



2026 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
(8th of 34 FedExCup Regular Season events)

Orlando, Florida
Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge

March 5-8, 2026
Par/Yards: 36-36 – 72/7,466

FedExCup points: 700 (winner)
Purse: \$20 million/\$4 million

First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 5, 2026

Weather: Partly cloudy. High of 86. Wind ESE 4-15 mph, gusting to 20 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	Total
1	Daniel Berger	63 (-9)
T2	Collin Morikawa	66 (-6)
T2	Ludvig Åberg	66 (-6)
T4	Jhonattan Vegas	67 (-5)
T4	Cameron Young	67 (-5)

Daniel Berger (1st/-9)

- Bogey-free 63 ties his second-lowest round on TOUR (best: 62, 2016 Travelers Championship/R3)
- One stroke shy of tying the tournament course record of 62 (four times, most recent: Adam Scott, 2014/R1)
- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Tee to Green (5.088) and ranks second in Strokes Gained: Putting (3.718)
- Marks his second 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (2014 World Wide Technology Championship, finished T51)
- Fourth career start in the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard (T13/2015, MC/2019, T15/2025)
- In six starts this season, owns five made cuts and one top-10 finish (T6/Sony Open in Hawaii)
- Entered the week No. 45 in the FedExCup standings
- PGA TOUR wins (4): 2016 FedEx St. Jude Classic, 2017 FedEx St. Jude Classic, 2020 Charles Schwab Challenge, 2021 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am

Miscellaneous Notes

- The Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard features a 72-player field and includes a 36-hole cut (top 50 and ties, as well as players within 10 shots of the lead)
- **Collin Morikawa** (T2/-6) plays his final three holes in 4-under (eagle-birdie-birdie) and records a 66, his lowest score in 17 career rounds in the event (previous best: 67, 2025/R3); owns two top-10 finishes in five prior starts in the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard (T9/2020, 2nd/2025)
- **Ludvig Åberg** (T2/-6) opens with a 66, his best first-round score in five starts this season; finished inside the top 25 in each of his three prior starts in the event (T24/2023, T25/2024, T22/2025)
- **Xander Schauffele** (T6/-4) records his first bogey-free round in 17 career rounds at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge
- **Scottie Scheffler** (T18/-2), winner of the 2022 and 2024 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, seeks to join Tiger Woods (eight wins) as the only players with at least three wins in the event; has not finished worse than T15 in five prior starts in the event
- Coming off a win at last week's Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, **Nico Echavarria** (T33/E) opens with a 6-under 30 on the front nine at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge, followed by a 6-over 42 on the back
- **Sungjae Im** (T66/+4) and **Justin Thomas** (T70/+7) are making their first starts on TOUR this season
- Notable first-round scores:
 - Defending champion **Russell Henley** (T18/-2)
 - University of Texas sophomore **Daniel Bennett** (T26/-1)
 - 29-time PGA TOUR winner **Rory McIlroy** (T33/E)
 - FedExCup leader **Jacob Bridgeman** (T61/+3)
- **Jake Knapp** WD prior to the first round and replaced by **Haotong Li** (T68/+5)