

2023 Hoag Classic



Final-Round Notes

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Newport Beach Country Club | Newport Beach, California
5th of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2023 Season

Media Contacts:

Doug Milne, dougmilne@pgatourhq.com, 904-614-0657

- **Course Setup:** Par 71 / 6,821 yards
- **Round 3 Scoring Average:** 70.221
- **Weather:** Mostly cloudy, with a high of 64. Wind S 501- mph, gusting to 15 mph
- **Interviews:** [Transcripts](#) | [Videos](#)
- [Leaderboard](#)
- PGATOURMedia.com

	Player	To Par	Scores	Money	Charles Schwab Cup
1	Ernie Els	-13	70-65-65—200	\$300,000	\$439,780.00
T2	Steve Stricker	-12	66-68-67—201	\$160,000	\$704,500.00
T2	Doug Barron	-12	65-66-70—201	\$160,000	\$314,277.00
T4	Dicky Pride	-11	68-67-67—202	\$98,667	\$250,257.00
T4	Rob Labritz	-11	66-68-68—202	\$98,667	\$136,617.00
T4	Miguel Angel Jimenez	-11	64-67-71—202	\$98,667	\$262,867.00

Things to Know

- With birdies on two of his last three holes, **Ernie Els** overcomes a five-stroke deficit beginning the final round to claim his second Hoag Classic title (2020) and third career PGA TOUR Champions title
- In his Hoag Classic debut, **Steve Stricker** closes with a 4-under 67 to finish T2 at 12-under 201 and claim his fourth consecutive top-10 finish of the season
- Following a T5 in last year's Hoag Classic, **Doug Barron** closed with a 1-under 70 in his bid for a third PGA TOUR Champions title
- After open qualifying into the event, **Dicky Pride** closes with back-to-back 4-under 67s to finish inside the top five
- In his bid for a PGA TOUR Champions record 46th title, 2008 champion **Bernhard Langer** closes with a 2-over 73 to remain deadlocked with Hale Irwin at 45 titles
- In his bid to become the first player to successfully defend a Hoag Classic title, **Retief Goosen** finished T37 at 5-under 208

Ernie Els (1st/-13)

- Beginning the final round five strokes off the lead, the 2020 Hoag Classic champion birdied three of his first four holes and two of his last three en route to a 6-under 65 for the second day in a row to claim a 1-stroke win over Steve Stricker and Doug Barron at 13-under 200
- The victory, his third on PGA TOUR Champions, comes in his 62nd start at the age of 53 years, 5 months, 2 days.
- For the week, Els played Newport Beach Country Club's front nine in 11-under par, as opposed to 2-under on Nos. 10-18.
- With the win, Els becomes the fourth player to win the Hoag Classic on multiple occasions; he joins Hale Irwin (1998, 2002), Jay Haas (2007, 2016) and Fred Couples (2010, 2014)
- Els wins the Hoag Classic in his third start in the event: 2020/1st, 2022/7th; he began last year's final round of the Hoag Classic with a 1-stroke lead before a 2-over 73 resulted in his solo-seventh place finish
- Els' win comes in his fourth start of the season and marks his third top-10 finish (T6/Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, T10/Chubb Classic); his win comes off a T26 from the Cologuard Classic

Other Notes

- In his Hoag Classic debut, **Steve Stricker** closed with a bogey-free 4-under 67 to finish T2 at 12-under 201; in four starts this season on PGA TOUR Champions, Stricker has finished no worse than T8 (Cologuard Classic)

- Following a T5 in last year's Hoag Classic, Memphis native **Doug Barron** (T2/-12) offset two bogeys with seven birdies to post a 5-under 66; Barron seeks a third career PGA TOUR Champions title in his 74th start this week (2019 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open, 2021 Shaw Charity Classic).
- Following birdies on four of his first six holes, open qualifier **Dicky Pride** finished with a 4-under 67 for the second straight round to finish 11-under 202 (T4); in his only other Hoag Classic start, posted three consecutive rounds of even-par 71 in 2022 to finish T34; Pride was the last player on PGA TOUR Champions to Monday qualify into an event and go on to win (2021 Mitsubishi Electric Classic).
- In his bid for a PGA TOUR Champions record 46th title, 36-hole leader **Bernhard Langer** closed with a 2-over 73 to finish T7 at 10-under 203; the T7 finish marks his sixth top-10 finish in 12 Hoag Classic starts; drops to 29-of-46 when leading/co-leading entering the final round on PGA TOUR Champions.
- Highlighted by an eagle-3 at No. 15, Connecticut native **Rob Labritz** signed for a 3-under 68, good for T4 honors at 11-under 202; in his only previous Hoag Classic start, he finished T21 in 2022.
- In his bid to become the Hoag Classic's first three-time winner, **Fred Couples** (T15/-8) followed back-to-back 5-under 66s with a 2-over 73 in the final round; prior to this week, the 2010 and 2014 champion had never finished outside the top-10 in the event.
- **Retief Goosen** finished at 5-under 208 (T37) in his bid to become the first player to successfully defend a Hoag Classic title.