



2025 American Family Insurance Championship

First-Round Notes

Friday, June 6, 2025

TPC Wisconsin | Madison, Wisconsin

13th of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2025 Season

Media Contact:

Julie Nelson, julienelson@pgatourhq.com, 904-815-9029

- **Course Setup:** Par 71 / 7,031 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average:** 64.92
- **Weather:** Mostly cloudy. High of 76. Winds NE at 6-12 mph.
- **Interviews:** [Transcripts](#) | [Content Hub](#)
- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#)
- PGATOURMedia.com

Pos.	Team	Score
1	Thomas Bjørn/Darren Clarke	59 (-12)
2	Richard Green/Mark Hensby	61 (-10)
T3	Thongchai Jaidee/Brendan Jones	62 (-9)
T3	Ernie Els/Tim Herron	62 (-9)

Format

- This is the first year the American Family Insurance Championship will be played in a two-man team format. Teams play best ball in Rds. 1 and 3, and scramble in Rd. 2. Competing for a \$3 million purse, the winning team will share \$600,000 (\$300,000 per player).

Things to Know

- Thomas Bjørn and Darren Clarke recorded 12 birdies against six pars to take the opening-round lead at the American Family Insurance Championship. The duo posted two separate four-hole birdie streaks during the round, on Nos. 4-7 and 15-18. They will enter the second round with a two-shot lead over the team of Richard Green and Mark Hensby as the event ushers in a new team format era.

Thomas Bjørn/Darren Clarke (1st/-12)

- Bjørn is making his 11th start of the season, where he has recorded three top-10 finishes, including a T2 at the Senior PGA Championship; seeks the first win of his PGA TOUR Champions career in his 35th start.
- Clarke is making his 11th start of the season, where he has notched two top-10 finishes, including a solo-third at the Chubb Classic; has recorded four wins in his Champions Tour career, with the last coming at the 2022 Senior Open Championship.
- Bjørn and Clarke represented Team Europe together in the 1997 and 2002 Ryder Cups, posting a 1-2-0 record as partners in the 2002 playing; Bjørn owns a 2-1-1 all-time Four-ball record in the Ryder Cup, while Clarke's is 6-2-1.

Richard Green/Mark Hensby (2nd/-10)

- Green and Hensby birdied the final three holes to record 10 birdies on Friday for a first-round 61; recorded two of their eight pars on par-5s (Nos. 2 and 11).
- Green is making his 11th start of the 2025 season, where he has recorded three top-10 finishes, highlighted by a T4 at the Chubb Classic; looking for his first Champions Tour win in his 66th career start; has posted six runner-up finishes, including five in the 2024 season alone.
- Hensby, who won the 2023 Invited Celebrity Classic, is making his 12th start of the season after posting his first top-10 at last week's Principal Charity Classic (T8); represented Australia on the International Team in the 2005

Presidents Cup, posting a 1-2-1 record on the week.

Thongchai Jaidee/Brendan Jones (T3/-9)

- Jaidee and Jones recorded seven birdies in the opening round, with Jaidee adding an eagle on the par-5 11th to grab the early clubhouse lead at 9-under.
- Jaidee, who won the 2022 American Family Insurance Championship, is making his 11th start of 2025 with a season-best T4 at the Insperity Invitational; seeks to join Jerry Kelly (2019, 2021) as the only multiple winner in tournament history; represented the International Team in the 2015 Presidents Cup, compiling a 1-1-1 record.
- Jones, who is making his tournament debut, owns one top-25 this season – a T19 at the Hoag Classic; finished T3 at the 2025 PGA TOUR Champions Qualifying Tournament to secure his card for the 2025 season.

Ernie Els/Tim Herron (T3/-9)

- Els and Herron reached 8-under through 11 holes, including an Els eagle on the par-5 seventh, before playing their final seven holes in 1-under for a 62.
- Defending champion and World Golf Hall of Fame member Els is making his 12th start of the 2025 season, where he owns five top-5 finishes, including a win at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai; represented his native South Africa eight times (1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013) in the Presidents Cup, compiling 20-18-2 all-time record, including an 8-7-1 mark in Four-ball play.
- Herron is making his eighth start of the season and still in search of his first top-10; in his 102nd Champions Tour start, looks to improve on his career-best T2 finish at the 2021 Boeing Classic.

Additional Team Notes

- Tournament host Steve Stricker and partner Mario Tiziani posted a 7-under 64 to sit T9 through one round of play; Stricker won the 2023 American Family Insurance Championship and is in search of his first Champions Tour title since the 2024 Sanford International.
- Madison resident and two-time champion Jerry Kelly partnered with Justin Leonard to post a 6-under 65 (T18) in Friday's opening round; the two were teammates in the 2003 Presidents Cup but were not paired together as partners during any of the matches.
- Ángel Cabrera recorded a double eagle on No. 7 with a 4-iron from 245 yards, marking the third albatross on the Champions Tour this season (Kris Blanks/Rd. 1/No. 15/Chubb Classic; Stephen Ames/Rd. 3/No. 18/Mitsubishi Electric Classic), as well as his first in any PGA TOUR-sanctioned event; playing alongside Ricardo Gonzalez, Cabrera is looking to capture his fourth win of the 2025 season; the duo opened with a 7-under 64 (T9).