

2026 Kaulig Companies Championship



First-Round Notes

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Firestone Country Club (South Course) | Akron, Ohio

15th of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2026 Season

- **Course Setup:** Par 70 / 7,107 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average:** 71.307
- **Weather:** Partly cloudy. High of 87. Winds W at 5-10 mph.
- **Interviews:** [Transcripts](#) | [Content Hub](#)
- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#)
- [PGATOURMedia.com](#)

	Player	To Par	Scores
1	Jerry Kelly	-5	34-31 – 65
T2	Darren Clarke	-4	34-32 – 66
	Mike Weir	-4	31-35 – 66
T4	Five players tied	-3	

Things to Know

- Two-time Kaulig Companies Championship winner (2020, 2022) **Jerry Kelly** opened with 5-under 65 and leads by one stroke over major champions **Darren Clarke** and **Mike Weir** after the first round.

Jerry Kelly, 34-31 – 65 (-5)

- The 59-year-old seeks his 14th win on PGA TOUR Champions (206th start).
 - Last win: 2025 Mitsubishi Electric Classic
- Seeks his first win of the 2026 season (11th start).
 - Best finish: 14th (Mitsubishi Electric Classic) – Modified Stableford
 - Entered the week ranked No. 53 in the 2026 Charles Schwab Cup standings.
 - This would be his eighth different season with a win on PGA TOUR Champions since joining in 2017.
- Seeks his third senior major title (43rd start).
 - Previous wins: 2020 Kaulig Companies Championship, 2022 Kaulig Companies Championship
- Seeks his third win at the Kaulig Companies Championship (10th start).
 - Previous wins: 2020 (Firestone), 2022 (Firestone)
 - Owns five top-4 finishes in nine starts at this event; in addition to his victories: 2nd (2021), 3rd (2024), T4 (2018)
 - Looks to match Bernhard Langer for the most wins in Kaulig Companies Championship history (3).
- This is his 12th time leading/co-leading after the first round on PGA TOUR Champions.
 - Is 5-for-11 converting those into victories (1-for-2 in 72-hole events)
- With a victory on Sunday, he would become the oldest winner of the 2026 season (59 years, 7 months, 19 days).
 - Oldest winner of 2026: David Toms (Chubb Classic): 59 years, 1 month, 11 days
- This is his low 18-hole score of the 2026 season in an individual stroke play event (25th individual stroke play round).
 - Previous low: 67 (two times); Chubb Classic (2nd Round), U.S. Senior Open (3rd Round)

Other Notes

- Charles Schwab No. 9 **Darren Clarke** (T2) opened with 4-under 66. The 57-year-old seeks his seventh win on PGA TOUR Champions (164th start), second win of the 2026 season (14th start) and second senior major title (34th start).
 - Last win on PGA TOUR Champions: 2026 American Family Insurance Championship (team event with partner Ben Crane)
 - Previous senior major win: 2022 ISPS HANDA Senior Open

- Best finish at Kaulig Companies Championship: T12 (2021)
 - Note: Won the 2003 World Golf Championships-NEC Invitational, played at Firestone Country Club.
- **Mike Weir** (T2) carded 4-under 66. The 56-year-old seeks his second win on PGA TOUR Champions (110th start) and first senior major title (26th start).
 - Last win: 2021 Insperity Invitational
 - Best finish in a senior major: T2 (2021 U.S. Senior Open)
 - Best finish at the Kaulig Companies Championship: T7 (2024)
- Charles Schwab No. 3 **Zach Johnson** is one of five players sitting T4 at 3-under along with 2024 champion and World Golf Hall of Fame member **Ernie Els**, 2009 PGA Champion **Y.E. Yang**, **Cameron Percy** and **Søren Kjeldsen**.
- Akron, Ohio native **Ryan Armour**, who turned 50 years old on February 27, sits T9 after shooting 2-under 68.
- Charles Schwab Cup leader **Stewart Cink** (T15) posted 1-under 69. The 53-year-old, who leads PGA TOUR Champions with four wins in 2026 (11th start), won the 2004 World Golf Championships-NEC Invitational, played at Firestone Country Club.
- Before the start of the first round, Lee Janzen and World Golf Hall of Fame member Colin Montgomerie each withdrew and were replaced by **Mario Tiziani** (T47) and **Harrison Frazar** (T62).
- No players carded a bogey-free round, and no eagles were recorded on Thursday.