



2026 American Express
(2nd of 34 FedExCup Regular Season events)

La Quinta, California	January 22-25, 2026	FedExCup points: 500 (winner)
PGA West Pete Dye Stadium Course	Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,210	Purse: \$9,200,000/\$1,656,000
PGA West Nicklaus Tournament Course	Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,147	
La Quinta Country Club	Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,060	

First-Round Notes – 2026 The American Express

Weather: Mostly cloudy. High of 72. Wind NE 3-8 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	Total
T1	Min Woo Lee	62 (-10) NT
	Pierceson Coody	62 (-10) NT
T3	Vince Whaley	63 (-9) NT
	Si Woo Kim	63 (-9) NT
	Scottie Scheffler	63 (-9) LQ
	S.H. Kim	63 (-9) LQ
	Robert MacIntyre	63 (-9) NT
	Matt McCarty	63 (-9) LQ
	Jason Day	63 (-9) SC
	Patrick Cantlay	63 (-9) NT
	Ben Griffin	63 (-9) NT

Min Woo Lee (T1/-10)

- Sets a career-best 18-hole score with a 10-under 62 on the Nicklaus Tournament Course in his 69th career start
 - Previous best: 63, two times, R1/2025 Rocket Classic/finished T13, R3/2025 Texas Children's Houston Open/Won
- Holds first career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (previous best 18-hole position: T3/2025 Rocket Classic/finished T13)
- Making his first start of the 2026 season and second career start in The American Express (T21/2024)
- Three-time DP World Tour winner earned his first PGA TOUR title last season at the Texas Children's Houston Open
- Last season, finished No. 59 in the 2025 FedExCup Fall standings after recording two top-10s in 19 starts

Pierceson Coody (T1/-10)

- In his 55th PGA TOUR start, opens with a bogey-free 62, the second-lowest 18-hole score of his career
 - Best 18-hole score: 61, R1/2024 ISCO Championship/finished T2
- Recorded a back-nine 29 that included seven consecutive birdies on Nos. 11-17, setting a career-best birdie streak on TOUR
- Marks second career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (other: 2024 ISCO Championship/finished T2)
- Finished T13 at last week's Sony Open in Hawaii
- In 17 starts last season, recorded two top-10s and finished No. 110 in the 2025 FedExCup Fall standings
- Secured 2026 PGA TOUR status by finishing No. 12 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List

Additional player notes

- In his first start of the season, World No. 1 **Scottie Scheffler** (T3/-9) opens with a bogey-free 63 at La Quinta Country Club, his lowest 18-hole score in 19 career rounds played in The American Express
- 2021 American Express winner **Si Woo Kim** (T3/-9) cards a bogey-free 63 at the Nicklaus Tournament Course; owns three finishes of T11 or better in eight career starts in The American Express (T9/2016, Won/2021, T11/2022)
- Nine players are tied one shot off the lead at 9-under, including two players seeking their first PGA TOUR title: **Vince Whaley** (T3/-9) and **S.H. Kim** (T3/-9)

- **Ben Griffin** (T3/-9) marks his seventh consecutive start sitting inside the top eight on the leaderboard following the first round; the last event he played where he was outside the top eight after 18 holes was the 2025 Wyndham Championship
- 13-time PGA TOUR winner **Jason Day** (T3/-9) records the low round of the day on the Stadium Course with a 9-under 63, his lowest 18-hole score in 17 rounds at The American Express; lowest score on the Stadium Course since Keith Mitchell's 62 in the final round of 2024
- **Patrick Cantlay** (T3/-9) records 10 birdies against one bogey on the Nicklaus Course; in seven career starts in The American Express, owns four top-10 finishes (T9/2019, 2nd/2021, 9th/2022, T5/2025)
- **Will Zalatoris** (T20/-7) cards a 65 at La Quinta CC, including eight birdies, in his first PGA TOUR start since undergoing back surgery in May 2025
- Defending champion **Sepp Straka** (T131/E) records three birdies against one bogey and one double bogey at La Quinta CC
- Scoring average by course: Stadium Course (70.69), Nicklaus Course (66.75), La Quinta CC (67.43)