



2024 Zurich Classic of New Orleans
(19th of 36 events in the FedExCup Regular Season)

Avondale, Louisiana
TPC Louisiana

April 25-28, 2024
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425

Purse: \$8,900,000/\$1,286,050 to each winner
FedExCup points: 400 to each winner

First-Round Notes – Thursday, April 25, 2024

Weather: Mostly sunny. High of 81. Wind SE 10-15 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1
T1	Rory McIlroy/Shane Lowry	61 (-11)
T1	Ryan Brehm/Mark Hubbard	61 (-11)
T1	Ben Kohles/Patton Kizzire	61 (-11)
T1	Aaron Rai/David Lipsky	61 (-11)
T5	Three Teams	62 (-10)

Rory McIlroy/Shane Lowry (T1/-11)

- World No. 2 Rory McIlroy and fellow countryman Shane Lowry open with an 11-under 61 to share the lead with three other teams at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans; marks the first time with more than two teams sharing the lead after any round since the event went to a team format in 2017
- McIlroy is making his tournament debut, while Lowry is playing for the fifth time (best finish: 13th in 2022 with teammate Ian Poulter)
- McIlroy has 24 wins in 246 PGA TOUR starts, with his most recent coming at the 2023 Genesis Scottish Open
- Lowry has two wins in 173 starts (2015 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, 2019 Open Championship)
- Results with the 18-hole lead/co-lead:
 - McIlroy (3-for-22 – most recent: 2024 PLAYERS Championship/T19)
 - Lowry (0-for-3 – most recent: 2024 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard/3rd)

Ryan Brehm/Mark Hubbard (T1/-11)

- Playing together as a team for the second time, Ryan Brehm (two starts) and Mark Hubbard (six starts) each posted their best finish at the event as teammates in 2022 (T14)
- Brehm has one win (2022 Puerto Rico Open) in 129 starts
- Hubbard's T2 at the 2019 Texas Children's Houston Open is his best finish in 212 starts
- Results with the 18-hole lead/co-lead:
 - Brehm (0-for-1 – 2023 Valspar Championship/T65)
 - Hubbard (0-for-5 – most recent: 2022 Barracuda Championship/4th)

Ben Kohles/Patton Kizzire (T1/-11)

- Playing together as a team for the first time
- Kohles' best finish is T5 at the 2023 RSM Classic (66 starts); missed the cut in both Zurich Classic starts (2013, 2022)
- Kizzire has two wins in 231 starts (2017 World Wide Technology Championship, 2018 Sony Open in Hawaii); finished T5 in 2017 (with teammate Jason Dufner) for his best finish in five Zurich Classic starts
- Results with the 18-hole lead/co-lead:
 - Kohles (first attempt)
 - Kizzire (1-for-1; 2017 World Wide Technology Championship)

Aaron Rai/David Lipsky (T1/-11)

- Playing together as a team for the third time (T4/2022, T13/2023)
- Rai is in search of his first victory in his 79th start, with a T3 at the 2023 RBC Canadian Open his best finish
- Lipsky is seeking his first victory in his 94th start, with his best finishes (T4) coming at the 2022 Zurich Classic of New Orleans and 2023 Sony Open in Hawaii
- Results with the 18-hole lead/co-lead:
 - Rai (0-for-3; most recent – 2023 RBC Canadian Open/T3)
 - Lipsky (0-for-1; 2022 Valspar Championship/T68)

Additional Team Notes

- **Patrick Cantlay/Xander Schauffele** (T29/-7) record a first-round 7-under 65; remain the only team to carry the first-round lead/co-lead on to victory at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, winning in wire-to-wire fashion in 2022
- Seeking to become the first team to successfully defend their title, **Nick Hardy/Davis Riley** (T44/-6) open with a 6-under 66
- First-round results for three sets of brothers competing as teams in this year's event: **Matt/Alex Fitzpatrick** (T44/-6), **Nicolai/Rasmus Højgaard** (T67/-4), **Parker/Pierceson Coody** (T67/-4)
- Zurich golf ambassadors R1 results: **Sahith Theegala**/Will Zalatoris (T29/-7), **Collin Morikawa**/Kurt Kitayama (T44/-6), **Billy Horschel**/Tyson Alexander (T60/-5)
- **Horschel/Alexander** (T60/-5) post a 5-under 67; Horschel, currently holding the top spot in the Aon Swing 5, is the only player to win the event in both the individual (2013) and team format (w/Scott Piercy in 2018)
- **Eric Cole** (T74/-3) aced the par-3 14th hole from 207 yards for the eighth hole-in-one at the Zurich Classic since it became a team event in 2017; marks the third on that hole (Nick Watney/2021/R2, Robert MacIntyre/2022/R1); teammate of **Russ Cochran**, who became the 71st player with 600 or more starts on the PGA TOUR on Thursday

Format

- This is the seventh year the Zurich Classic of New Orleans is being played in a two-man team format, which was introduced in 2017 (canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19)
- Teams will play Four-Ball in the first and third rounds, and Foursomes (alternate shot) in the second and final rounds
- Each player on the winning team will receive 400 FedExCup points, \$1,286,050, a two-year exemption on the PGA TOUR (through 2026) and entry into the three remaining Signature Events