



2026 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches
(7th 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)

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, February 28, 2026

Weather: Mostly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms. High of 82. Wind SSE 7-14 mph.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	Total
T1	Shane Lowry	70	67	63	200 (-13)
T1	Austin Smotherman	62	69	69	200 (-13)
T3	Nico Echavarria	63	72	66	201 (-12)
T3	Taylor Moore	67	67	67	201 (-12)
5	Jimmy Stanger	69	68	65	202 (-11)

Shane Lowry (T1/-13)

- Marks sixth 54-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR in his 208th career start (T2/2016 U.S. Open; Won/2019 Open Championship; T4/2024 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches; 3rd/2024 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard; T2/2025 Truist Championship)
- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Approach The Green (9.090)
- Bogey-free 63 marks lowest score in 35 career rounds in the event (previous: 65/2023/R3)
- Finished T11 or better each of the last four years (2nd/2022; T5/2023; T4/2024; T11/2025)
- Seeks fourth career TOUR victory and first since 2024 Zurich Classic of New Orleans with playing partner Rory McIlroy (2019 Open Championship, 2015 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational)
- Opened his season with back-to-back top-25 finishes (T8/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am; T24/The Genesis Invitational)
- Entered the week No. 32 in the FedExCup standings

Austin Smotherman (T1/-13)

- Holds his first 54-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR in his 82nd career start
- Previous career-best 54-hole position: 6th/2023 VidantaWorld Mexico Open (finished T5)
- Leads all players with 19 total birdies this week; next best: 18/Shane Lowry (T1/-13)
- 200 marks his second-lowest 54-hole score on TOUR (best: 199/2026 The American Express)
- 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 169th 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

Miscellaneous

- **Nico Echavarria** (T3/-12) records bogey-free 5-under 66 to sit one shot behind the co-leaders; owns one top-25 in three prior starts at the Cognizant Classic (T21/2024); two time PGA TOUR winner with titles at the 2023 Puerto Rico Open and 2024 Baycurrent Classic
- In his third appearance at the Cognizant Classic, **Taylor Moore** (T3/-12) sits one shot back after carding his third consecutive 4-under 67; owns 12 top-10 finishes and one victory in 120 career TOUR starts (2023 Valspar Championship)

- In second start at the event, **Jimmy Stanger** (5th/-11) records seven birdies against one bogey for a third-round 65 to tie his career-low round on TOUR (three times, most recent: 2024 Puerto Rico Open/R2); seeks first career TOUR victory in his 22nd career start (best finish: T3/2024 Puerto Rico Open)
- **Patton Kizzire** (T9/-8) made the cut on the number Friday with a birdie on his final hole of the second round; cards a third-round 63 to tie Shane Lowry for low-round of the day; last year, Joe Highsmith (67th/+5) made the cut on the number and went on to win this event
- University of Florida alum **Ricky Castillo** (T6/-10) cards six birdies in a seven-hole stretch (Nos. 8-11, 13-14) en route to a third-round 64, which ties a season low for the 25-year-old in his 15th round on TOUR this year (The American Express/R3)

Aon Swing 5 and Aon Next 10

- The Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches marks the final opportunity for players to earn FedExCup points towards the Aon Swing 5 and Aon Next 10 with entry into the next Signature Event: Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
- The top five players, not otherwise exempt, who earn the most FedExCup points during the Sony Open in Hawaii, The American Express, Farmers Insurance Open, WM Phoenix Open and Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches will qualify for the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard

Aon Swing 5 standings (thru 54 holes at Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches):

Rank	Player	Position	Points
1	Patrick Rodgers	-	234.492
2	Nicolai Højgaard	T23	194.856
3	Joel Dahmen	8th	185.5
4	Andrew Putnam	MC	183.75
5	Taylor Moore	T3	175.2

- **Aon Next 10:** The Aon Next 10 for the Arnold Palmer Invitational will be determined by top ten FedExCup points earners, not already exempt, through the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches

Aon Next 10 standings (thru 54 holes at Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches):

Rank	Player	Position	Points
1	Jake Knapp	-	680
2	Austin Smotherman	T1	575
3	Min Woo Lee	-	522
4	Pierceson Coody	-	458.563
5	Ryo Hisatsune	-	450.75
6	Adam Scott	-	395.625
7	Nico Echavarria	T3	310
8	Aldrich Potgieter	-	307.875
9	Matt McCarty	-	282.5
10	Sahith Theegala	-	280.208