



## 2025 Zurich Classic of New Orleans

(19<sup>th</sup> of 36 events in the FedExCup Regular Season)

Avondale, Louisiana  
TPC Louisiana

April 24-27, 2025  
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425

Purse: \$9,200,000/\$1,329,400 to each winner  
FedExCup points: 400 to each winner

### Third-Round Notes – Saturday, April 26, 2025

**Weather:** Partly cloudy morning with afternoon showers. High of 84. Wind ESE 4-12 mph.

**Suspension:** Play was suspended due to inclement weather at 2:15 p.m. CT and resumed at 3:45 p.m., a delay of 1 hour, 30 minutes.

### Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Team	R1	R2	R3	Total
1	Andrew Novak/Ben Griffin	62	66	61	189 (-27)
T2	Jake Knapp/Frankie Capan III	63	69	60	192 (-24)
T2	Ryo Hisatsune/Takumi Kanaya	62	69	61	192 (-24)
T4	Nicolai Højgaard/Rasmus Højgaard	59	70	64	193 (-23)
T4	Isaiah Salinda/Kevin Velo	58	69	66	193 (-23)

### Andrew Novak/Ben Griffin (1<sup>st</sup>/-27)

- Post third-round 61 in Four-ball after opening with a 6-under 30 and closing with a 5-under 31
- A win would mark the first career PGA TOUR victory for each player; Novak is making his 100<sup>th</sup> career start on TOUR this week, while Griffin is making his 90<sup>th</sup> start
- Results with 54-hole lead/co-lead:
  - Novak: 0-for-1 (2024 Butterfield Bermuda Championship/2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Griffin: 0-for-2 (2023 Sanderson Farms Championship/T2, 2022 Butterfield Bermuda Championship/T3)
- Each player has two career runner-up finishes on TOUR:
  - Novak: 2025 RBC Heritage (P2) and 2024 Butterfield Bermuda Championship (2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Griffin: 2024 RBC Canadian Open (2<sup>nd</sup>) and 2023 Sanderson Farms Championship (P2)
- Both players own one PGA TOUR-sanctioned title:
  - Novak: 2020 LECOM Suncoast Classic (Korn Ferry Tour)
  - Griffin: 2018 Staal Foundation Open (PGA TOUR Canada)
- Players to win their first career PGA TOUR title at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans since 2017: Cameron Smith (2017 with Jonas Blixt), Nick Hardy/Davis Riley (2023)
- Novak is coming off a playoff loss to Justin Thomas at last week's RBC Heritage, one of three top-three finishes in 13 starts this season; others: 3<sup>rd</sup>/Farmers Insurance Open, T3/Valero Texas Open
- The last player to lose in a playoff and win the following week on TOUR: Patrick Cantlay/2022 RBC Heritage, 2022 Zurich Classic of New Orleans
- Griffin owns three top-10s in 13 starts this season: T4/Mexico Open at VidantaWorld, T4/Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, T7/The American Express
- With a win, Novak is projected to move from No. 15 to No. 6 in the FedExCup standings and Griffin is projected to move from No. 47 to No. 21

### Additional Team Notes

- **Jake Knapp/Frankie Capan III** (T2/-24), each making their tournament debut, post the low round of the day with a 12-under 60 in Four-ball; Capan, in his rookie season, has one top-25 finish in 15 starts (T12/The American Express), while Knapp is bidding for his second career victory (2024 Mexico Open at VidantaWorld) in his 40<sup>th</sup> career start
- **Ryo Hisatsune/Takumi Kanaya** (T2/-24) open with a 7-under 29 on the front and closed with 4-under 32; Hisatsune has three top-10 finishes this season (best: T4/Valspar Championship) and Kanaya seeks his first top-10 of the year
- In their second consecutive year as partners, Denmark twins **Nicolai/Rasmus Højgaard** (T4/-23) post 64 in Four-ball and sit four shots back entering the final round
- PGA TOUR rookies **Isaiah Salinda/Kevin Velo** (T4/-23), who held the 18- and 36-hole lead, post 66 in Four-ball
- Defending champions **Rory McIlroy/Shane Lowry** (T6/-22) card two eagles (Nos. 7 and 18) en route to a 61 in Four-ball; four total eagles through three rounds is the most by any team this week; bidding to become the first team to successfully defend their title at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans since the team format was introduced in 2017

- With a win, McIlroy would join Gene Sarazen (1935 Massachusetts Open) as the only players to win in their first start after completing the Career Grand Slam
- After making the 36-hole cut on the number, **Taylor Dickson/Trace Crowe** (T9/-21) and **Karl Vilips/Michael Thorbjornsen** (T9/-21) card matching 11-under 61s
- Since the team format was introduced in 2017, three of the seven winning teams held the 54-hole lead/co-lead (2022/Patrick Cantlay/Xander Schauffele, 2019/Ryan Palmer/Jon Rahm, 2017/Jonas Blixt/Cameron Smith)
- The largest final-round comeback since 2017 is three strokes (2023/Nick Hardy/Davis Riley, 2018/Billy Horschel/Scott Piercy)

#### **Format**

- This is the eighth year the Zurich Classic of New Orleans will be played in a two-man team format, which was introduced in 2017 (canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19)
- Teams 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, \$1,329,400, a two-year exemption on the PGA TOUR (through 2027) and entry into the three remaining Signature Events