



# 2024 Simmons Bank Championship presented by Stephens

## First-Round Notes

**Friday, October 25, 2024**

Pleasant Valley Country Club | Little Rock, Arkansas

27th of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2024 Season

2nd of 3 events in the 2024 Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs



### Media Contacts:

Connor Stange, [connorstange@pgatourhq.com](mailto:connorstange@pgatourhq.com), 402-560-3758

Chris King, [chrisking@pgatourhq.com](mailto:chrisking@pgatourhq.com), 720-470-2852

- **Course Setup:** Par 72 / 7,089 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average:** 70.018
- **Weather:** Partly cloudy with temps in the mid-80s and winds SW at 5-10 mph
- **Interviews:** [Transcripts](#) | [Content Hub](#)
- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#)
- [PGATOURMedia.com](#)
- [Charles Schwab Cup Standings](#)

	Player	To Par	Scores	Schwab Cup Standings Start	Projected
1	Steven Alker	-10	31-31 – 62	2nd	1st
2	Vijay Singh	-8	32-32 – 64	34th	15th
T3	Jason Caron	-7	31-34 – 65	53rd	35th
T3	Retief Goosen	-7	32-33 – 65	21st	12th
T3	Thomas Bjørn	-7	32-33 – 65	22nd	14th

### Things to Know

- Charles Schwab No. 2 **Steven Alker** opened with bogey-free 62 to take a two-stroke lead over World Golf Hall of Fame member **Vijay Singh** after the first round of the Simmons Bank Championship presented by Stephens.

### Steven Alker, 31-31 – 62 (-10)

*Charles Schwab Cup standings – Start: 2nd / Projected: 1st*

- Matched his low 18-hole score on PGA TOUR Champions (231st round)
  - Previous instance: 2022 Rapiscan Systems Classic (2nd Round)
- Matched the second-lowest round of the 2024 season by any player on PGA TOUR Champions
  - Lowest 18-hole score by any player in 2024: 61 (Ken Tanigawa, Rogers Charity Classic, 2nd Round)
- This is his 12th time leading/co-leading after the first round on PGA TOUR Champions
  - Is 4-for-11 converting those into victories
- The 53-year-old seeks his ninth win on PGA TOUR Champions (74th start)
  - Last win: 2024 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai
- With a win on Sunday, he would become the sixth multi-time winner this season on PGA TOUR Champions
- Seeks his second win of the 2024 season (21st start)
  - Has 15 top-10 finishes this season
  - Entered the week No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings and is projected to take the lead
- Was one of four bogey-free rounds on Friday along with Jason Caron, Miguel Angel Jimenez and K.J. Choi
- In three previous appearances in the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, his final standing by season: 18th (2020-21), 1st (2022), 2nd (2023)

### Vijay Singh, 32-32 – 64 (-8)

*Charles Schwab Cup standings – Start: 34th / Projected: 15th*



- Matched his low 18-hole score of the 2024 season (62nd round)
  - Previous instances: Principal Charity Classic (1st Round); Rogers Charity Classic (Final Round)
- The 61-year-old seeks his sixth win on PGA TOUR Champions (156th start)
  - Last win: 2023 Ally Challenge
- Making his 21st start of the 2024 season, he has five top-10 finishes
  - Best finish of 2024: T3 (PURE Insurance Championship)
- The World Golf Hall of Fame member has 34 PGA TOUR wins, 14th-most all time

**Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs Implications**

After Sunday’s final round, the Top 36 players in the standings will qualify for the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. After the first round of the Simmons Bank Championship, **Jason Caron** is projected to move into the Top 36.

Player		To Par	Schwab Cup Standings	
			Start	Projected
T3	Jason Caron	-7	53rd	35th – IN
T49	Scott Dunlap	+3	36th	40th – OUT

**Other Notes**

- Club professional (Mill River Club in New York) **Jason Caron** opened with bogey-free 65 and sits T3. Starting the week No. 53 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, he is projected to move to No. 35th.
- World Golf Hall of Fame **Retief Goosen** made two eagles en route to 7-under 65 and sits T2. The 55-year-old seeks his second win of the 2024 season (20th start).
  - Previous win: The Galleri Classic (March 29-31)
- **Thomas Bjørn** (T2) played his final three holes in 4-under en route to an opening 65. The 53-year-old seeks his first win on PGA TOUR Champions (23rd start).
  - Best finish: 2nd (2024 Trophy Hassan II)
- Koreans **K.J. Choi** and **Y.E. Yang**, who entered the week Nos. 5 and 7 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings respectively, are T6 at 6-under along with **Miguel Ángel Jiménez**.
- Charles Schwab Cup leader **Ernie Els** birdied his last three holes to shoot 3-under 69 and sits T16.
- Arkansas native **Ken Duke** (T33) opened with even-par 72. In 1987, he won the Arkansas men’s golf state championship individual title, which was held at Pleasant Valley Country Club.