



2020 Safeway Open
(1st of 50 events in the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Season)

Napa, California
Silverado Resort and Spa (North)

September 10-13, 2020

Purse: \$6,600,000
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,166

FINAL First-Round Notes – Friday, September 11, 2020

Thursday Weather: Due to fog, the start to round one was delayed one hour and began at 8 a.m. Cloudy, with a high of 69. Wind SSW 5-10 mph. Due to darkness, round one was suspended for the day at 7:11 p.m., with 13 players yet to complete their first rounds.

Friday Weather: Partly cloudy and foggy, with a high of 55. Winds light and variable. First round resumed at 7:28 a.m. and was completed at 8:08 a.m.

First-Round Leaderboard

Russell Knox	63 (-9)
Sam Burns	64 (-8)
Cameron Percy	64 (-8)
Bo Hoag	64 (-8)

Things to Know

- On Thursday, the first round was suspended for the day due to darkness at 7:11 p.m., with the 13 players who failed to complete their rounds back in position Friday at 7:28 a.m. The round was completed at 8:08 a.m.
- The Safeway Open marks the first of 50 events in the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Season; with the exception of 2019, has opened each season since the TOUR went to a wraparound schedule in 2013
- On the strength over seven birdies and one eagle, Russell Knox opens with a bogey-free 9-under 63; sinks 107'4" of putts
- Cameron Percy birdies final three holes to open with a bogey-free 8-under 64 a year after finishing T7 at the Safeway Open
- Highlighted by seven birdies and an eagle, Sam Burns opens with 64 in his second Safeway Open start
- 2016-17 Safeway Open champion Brendan Steele opens with bogey-free 7-under 65 in his 10th tournament start; is the only player to successfully defend a Safeway Open title
- In his seventh professional PGA TOUR start, and eighth overall, Akshay Bhatia opens with 6-under 66
- Most recent of three players to convert an 18-hole lead into victory at the Safeway Open was Brendan Steele in 2017

Leaders comparison (entering the week)

Category	Russell Knox	Sam Burns	Cameron Percy	Bo Hoag
Age	35 (6/21/1985)	24 (7/23/1996)	46 (5/5/1974)	32 (7/25/1988)
OWGR	208	171	364	287
PGA TOUR starts	209	60	153	25
PGA TOUR wins	2	0	0	0
PGA TOUR top-10s	21	6	7	1
Safeway Open starts	5	1	4	1
Safeway Open wins	0	0	0	0
Safeway Open top-10s	1	0	1	0

Russell Knox (63/-9)

- Opens with a bogey-free 9-under 63, one stroke shy of his career-low on the PGA TOUR (R4/2014 BMW Championship)
- Made seven birdies and one eagle (par-5 fifth)
- Only previous 18-hole lead/co-lead came at the 2013 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (T1); finished T28
- Marks the Safeway Open's lowest opening-round score since Scott Piercy posted a 10-under 62 in 2016
- Making his sixth start in the Safeway Open; best showing of T9 came in his first start of 2012
- Seeks his third career PGA TOUR title and first since the 2016 Travelers Championship
- Finished outside the top-125 in the FedExCup last season (No. 127) for the first time since 2013

Sam Burns (64/-8)

- Made an eagle at the par-5 16th and seven birdies – including four in a row on Nos. 9-12 – to open with an 8-under 64
- In only previous Safeway Open start, posted scores of 72-74—146 to miss the cut in 2018
- Best of five top-25 finishes last season was a T6 at The American Express in Palm Springs; advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs for a second-consecutive year before ending his season at No. 111 in the FedExCup
- Best of 60 PGA TOUR starts is T3 from the 2018 Sanderson Farms Championship

Cameron Percy (64/-8)

- Australia native birdied his last three holes (Nos. 16-18) to open with a bogey-free 8-under 64
- Comes off a T7 finish in last year's Safeway Open, his lone top-10 finish of the season
- Seeks his first career PGA TOUR victory in his 154th start this week
- Best finish on TOUR is a P2 at the 2010 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in his first season on TOUR
- Winner of the 2014 Price Cutter Charity Championship on the Korn Ferry Tour
- Winner of five events on PGA TOUR of Australasia

Brendan Steele (65/-7)

- Made seven birdies and no bogeys en route to a 7-under 65 in his 10th Safeway Open start
- As the event's 2016-17 winner, remains the only player to defend a Safeway Open title (dating to 2007)
- Was five strokes off the lead after 18 holes in 2016 and T1 after the first round in 2017
- Comes off a 2019-20 PGA TOUR Season highlighted by three top-10 finishes and a 47th place finish in the FedExCup; only higher finish was when he finished 33rd in 2017
- Prior to his two Safeway Open titles, first won on the PGA TOUR at the 2011 Valero Texas Open

Akshay Bhatia (66/-6)

- Offset eight birdies with two bogeys to open with a 6-under 66 in his eighth PGA TOUR start and seventh as a professional
- Despite under-par opening-round scores in his first six professional TOUR starts, has yet to make a cut
- Wake Forest, N.C. resident made first professional TOUR start at age 17 (2019 Sanderson Farms Championship)
- Runner-up at 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur
- At 17, became the youngest player to be named to the United States Walker Cup team (on the winning 2019 team)

Miscellaneous Notes

- **Bo Hoag** made eight birdies, including one from 26'8" on his last hole of the day (No. 9), to post a bogey-free 8-under 64; falls one stroke shy of his career-low on the PGA TOUR
- **Pat Perez** posted a bogey-free 7-under 65, his lowest score on the PGA TOUR since posting the same number in round two of the 2019 Mayakoba Golf Classic
- Making his third career PGA TOUR start, and second as a professional, 22-year-old Monday qualifier **Andy Zhang** hit all 18 greens in regulation en route to a bogey-free 6-under 66. In his only other professional start, the former University of Florida Gator finished T23 at the 2019 Houston Open
- In his sixth Safeway Open start and first PGA TOUR since winning the Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National in his PGA TOUR Champions debut, **Phil Mickelson** opened with a 1-under 71; marks his fifth score over 70 in 17 rounds in the event
- **Jim Furyk**, who also won in his PGA TOUR Champions debut earlier this season, posted an even-par 72 a year after finishing T17 at Silverado in his first tournament start
- Notables PGA TOUR veterans making their first Safeway Open start: **Sergio Garcia** (72), **Shane Lowry** (68)
- **Bo Van Pelt** withdrew prior to his tee time (family reasons) and was replaced in the field by **Parker McLachlin** (78)

Course Statistics

Toughest Hole

R1: Par-4 3rd (4.167)

Easiest Hole

Par-5 9th (4.545)

Scoring Averages

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.205	35.417	70.622	--

Bogey-free rounds

R1 (17): Russell Knox (63), Cameron Percy (64), Bo Hoag (64), Brendan Steele (65), Pat Perez (65), Andy Zhang (66), Stewart Cink (67), Charley Hoffman (67), Patrick Rodgers (67), Mark Hubbard (68), Austin Cook (68), Mark Anderson (68), Wyndham Clark (69), C.T. Pan (69), Denny McCarthy (69), Brandon Hagy (69), Luke List (70)