrington sits T14 at 3-under 69
- In his bid for a PGA TOUR Champions record 46<sup>th</sup> title, World Golf Hall of Fame member & 2014 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open champion **Bernhard Langer** signs for a 2-under 70; Langer tied Hale Irwin's record of 45 wins with his Chubb Classic victory earlier this season

## Joe Durant - 32-32-64 (-8)

- Making his eighth straight start in the DICK'S Sporting Goods Open, following four consecutive birdies on Nos. 7-10 with birdies on three of his last four holes (Nos. 15, 16 and 18) to open in 8-under 64
- The 64 marks his lowest score on PGA TOUR Champions since posting a 9-under 63 in round two of the 2022 Boeing Classic (7<sup>th</sup>)
- His 8-under 64 in round one marks his 19th round of par-or-better in 22 total rounds in the event
- Seeks a fifth career PGA TOUR Champions title and first since The Ally Challenge in 2021
- Durant is vying for a third top-10 finish in the event: T4/2016, T8/2018
- Durant is 0-for-9 when attempting to convert an 18-hole lead/co-lead into victory on PGA TOUR Champions
- The last 18-hole leader/co-leader to win on PGA TOUR Champions was Stephen Ames at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in early May

#### **Additional Notes**

Defending champion Padraig Harrington sits T14 at 3-under 69; after an opening-round 6-under 66 last year,
 Harrington was one shot off Vijay Singh's lead



## Page 2 of 2 | First-Round Media Notes

- **Kevin Sutherland,** who became the first and remains the only player to break 60 on PGA TOUR Champions by shooting 13-under 59 in round two of the 2014 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open was 7-under through 12 holes before taking bogeys on four of his last five holes en route to a 3-under 69
- Past DICK'S Sporting Goods Open champions in the field: Padraig Harrington/2022 (T14/-3), Scott McCarron/2017 (T60/+2), Paul Goydos/2016 (T22/-2), Jeff Maggert/2015 (T43/E), Bernhard Langer/2014 (T22/-2), Willie Wood/2012 (T60/+2), John Huston/2011 (T14/-3)
- Stuart Appleby withdrew prior to round one and was replaced in the field by Len Mattiace (T54/+1); Cameron Beckman withdrew during round one after 15 holes with a back injury