



Rapiscan Systems Classic

Fallen Oak | Biloxi, Mississippi | March 29-31, 2019

First-Round Notes

Friday, March 29, 2019

Course Setup: Par 72 / 7,088 yards (R1: 72.558)

Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 74. Winds out of the S at 6-12 mph.

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	Player	To Par	Scores
T1.	Kevin Sutherland	-7	31-34—65
T1.	Marco Dawson	-7	32-33—65
T3.	Scott Parel	-4	33-35—68
T3.	Jeff Sluman	-4	34-34—68
T3.	Tom Byrum	-4	34-34—68
T3.	Tommy Armour III	-4	36-32—68

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second Round Tee Times](#) (10:45 a.m. to 12:51 p.m. PT)
- PGATOURmedia.com (transcripts and other resources available for download)

Kevin Sutherland, 31-34—65 (-7)

- Sutherland opened with a birdie on the first hole followed by five more and an eagle on No. 6 to finish the first round at 7-under 65 in a tie for first place.
- It is the fifth time he has led/co-lead after the first round on PGA TOUR Champions. Two of those times he converted that lead into a runner-up finish but has never converted into a victory.
- Sutherland is making his fifth start at the Rapiscan Systems Classic. His best finish was runner-up in 2015.
- This season, Sutherland has finished in the top 10 three times in five starts. His best was a T4 finish at the Chubb Classic.
- Sutherland won the 2017 Charles Schwab Cup Championship, owns nine runner-up finishes and 50 finishes in the top 10.

Marco Dawson, 32-33—65 (-7)

- Dawson carded eight birdies en route to a 7-under 65 in the first round. It is his lowest round of the year and a personal best at Fallen Oak.
- It is the fifth time in his PGA TOUR Champions career he has led/co-lead after the first round. He has converted a first-round lead into a victory once (2015 U.S. Senior Open Championship).

- Dawson is making his third start at the Rapiscan Systems Classic. His best finish was T26 in 2016.
- This season, Dawson finished runner-up at the Oasis Championship and posted four finishes in the top 25.
- In six years on PGA TOUR Champions, Dawson owns two victories (2015 Cologuard Classic; 2015 The Senior Open Championship), three runner-up finishes and 28 finishes in the top 10.

First-Round Lead Notes

- The highest opening-round score by a Rapiscan Systems Classic champion came in 2017, when Miguel Angel Jimenez posted a 2-under-par 70.
- Two shots is the largest 18-hole lead in tournament history which occurred twice (2014, Fred Couples; 2016, Scott Dunlap).
- In the nine-year history of the Rapiscan Systems Classic, one 18-hole leader has gone on to win the tournament (Fred Couples, 2012).
- Through four events, no first-round leader/co-leader has won in 2019. In 2018, six first-round leaders/co-leaders won: **Jerry Kelly** (Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai), **Mark Calcavecchia** (Boca Raton Championship), **Bernhard Langer** (Insperty Invitational), **Miguel Angel Jimenez** (Regions Tradition), **Scott Parel** (Boeing Classic), **Steve Stricker** (Sanford International) and **Bernhard Langer** (SAS Championship).

Scott Parel, 33-35—68 (-4)

- Parel opened the first round with a birdie on the first hole, followed by three more en route to a bogey-free 4-under 68.
- Parel is making his fourth start at the Rapiscan Systems Classic. His best finish came last year when he finished T3.
- This season, Parel has made five starts and finished three in the top 25.
- Parel owns one victory (2018 Boeing Classic), five runner-up finishes and 20 finishes in the top 10 on PGA TOUR Champions.

Jeff Sluman, 34-34—68 (-4)

- Sluman carded five birdies en route to a season-best 4-under 68 in the first round.
- He ranks T1 in the field in putting making 31 putts (1.71 putts per GIR).
- Sluman is making his 10th start at the Rapiscan Systems Classic. In 2011 he finished runner-up and owns four finishes in the top 10.
- Sluman has made five starts this year on PGA TOUR Champions. His best finish was T13 at the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.
- In 12 years on PGA TOUR Champions, Sluman owns six victories, 10 runner-up finishes and 81 finishes in the top 10.

Tom Byrum, 34-34—68 (-4)

- Byrum opened the first round with six birdies en route to a 4-under 68, matching his personal best at Fallen Oak.
- He is making his seventh start at the Rapiscan Systems Classic but has only finished inside the top 25 one time (T24, 2017).
- This season, Byrum has made four starts on Tour and finished three inside the top 25.
- Byrum owns three runner-up finishes, 18 top-10 finishes and 55 top-25 finishes on PGA TOUR Champions.

Tommy Armour III, 36-32—68 (-4)

- Armour carded five birdies on the back nine holes en route to a bogey-free 4-under 68. It was his best round this season.
- He ranks T2 in the field in driving accuracy hitting 13 of 14 fairways.
- This is the first time Armour has entered the weekend T3 or better since he opened with a 4-under 68 at the Rapiscan Systems Classic in 2016 to enter the weekend T2.

- He is making his 10th appearance at the Rapisan Systems Classic. His best finish came in his first start in 2010 when he finished runner-up.
- Armour owns five runner-up finishes, 31 finishes in the top 10 and 76 finishes in the top 25 on PGA TOUR Champions.

Other Notes

- The field includes six members of the World Golf Hall of Fame:
 - **Fred Couples:** 3-under 69 (T7)
 - **Bernhard Langer:** 1-under 71 (T15)
 - **Colin Montgomerie:** 2-under 70 (T12)
 - **Larry Nelson:** 1-over 73 (T45)
 - **Mark O'Meara:** 1-under 71 (T15)
 - **Vijay Singh:** 3-under 69 (T7)
- The field includes six past champions of the Rapisan Systems Classic. Should any of these players win, he would become the tournament's second repeat winner.
 - **Steve Stricker (2018):** 1-over 73 (T45)
 - **David Frost (2015):** 6-over 78 (T72)
 - **Jeff Maggert (2014):** even-par 72 (T33)
 - **Michael Allen (2013):** 1-under 71 (T15)
 - **Fred Couples (2012):** 3-under 69 (T7)
 - **Tom Lehman (2011):** even-par 72 (T33)
- **Mark Calcavecchia** withdrew after his 13th hole of the first round due to a rib injury.