



2024 The American Express
(3rd of 36 FedExCup Regular Season events)

La Quinta, California	January 18-21, 2024	FedExCup points: 500 (winner)
PGA WEST PETE DYE STADIUM COURSE	Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,187	Purse: \$8,400,000/\$1,512,000
PGA WEST NICKLAUS TOURNAMENT COURSE	Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,147	
LA QUINTA COUNTRY CLUB	Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,060	

First-Round Notes – Thursday, January 18, 2024

Weather: Sunny. High of 75. Wind SE 4-8 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	Total
T1	Zach Johnson	62 (-10) LQ
T1	Alex Noren	62 (-10) LQ
T3	Rico Hoey	63 (-9) NT
T3	Christiaan Bezuidenhout	63 (-9) LQ

Zach Johnson (T1/-10/LQ)

- Making his 13th consecutive start in The American Express, and 14th overall, followed a birdie on No. 1 at La Quinta with a pair of pars before reeling off six consecutive birdies on Nos. 4-9, matching his career-best birdie streak (most recently: 2018 Travelers Championship)
- Recorded a total of 10 birdies in a round for the third time in his career (most recent: R4/2014 The American Express)
- The 62 falls two strokes shy of his career-low score on the PGA TOUR (most recent: R3/2009 Valero Texas Open)
- Has two top-10 finishes in 13 previous starts in the event: T8/2012 and T3/2014
- Comes off a missed cut at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii
- 47-year-old Cedar Rapids, Iowa native seeks a 13th career win on the PGA TOUR and first since the 2015 Open Championship

Alex Noren (T1/-10/LQ)

- Beginning on No. 10 at La Quinta, Sweden native reached 7-under through seven holes after a birdie-birdie-birdie-eagle-par-birdie-birdie start
- Offset a double-bogey six at No. 17 with additional birdies on five of his last six holes, good for a 10-under 62
- His 62 falls a stroke shy of his career-low score on the PGA TOUR (R1/2023 Butterfield Bermuda Championship)
- Missed just three fairways and three greens in regulation; needed 23 putts to complete his round
- Best finish in three previous starts at The American Express is T14 in his first start of 2020
- Three times a runner-up, remains in search of his first career win on the PGA TOUR in his 165th start this week

Additional Player Notes

- Making his fourth career start on the PGA TOUR, Philippines native **Rico Hoey** (T3) opened with a bogey-free 9-under 63 on the Nicklaus Tournament Course; having grown up in nearby Rancho Cucamonga, California, PGA WEST features a series of courses the 28-year-old grew up playing as a youth; comes off a missed cut at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii (71-72—+3)
- Coming off a T11 in last year's event, South African **Christiaan Bezuidenhout** (T3) missed just two greens in regulation en route to a 9-under 63 at La Quinta; the score falls one stroke shy of his career best, posted in round three of last year's The American Express
- In his bid for a fourth top-10 finish in his sixth start at The American Express, **Patrick Cantlay** (T5) birdied three of his last four holes at La Quinta to open with an 8-under 64; after a missed cut in his first start of this event in 2013, finished T9, 2nd, 9th and T26 in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively
- Playing on a sponsor invitation, the field's lone amateur, 20-year-old **Nick Dunlap** (T5) opened his fourth PGA TOUR event with an 8-under 64, University of Alabama standout is the reigning U.S. Amateur champion

- Seeking a second top-10 finish in The American Express (3rd/2020), reigning PGA TOUR Player of the Year and World No. 1 **Scottie Scheffler** (39) opens with a 5-under 67 at La Quinta
- Making his first start on the PGA TOUR since the 2022 U.S. Open, four-time PGA TOUR winner **Daniel Berger** (T54) opens with a 6-under 66 at Stadium Course; was No. 25 in the Official World Golf Ranking when he last competed and has since fallen to No. 664; Berger has been in rehabilitation for a back injury
- This season's first two winners, **Chris Kirk** (The Sentry) and **Grayson Murray** (Sony Open in Hawaii), shoot 4-under 68 (T54) at La Quinta and 2-under 70 (T98) on the Stadium Course, respectively

Aon Swing 5

- The American Express, the third event of the 2024 PGA TOUR Season and second Full-Field Event, marks the second opportunity for players to earn FedExCup points towards the Aon Swing 5
- The Aon Next 10 and Aon Swing 5 are eligibility pathways for players, not already qualified, to play their way into Signature Events via the FedExCup standings
- The top five players not otherwise exempt who earn the most FedExCup points during the Sony Open in Hawaii, The American Express and Farmers Insurance Open will qualify for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. The top five players not otherwise exempt who earn the most FedExCup points during those three events and the WM Phoenix Open, will qualify for The Genesis Invitational
- The Aon Next 10 for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational was determined through the FedExCup Fall standings