



2026 Zurich Classic of New Orleans
(16th of 34 FedExCup Regular Season events)

Avondale, Louisiana
TPC Louisiana

April 23-26, 2026
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425

FedExCup Points: 400 to each winner
Purse: \$9.5 million/\$1,372,750 to each winner

First-Round Notes – Thursday, April 23, 2026

Weather: Partly Cloudy. Wind SE 8-14 mph, with gusts up to 22 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Team	R1
1	Alex Smalley/Hayden Springer	58 (-14)
2	Davis Thompson/Austin Eckroat	59 (-13)
T3	Sam Stevens/Zach Bauchou	60 (-12)
T3	Eric Cole/Hank Lebioda	60 (-12)
T3	Nick Dunlap/Gordon Sargent	60 (-12)

Alex Smalley/Hayden Springer (1st/-14)

- 58 equals the 18-hole Zurich Classic of New Orleans record in Four-ball (other: Isaiah Salinda and Kevin Velo/2025/R1)
- Round highlighted by birdie-eagle-birdie start for Smalley and four consecutive birdies to close the round for Springer
- 18-hole lead/co-lead notes:
 - Smalley (first lead/co-lead after any round on TOUR)
 - Springer (0-for-2— 2024 John Deere Classic/T7, 2024 Butterfield Bermuda Championship/T37)
 - Patrick Cantlay/Xander Schauffele (2022) and Rory McIlroy/Shane Lowry (2024) are the only teams to convert 18-hole lead/co-lead to victory
- First-time pairing for Smalley and Springer at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans; Smalley is making his fourth tournament appearance (MC/2022, MC/2024, MC/2025), while Springer is making his third (MC/2024, T18/2025)
- Smalley is making his 11th start on TOUR this season, highlighted by four top-25 finishes (best: T14/Valero Texas Open); earned exempt status through 2026 by finishing in the top 100 in the 2025 FedExCup Fall Standings (No. 74)
- Springer is making his second start of the season (T26/Puerto Rico Open)
- Pair is looking to become the second straight team to secure their first PGA TOUR title at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans (Andrew Novak/Ben Griffin/2025)

Davis Thompson/Austin Eckroat (2nd/-13)

- Partnering for the first time, Thompson and Eckroat card a first-round 13-under 59, highlighted by a nine-hole stretch on Nos. 7-15 with an eagle (No. 7) and eight straight birdies
- Thompson and Eckroat are both making their third tournament appearance with their best finishes coming in their last start (Thompson: T23/2024; Eckroat: T11/2024)
- Thompson and Eckroat are both making their 10th start on TOUR this season, with Thompson’s best finish coming at the Puerto Rico Open (4th) and Eckroat’s at the Valero Texas Open (T10)
- Thompson seeks second PGA TOUR title (2024 John Deere Classic) and Eckroat is in search of his third TOUR victory (2024 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, 2024 World Wide Technology Championship)

Additional Team Notes

- Coming off his victory last week at the RBC Heritage, World No. 3 **Matt Fitzpatrick** and brother **Alex Fitzpatrick** (T30/-8) card an opening-round 8-under 64; look to become the first set of brothers to win the Zurich Classic of New Orleans
- Zurich ambassador **Ben Griffin** and teammate **Andrew Novak** (T42/-7) open with a 65 in bid to become the first team to successfully defend their title
- Zurich golf ambassadors first-round results: **Billy Horschel**/Tom Hoge (T6/-11), **Sahith Theegala**/Aaron Rai (T13/-10), **Ben Griffin**/Andrew Novak (T42/-7), **Shane Lowry**/Brooks Koepka (T50/-6)

Format

- This is the ninth year the Zurich Classic of New Orleans will be played in a two-man team format, which was introduced in 2017 (canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19)
- Teams play Four-Ball in the first and third rounds, and Foursomes (alternate shot) in the second and final rounds
- Each player on the winning team will receive 400 FedExCup points, \$1,372,750 and a two-year exemption on the PGA TOUR (through 2028)