



## 2021 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP

(5<sup>th</sup> of 47 events in the 2021-22 PGA TOUR Season)

Chiba, Japan

Accordia Golf Narashino CC

October 21-24, 2021

Par/Yards: 34-36—72/7,041

FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$9,950,000/\$1,791,000

### First-Round Notes – Thursday, October 21, 2021

*Weather: Mostly cloudy. High of 64. Wind NNE 5-10 mph.*

#### First-Round Leaderboard

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Hiroshi Iwata    | 63 (-7) |
| Joaquin Niemann  | 64 (-6) |
| Hideki Matsuyama | 64 (-6) |
| Matt Wallace     | 65 (-5) |
| Brendan Steele   | 66 (-4) |

#### Things to Know

- Hiroshi Iwata, a Japan Golf Tour member, opens with a 63 to hold first ever first round lead/co-lead on PGA TOUR
- Hideki Matsuyama and Joaquin Niemann are tied for second after carding bogey-free 64s
- Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 gold medalist Xander Schauffele opens with a 70
- Collin Morikawa, the highest ranked player in the field at No. 3 in the Official World Golf Ranking, recorded a 71
- Matt Wallace cards with a 65 as he chases his first PGA TOUR win
- The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP was launched as Japan's first official PGA TOUR tournament in 2019. Tiger Woods won the inaugural edition, followed by Patrick Cantlay in 2020

#### First-Round Lead Notes

- 1 First-round leader/co-leader to win the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP (Tiger Woods/2019)
- 0 First-round leader/co-leader to win in 2021-22

#### Hiroshi Iwata (1<sup>st</sup>/-7)

- Registered one eagle, six birdies and one bogey to hold first ever first round lead/co-lead on TOUR
- Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in putts per round (23); Hit 8 of 13 fairways and 11 of 18 greens in regulation
- The 40-year-old has 46 career starts on TOUR and played a full season in 2015-16. Holds three career top-10s (T3/2014 WGC-HSBC Champions, T4/2016 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, T5/2016 Sanderson Farms Championship)
- His last start on TOUR was 2017 Wyndham Championship/MC
- Holds three career wins on the Japan Golf Tour; most recent was the 2021 The Crowns
- Has registered eight top-10s in the 2020-21 Japan Golf Tour Season
- Currently ranked 13<sup>th</sup> on the Japan Golf Tour money list and 161<sup>st</sup> in the Official World Golf Ranking
- Making his debut in the tournament after getting into the field on Monday following the withdrawal of Kevin Na

#### Joaquin Niemann (T2/-6)

- Joaquin Niemann trails by one following 6-under 64 in his third tournament appearance
- Bogey-free 64 marks his lowest tournament score; previous-best was 66 (R2/2020)
- Best finish was T17 in 2020 when the event was held at Sherwood Country Club
- The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP is his third start of the 2021-2022 PGA TOUR Season following appearances at Shriners Children's Open (T40) and the CJ CUP @ SUMMIT (T45)
- Last season he collected five top-10s and made the cut in 26 of 27 starts

#### Hideki Matsuyama (T2/-6)

- A bogey-free 64 marked his third successive 6-under first round score on TOUR. Went on to finish T67/Shriners Children's Open and T59/THE CJ CUP @ SUMMIT
- Also marked his lowest tournament score; previous best was 65 during the first and third rounds in 2019
- Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Greens in Regulation (16/18) in the first round
- Finished T6 in the Fortinet Championship for his lone top-10 to date in the 2021-22 PGA TOUR Season
- Making his third start in the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP (2<sup>nd</sup>/2019, T28/2020)
- Won the Masters Tournament in April where he became the first Japanese male golfer to win a major
- Holds six PGA TOUR wins and eight Japan Golf Tour wins, with the most recent being the 2016 Mitsui Sumitomo Visa Taiheiyo Masters

**Additional Player Notes:**

- 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games gold medalist **Xander Schauffele** records even par 70 (T29)
- Among the 19 Japanese players in the field, **Ryosuke Kinoshita** holds the third best score behind Iwata and Matsuyama trailing the lead by four with a first-round 3-under 67
- Following his runner-up finish at last week's CJ CUP @ SUMMIT **Collin Morikawa** (T42) makes four bogeys on the front nine en route to an opening 71
- Qualifying for the event via sponsor exemption, **Tommy Fleetwood** cards 3-under 67 highlighted by eagles on two par-5s (Nos. 6 & 18) and is T6 entering the second round

**Course Statistics**

|            | <b>Toughest Hole</b>          | <b>Easiest Hole</b>           |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>R1:</b> | Par-4 4 <sup>th</sup> (4.385) | Par-5 6 <sup>th</sup> (4.577) |

**Scoring Averages**

|            | <b>Front 9</b> | <b>Back 9</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Cumulative</b> |
|------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>R1:</b> | 33.999         | 36.322        | 70.321       | ---               |

**Bogey-free rounds**

**R1 (3):** Joaquin Niemann (64), Hideki Matsuyama (64), James Hahn (68)