

## 2026 Hoag Classic

### First-Round Notes

Friday, March 27, 2026

Newport Beach Country Club | Newport Beach, California

5th of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2026 Season



- **Course Setup:** Par 71 / 6,748 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average:** 68.272
- **Weather:** Sunny. High of 75. Winds SW at 6-12 mph.
- **Interviews:** [Transcripts](#) | [Content Hub](#)
- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#)
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	Player	To Par	Scores
1	Paul Goydos	-9	31-31 – 62
T2	Zach Johnson	-8	30-33 – 63
	Brian Gay	-8	31-32 – 63
T4	Freddie Jacobson	-7	31-33 – 64
	Steven Alker	-7	30-34 – 64

### Things to Know

- Southern California’s **Paul Goydos** opened with bogey-free 62 to take a one-stroke lead over **Brian Gay** and rookie **Zach Johnson** after the first round of the Hoag Classic.

### Paul Goydos, 31-31 – 62 (-9)

- The 61-year-old seeks his sixth win on PGA TOUR Champions (259th start).
  - Last win: 2017 3M Championship
- With a win, he would snap a winless streak of 3,157 days (or 8 years, 7 months, 23 days).
- Matched his second-lowest 18-hole score on PGA TOUR Champions (799th round)
  - Previous instance of 62: 2016 Charles Schwab Cup Championship (1st Round)
  - Goydos’ low round on PGA TOUR Champions: 60 (2017 3M Championship, 2nd Round)
- Matched the low 18-hole score of the 2026 season by any player on PGA TOUR Champions.
  - Previous instances: Ángel Cabrera (Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai/R2), Bo Van Pelt (Cologuard Classic/R1), Steven Alker (Cologuard Classic/R2)
- This is his 11th time leading/co-leading after the first round on PGA TOUR Champions (2-for-10).
- Making his fourth start of the 2026 season, his best finish is T11 (Chubb Classic).
- Making his 10th appearance at the Hoag Classic, the Long Beach, California resident has three top-10 finishes at this event.
  - Best finish: 4th (2015)

### Other Notes

- Seeking his second win in his first three starts on PGA TOUR Champions, **Zach Johnson** (T2) carded his low 18-hole score since turning 50 years old with 8-under 63.
  - Johnson’s first two starts (chronologically): Won (James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational), T3 (Cologuard Classic)
- Seeking his first win on PGA TOUR Champions (77th start), 54-year-old **Brian Gay** (T2) matched his low 18-hole score on PGA TOUR Champions with 63 (230th round).
  - Gay’s previous 63: 2023 Rogers Charity Classic (2nd Round)
  - Gay’s best finish on PGA TOUR Champions: 4th (2022 Chubb Classic)
- The winner of last week’s Cologuard Classic, **Steven Alker** (T4) opened with 7-under 64.

- Looks to become the first player to win back-to-back tournaments on PGA TOUR Champions since Stewart Cink (2025 Charles Schwab Cup Championship, 2026 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai).
- Looks to become the first player to win in back-to-back weeks on PGA TOUR Champions since Ángel Cabrera (2025 Regions Tradition, 2025 Senior PGA Championship).
- **Freddie Jacobson**, whose best finish on PGA TOUR Champions in 27 starts is T2 at last year's Hoag Classic, sits T4 after shooting 64.
  - Jacobson's position by round (chronologically) at the Hoag Classic (second appearance): T2-3rd-T2-T4
- 2008 Hoag Classic champion and 68-year-old **Bernhard Langer** (T21) opened with 67 to shoot his age or better for the 40th time on PGA TOUR Champions.
- 69-year-old **Fred Funk** (T43) hit all 14 fairways en route to 69, shooting his age or better for the fourth time on PGA TOUR Champions.
- **Thomas Bjørn** withdrew before the start of the first round and was replaced by **Scott Parel** (T55).