



2020 Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN
(12th of 50 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Playa del Carmen, Mexico
El Camaleón Golf Club at Mayakoba Resort

December 3-6, 2020
Purse: \$7,200,000

Par/Yards: 36-35—71/7,017
FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)

First-Round Notes – Thursday, December 3, 2020

Weather: Due to inclement weather, there was a 10-minute delay to all tee times. Overcast, with a high of 82. Wind E 8-16 mph, with gusts to 20 mph. Preferred lies in closely mown areas were in effect.

First-Round Leaderboard

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Russell Knox | 65 (-6) |
| Joaquin Niemann | 66 (-5) |
| Emiliano Grillo | 66 (-5) |
| Tom Hoge | 66 (-5) |

Things to Know

- With a 6-under 65, Scotland’s Russell Knox looks to become the third 18-hole leader/co-leader of the Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN in the last four years to convert for the win
- Seeking a fourth top-20 finish in his five most recent PGA TOUR starts, Joaquin Niemann posts his lowest opening-round score since January
- Argentina’s Emiliano Grillo reels off four consecutive birdies to extend his streak of par-or-better rounds at this event to a perfect 17-for-17
- In his bid to become the first player to successfully defend a Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN title, Brendon Todd opens with a 4-under 67
- Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN became the first PGA TOUR co-sanctioned event to ever be contested outside of the United States and Canada in February of 2007

First-Round Lead Notes

- 3 First-round leaders/co-leaders at the Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN to win; Fred Funk/2007, Patton Kizzire/2017, Matt Kuchar/2018
- 2 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win this season: Hudson Swafford (Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship), Dustin Johnson (Masters Tournament)

Russell Knox (entering the week)

| Category | Russell Knox |
|------------------|----------------|
| Age | 35 (6/21/1985) |
| Country | Scotland |
| FedExCup | 69 |
| OWGR | 221 |
| PGA TOUR starts | 215 |
| PGA TOUR wins | 2 |
| PGA TOUR top-10s | 22 |
| Mayakoba starts | 7 |

- Beginning on No. 10, made five birdies in a six-hole stretch to open with a 6-under 65
- Most recent of two 18-hole leads/co-leads on TOUR before this week came at this season’s Safeway Open (T9)
- In seven previous starts at the Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN, claimed top-10 finishes in 2015 (T2), 2016 (3rd) and 2017 (T9); comes off a T33 finish last season
- In 29 rounds at this event, has claimed just two over-par scores

- Both PGA TOUR wins came in the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season; 2015 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions and 2016 Travelers Championship
- In six starts this season, has three top-16 finishes and three missed cuts

Additional Notes

- In his first start since claiming his maiden PGA TOUR title at the Vivint Houston Open, Guadalajara native **Carlos Ortiz** (67/T5) posted his 16th consecutive round of par-or-better on TOUR this season; comes off a T2 finish at last year's Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN
- Highlighted by four birdies and an eagle-3 (No. 7), **Joaquin Niemann** (66/T2) posted his lowest opening-round score on the PGA TOUR since carding the same number at the 2020 Sentry Tournament of Champions (T5); seeks his fifth top-25 in his sixth start of the season
- Chile native **Emiliano Grillo** (67/T5) offset two early bogeys at Nos. 2 and 4 with four consecutive birdies on Nos. 5-8; is making his fifth consecutive start in the Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN, highlighted by top-10 finishes in 2016 (T10) and 2017 (T9)
- Monday Qualifier **Akshay Bhatia** (67/T5) is making his third start of the season; T9/Safeway Open, MC/Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship; this week marks the California native's 10th TOUR start
- **Tom Hoge** (67/T5) offset a lone bogey with six birdies to post his lowest score in 17 rounds at El Camelon Golf Club; in five previous starts at the Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN, has not finished higher than T44 (2014)
- Norway's **Viktor Hovland** offset a lone bogey with three birdies and an eagle-3 at No. 5 to open his third Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN with a 4-under 67 (T5); missed the cut in 2018 and 2019
- Following a bogey at No. 12, **Brendan Steele** holed his second shot on the par-5 13th with a fairway wood from 235 yards en route to an even-par 71 (T56)
- FedExCup champions **Justin Thomas** (72/T70) and **Brooks Koepka** (71/T56) are both making their second start in the Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN
- Mexico's first Presidents Cup participant (2019) **Abraham Ancer** (72/T70) comes off top-10 finishes at the Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN in two of his last three starts (T9/2017, T8/2019)
- There are six Mexico natives in this week's field: **Abraham Ancer** (72/T70), **Roberto Diaz** (74/T104), **Armando Favela** (73/T93), **Carlos Ortiz** (67/T5), **Aaron Terrazas** (75/T112) and Monday qualifier **Isidro Benitez** (80/132nd); the record for most appearances by a Mexico native at the Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN belongs to Jose de Jesus Rodriguez (9), who is not in this week's field
- In his bid to become the event's first player to successfully defend his title, **Brendon Todd** sits T5 at 4-under 67
- **Rickie Fowler**, who finished second in his first start at the Mayakoba Golf Classic presented by UNIFIN in 2017, offset a quadruple-bogey eight and double-bogey six with eight birdies to open with a 1-under 70 (T36); in his most recent start, he finished T16 in 2018; Since 2009, has the third-most total rounds par or better after making a double bogey or worse of any player on TOUR (115)
- Making his first PGA TOUR start as a professional, 2019 U.S. Amateur champion **Andy Ogletree** is T20 after a 2-under 69

Course Statistics

| | <u>Toughest Hole</u> | <u>Easiest Hole</u> |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| R1: | Par-4 1 st (4.394) | Par-5 5 th (4.364) |

Scoring Averages

| | <u>Front Nine</u> | <u>Back Nine</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| R1: | 35.947 | 35.485 | 71.432 |

Bogey-Free Rounds

R1 (2): Michael Gligic (67), Chase Seiffert (69)