



2026 Texas Children's Houston Open
 (12th of 34 FedExCup Regular Season events)

Houston, Texas
 Memorial Park Golf Course

March 26-29, 2026
 Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,475

FedExCup points: 500 (winner)
 Purse: \$9,900,000 (\$1,782,000/winner)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, March 26, 2026

Weather: Partly cloudy. High of 85. Wind S 10-15 mph, with gusts to 20 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1
1	Paul Waring	63 (-7)
2	Gary Woodland	64 (-6)
T3	Sam Burns	65 (-5)
T3	Michael Brennan	65 (-5)
T3	Tom Hoge	65 (-5)

Paul Waring (1st/-7)

- Playing on a Major Medical Extension, posts a bogey-free, career-low 7-under 63; previously shot 65 twice on TOUR, most recently during the first round of the 2025 RBC Canadian Open
- Round included a career-best 161' 10" of putts made (previous best: 136' 9" at the 2025 Genesis Scottish Open/R1)
- Leads the field in Strokes Gained: Putting (5.342) and T1 in Scrambling (4/4)
- Holds the lead/co-lead for the first time after any round on TOUR
- Making his second start at Texas Children's Houston Open (MC/2025; 76-72)
- 41-year-old is seeking to become the third Englishman to win the event: Paul Casey (2009), Ian Poulter (2018)
- Missed the cut in all three starts this season, most recently last week at the Valspar Championship (75-70)
- Has one top-10 finish in 26 PGA TOUR starts (2019 WGC-HSBC Champions/T8)

Miscellaneous notes

- **Gary Woodland** (2nd/-6) equals the best opening-round score of his career with a 64 (seventh occasion; most recent at the 2024 Sanderson Farms Championship); bidding to become the first player to finish runner-up and then win the same tournament the next season since Robert MacIntyre (2023, 2024 Genesis Scottish Open)
- **Sam Burns** (T3/-5) posts a 5-under 65 in his fifth start at the Texas Children's Houston Open; back-to-back T7 finishes at Memorial Park Golf Course in 2020 and 2021
- Houston native and University of Texas alum **Cole Hammer** (T11/-3) aces the par-3 15th hole with a 9-iron from 136 yards, marking his first ace on TOUR; it is the first hole-in-one recorded on No. 15 since the event moved to Memorial Park Golf Course in 2020; playing this week on a Sponsor Exemption
- Defending champion **Min Woo Lee** (T31/-2) opens with a 2-under 68; seeks to become the second player to successfully defend a Texas Children's Houston Open title (Vijay Singh/2005/GC of Houston)
- **Chris Gotterup** (T31/-2) posts a 2-under 68, highlighted by a career-long 72-foot birdie on the par-4 18th hole, marking the longest made putt on any hole at the Texas Children's Houston Open
- Three of the four past Texas Children's Houston Open champions in the field sit T11 or better: **Stephan Jaeger** (T6/-4), **Adam Scott** (T11/-3), **Tony Finau** (T11/-3), **Min Woo Lee** (T31/-2)
- The top 50 players in the Official World Golf Ranking through the Texas Children's Houston Open will qualify for the Masters Tournament if not already exempt; players in the field between Nos. 40-65 in the OWGR who have not qualified for the Masters and their opening-round scores:
 - No. 42 **Jake Knapp** (T59/-1)
 - No. 47 **Nicolai Højgaard** (T31/-2)
 - No. 51 **Pierceson Coody** (T76/Even)
 - No. 56 **Michael Thorbjornsen** (T31/-2)
 - No. 61 **Rickie Fowler** (T11/-3)
 - No. 65 **Jordan Smith** (T59/-1)
- **Aaron Rai** (neck injury) WD prior to the first round and was replaced by **Taylor Moore** (T11/-3)