



**2026 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches**  
*(7<sup>th</sup> of 34 FedExCup Regular Season events)*

**Palm Beach Gardens, Florida**  
**PGA National Resort (The Champion Course)**

**February 26 – March 1, 2026**  
**Par/Yards: 35-36—71/7,223**

**FedExCup points: 500 (winner)**  
**Purse: \$9.6 million (\$1,728,000/winner)**

**Second-Round Notes – Friday, February 27, 2026**

**Weather:** Partly cloudy. High of 84. Wind SSE 4-15 mph, gusting to 20 mph.

**36-hole cut:** 67 players at even-par from a field of 123 professionals.

**Second-Round Leaderboard**

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	Total
1	Austin Smotherman	62	69	131 (-11)
2	Taylor Moore	67	67	134 (-8)
T3	A.J. Ewart	71	64	135 (-7)
T3	Nico Echavarria	63	72	135 (-7)
5	Joel Dahmen	68	68	136 (-6)

**Austin Smotherman (1<sup>st</sup>/-11)**

- Clinches his first 36-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR in his 82<sup>nd</sup> career start
- Previous career-best 36-hole position: T2, 2022 Butterfield Bermuda Championship (finished T23)
- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Putting (4.888); has recorded 246' 7" of made putts through 36 holes
- Leads all players with 14 total birdies this week; next best: 11, Sudarshan Yellamaraju (T27/-2)
- Seeks to become the second wire-to-wire winner this season (Justin Rose, Farmers Insurance Open)
- 131 ties his second-lowest 36-hole score on TOUR (best: 129, 2022 Butterfield Bermuda Championship)
- Missed the cut in lone previous appearance at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches (2022)
- Entered the week No. 67 in the FedExCup standings
- In four starts this season, recorded three missed cuts and one top-10 (T8/The American Express)
- This year marks his fourth season as a PGA TOUR member and first since 2024 (finished 169<sup>th</sup> in FedExCup Fall standings)
- Finished No. 3 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List to earn 2026 PGA TOUR membership
  - In 24 Korn Ferry Tour starts last year, recorded seven top-10 finishes, including two wins
- In 81 career starts on TOUR, owns four top-10 finishes (best: T5, 2023 VidantaWorld Mexico Open)
- Turned professional in 2016 after playing four seasons collegiately at Southern Methodist University (2012-16)
- 31-year-old native of Loomis, California

**Taylor Moore (2<sup>nd</sup>/-8)**

- Enters the weekend three shots back after carding back-to-back 67s
- In 120 career PGA TOUR starts, owns 12 top-10 finishes and one win (2023 Valspar Championship)
- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Around the Green (4.932) and ranks second in Strokes Gained: Tee to Green (6.778)
- In his third start of the season, seeks his first top-25 finish (T49/Farmers Insurance Open, T56/The American Express)
- Making his third appearance in the Cognizant Classic (2022/MC, 2025/T42)

**Miscellaneous Notes**

- Rookie **A.J. Ewart** (T3/-7) cards the low round of the day with a 7-under 64, marking a new career low in his 20<sup>th</sup> round on TOUR (previous: 65, 2026 The American Express/R2); 26-year-old Canadian secured PGA TOUR membership for the first time by earning medalist honors at Final Stage of 2025 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry
- Entering the day one shot off the lead, **Nico Echavarria** (T3/-7) records two birdies against three bogeys for a second-round 72; owns one top-25 finish in three prior starts in the Cognizant Classic (2024/T21); two-time PGA TOUR winner with titles at the 2023 Puerto Rico Open and 2024 Baycurrent Classic

- **Jimmy Stanger** (T6/-5) eagled the par-4 sixth and par-4 14<sup>th</sup>, marking his first time with multiple eagles in the same round on TOUR (58<sup>th</sup> career round); holed out from 144 yards on No. 6 and 151 yards on No. 14
- Following a first-round 74, nine-time PGA TOUR winner **Brooks Koepka** (T27/-2) posts a 5-under 66, his lowest score in eight rounds on TOUR this season (previous: 68, Farmers Insurance Open/R2)
- **Ryan Gerard** (T27/-2), the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 26 in the Official World Golf Ranking, follows his first-round 2-over 73 with a bogey-free 67
  - **Max Homa** (T18/-3) and **Mackenzie Hughes** (T27/-2) join Gerard as the only three players bogey free on Friday
- Defending champion **Joe Highsmith** (T54/E) makes the cut on the number for the second consecutive year at the Cognizant Classic; last year, became the first player since 2016 to win on TOUR after making the cut on the number (Brandt Snedeker/2016 Farmers Insurance Open) and the sixth player to accomplish the feat since 2003
- **Keita Nakajima** WD (back) prior to his second round