2026 Simmons Bank Championship presented by Stephens

First-Round Notes
Friday, October 30, 2026
Pleasant Valley Country Club | Little Rock, Arkansas
27th of 28 PGA Tour Champions events in the 2026 Season
2nd of 3 events in the 2026 Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs

- **Course Setup:** Par 72 / 7,101 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average**: 70.018
- **Weather:** Cloudy. High of 77. Winds ESE at 4-8 mph.
- **Interviews:** Transcripts | Content Hub
- Leaderboard
- Second-Round Tee Times
- PGATourMedia.com
- Charles Schwab Cup Standings

	Player	To Par	Scores	Schwab Cup Standings Start	Schwab Cup Standings Projected
1	Zach Johnson	-8	33-31 – 64	2nd	1st
2	Henrik Stenson	-7	32-33 – 65	41st	20th
T3	Michael Block	-6	31-35 – 66	43rd	27th
	Steven Alker	-6	34-32 – 66	3rd	3rd
	Richard Green	-6	32-34 – 66	20th	15th

Things to Know
- Charles Schwab No. 2 **Zach Johnson** opened with bogey-free 64 and holds a one-stroke lead over fellow rookie and Open Championship winner **Henrik Stenson** after the first round of the Simmons Bank Championship presented by Stephens.

Zach Johnson, 33-31 – 64 (-8)
Charles Schwab Cup standings – Start: 2nd / Projected: 1st
- The 50-year-old seeks his seventh win on PGA Tour Champions (18th start).
  - Previous wins in 2026 (chronologically): James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational, Principal Charity Classic, Kaulig Companies Championship, Portugal Invitational, Sanford International, PURE Insurance Championship
  - Turned 50 on February 24.
- His six wins are the most by a player on PGA Tour Champions this season.
  - Second-most: Stewart Cink (5 wins)
- With a win, he would move into T3 on the PGA Tour Champions single-season wins list.
  - Would match seven-time single-season winners Bruce Crampton (1986), Chi Chi Rodriguez (1987), Lee Trevino (1990), Hale Irwin (1998), Bruce Fleisher (1999) and Bernhard Langer (2017)
  - Would trail only Peter Thomson (9 wins in 1985) and Hale Irwin (9 wins in 1997) on the single-season wins list.
- With a win, he would match the most wins by a rookie in PGA Tour Champions history.
  - Most wins by a rookie: 7 (three times: Bruce Crampton/1986, Lee Trevino/1990, Bruce Fleisher/1999)
- Entered the week ranked No. 2 in the 2026 Charles Schwab Cup standings and is projected to move to No. 1.
  - Note: Stewart Cink has led the Charles Schwab Cup standings for all 26 weeks of the 2026 season.
- This is his third time leading/co-leading after the first round on PGA Tour Champions (1-for-2).
  - Led at the 2026 Mitsubishi Electric Classic (Modified Stableford scoring) – finished 3rd
  - Led at the 2026 Portugal Invitational – Won
- Is making his first appearance at the Simmons Bank Championship.

Henrik Stenson, 32-33 – 65 (-7)
Charles Schwab Cup standings – Start: 41st / Projected: 20th

- The 50-year-old seeks his first win on PGA Tour Champions (ninth start).
  - Best finish: T2 (2026 PURE Insurance Championship)
  - Turned 50 on April 5.
- Looks to snap a winless streak of 3,360 days (or 9 years, 2 months, 12 days) in PGA Tour-sanctioned events, dating back to the 2017 Wyndham Championship.
- Won six times on the PGA Tour, including the 2016 Open Championship. Also captured the 2013 FedExCup.
- Looks to become the seventh first-time winner of the 2026 season.
  - Zach Johnson (James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational)
  - Boo Weekley (The Insperity)
  - Scott Hend (Trophy Hassan II)
  - Ben Crane (American Family Insurance Championship) – team event with partner Darren Clarke
  - Vaughn Taylor (Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS)
  - Rory Sabbatini (Stifel Charity Classic)
- Looks to become the second player from Sweden to win on PGA Tour Champions.
  - Previous instance: Jesper Parnevik (2016 Insperity)
- Is making his first appearance at the Simmons Bank Championship.

Steven Alker, 34-32 – 66 (-6)
Charles Schwab Cup standings – Start: 3rd / Projected: 3rd

- The 55-year-old seeks his 15th win on PGA Tour Champions (118th start).
- Seeks his fifth win of the 2026 season (20th start) and fourth in his last seven starts.
  - Previous wins in 2026 (chronologically): Cologuard Classic, Rogers Charity Classic, The Ally Challenge, Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic
- Looks to become the third five-time winner of the 2026 season on PGA Tour Champions, joining Zach Johnson (6) and Stewart Cink (5).
- Looks to become the third multi-time winner of the Simmons Bank Championship (Bernhard Langer/2010, 2019, 2022; Padraig Harrington/2023, 2024), as well as the second player to win the event in back-to-back years.
  - Note: This event was played in Boca Raton, Florida from 2007 to 2023.
- Since the Simmons Bank Championship moved to Little Rock in 2024, he has finished T12 (2024) and Won (2025).
- His position by round at the Simmons Bank Championship since it moved to Little Rock (chronologically): 1st-T1-T12-1st-1st-Won-T3.
- Ranks second in most wins in Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs events (4). With a win, he would match Bernhard Langer (5) for the most since the Playoffs began in 2016.

Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs Implications
After Sunday's final round, the Top 36 players in the standings will qualify for the Charles Schwab Cup Championship. After the first round of the Simmons Bank Championship, three players are projected to move in and out of the Top 36.

	Player	To Par	Schwab Cup Standings	
			Start	Projected
2nd	Henrik Stenson	-7	41st	20th – IN
T3	Michael Block	-6	43rd	27th – IN
T8	Ricardo Gonzalez	-4	40th	35th – IN
51st	Jason Caron	+6	33rd	37th – OUT
T30	Steve Allan	-1	35th	38th – OUT
T46	Greg Chalmers	+1	36th	40th – OUT

Other Notes

- Rookie **Michael Block** (T3) opened with 6-under 66. Block, who turned 50 on June 15, seeks his first win on PGA Tour Champions (11th start).
  - Best finish: 3rd/T3 (two times)
    - 3rd (2026 Jefferson Lehigh Valley Classic)

    - T3 (2026 Ally Challenge)
- In addition to leader **Zach Johnson**, **Richard Green** (T3) and **Jerry Kelly** (T8) were the only players without a bogey or worse in the first round.
- Charles Schwab Cup leader **Stewart Cink** (T16), who has led the standings for all 26 weeks of the 2026 season, is projected to move to No. 2.