

2023 Sanford International

First-Round Notes

Friday, September 15, 2023

Minnehaha Country Club | Sioux Falls, South Dakota

22nd of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2023 Season



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- **Course Setup:** Par 70 / 6,729 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average:** 68.308
- **Weather:** Mostly cloudy with temps in the mid-70s and winds WNW at 6-12 mph
- **Interviews:** [Transcripts](#) | [Content Hub](#)
- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#)
- PGATOURMedia.com

	Player	To Par	Scores
T1	Steve Stricker	-8	30-32 – 62
T1	K.J. Choi	-8	31-31 – 62
T3	Alex Cejka	-7	32-31 – 63
T3	David Toms	-7	30-33 – 63
T3	Darren Clarke	-7	31-32 – 63
T3	Rocco Mediate	-7	33-30 – 63

Things to Know

- Charles Schwab Cup leader **Steve Stricker** and 2021 Sanford International runner-up **K.J. Choi** share the first-round lead after matching the course record with 62s.
- Stricker is the lone two-time winner of the Sanford International presented by First PREMIER Bank & Mastercard (2018, 2022).
- Three of the four past champions are T3 or better after the first round: Stricker (2018, 2022), **Darren Clarke** (2021) and **Rocco Mediate** (2019).

Steve Stricker, 30-32 – 62 (-8)

- Matched his second-lowest 18-hole score on PGA TOUR Champions (195th round)
 - Low round: 60 (2023 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, 2nd Round)
- Matched the low 18-hole score in Sanford International history
- This is his 11th time leading/co-leading after the first round on PGA TOUR Champions
 - Is 5-for-10 converting those into victories
- The 56-year-old seeks his 17th win on PGA TOUR Champions (62nd start)
 - Would remain in 17th place on the PGA TOUR Champions all-time wins list
- The Charles Schwab Cup leader seeks his sixth win of the 2023 season (15th start)
 - Would move him into T9 on the PGA TOUR Champions single-season wins list
 - Would become the third player since 2000 to win six or more times in a single season on PGA TOUR Champions, joining Bernhard Langer (seven wins in 2017) and Larry Nelson (six wins in 2000)
- Making his fifth start at the Sanford International, he is a two-time champion (2018, 2022) and has never finished outside of the top 6 at this event

K.J. Choi, 31-31 – 62 (-8)

- This is his low 18-hole score on PGA TOUR Champions (181st round)
 - Previous low 18-hole score: 63 (2021 Sanford International, 1st Round)
- Matched the low 18-hole score in Sanford International history
- This is his third time leading/co-leading after the first round on PGA TOUR Champions

- Is 0-for-2 converting those into victories
- One of those instances was the 2021 Sanford International (finished T2)
- The 53-year-old seeks his second win on PGA TOUR Champions (59th start)
 - Last win: 2021 PURE Insurance Championship
- Making his 19th start of the season, he has four top-10 finishes
 - Best finish: T3 (Two times: Kaulig Companies Championship, Boeing Classic)
- Making his third appearance at the Sanford International, his best finish is T2 (2021)

Other Notes

- 2021 champion **Darren Clarke** opened with 7-under 63 and sits T3.
 - The 55-year-old seeks his fifth win on PGA TOUR Champions (100th start).
- 2019 champion **Rocco Mediate** birdied seven of his last 10 holes en route to 63 and sits T3.
 - The 60-year-old seeks his fifth win on PGA TOUR Champions (221st start).
- Charles Schwab No. 4 **David Toms** sits T3 after shooting 7-under 63.
 - The 56-year-old seeks his third win of the 2023 season (Cologuard Classic, The Galleri Classic).
- Charles Schwab No. 9 **Alex Cejka** carded bogey-free 63 and sits T3.
 - The 52-year-old seeks his second win of the 2023 season (The Senior Open presented by Rolex).
- 2020 champion **Miguel Angel Jimenez** sits T22 after opening with 3-under 67.
- Making his debut on PGA TOUR Champions, South Dakota's **Ryan Jansa** shot 1-under 69 and sits T47.
- 72-year-old open qualifier **Dick Mast** bettered his age with even-par 70 and sits T56.
- **Fred Funk** (T22) made a hole-in-one on No. 17 with a hybrid from 199 yards.
- **John Senden** (T22) made a hole-in-one on No. 8 with a pitching wedge from 132 yards.