

2015 Insperity Invitational

(8th of 25 events in the 2015 Champions Tour Season)

The Woodlands Country Club (Tournament)
The Woodlands, Texas
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,012

May 1-3, 2015
Charles Schwab Cup points: 308 to the winner
Purse: \$2,050,000

First-Round Notes – Friday, May 1, 2015

Weather

Partly cloudy with highs in the low-80s and very light wind.

First-Round Leaderboard

Michael Allen	32-34--66	(-6)
Marco Dawson	34-32--66	(-6)
Joe Durant	34-33--67	(-5)
Jeff Maggert	33-34--67	(-5)
Colin Montgomerie	34-33--67	(-5)

Recap

Michael Allen, a winner of seven Champions Tour titles including the 2009 Senior PGA Championship, scattered seven birdies against a pair of bogeys and also made two lengthy saves for par to shoot 6-under-par 66, good enough for a share of the first-round lead at the Insperity Invitational with Marco Dawson, a winner earlier this year at the Tucson Conquistadores Classic. After making a 15-footer for birdie at the par-4, 9th hole, Allen holed a 15-foot par save at the 10th hole and then saved par again from 15 feet at the par-3 14th hole to preserve his round. Dawson, meanwhile, made four birdies on his front nine, and offset a long bogey at the par-4, 4th hole with three more birdies on his second nine to shoot 66. World Golf Hall of Fame member Colin Montgomerie, The Woodlands resident Jeff Maggert and Joe Durant, a winner last week with Billy Andrade at the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf, are in a group at 5-under 67, one stroke off the lead.

Michael Allen

Is a first-round leader on the Champions Tour for the seventh time in his career, and for the first time since he held sole possession of the lead at the 2014 Allianz Championship.

Was the sole leader on Friday at the 2011 Insperity Championship after shooting a 63, but he eventually finished T24.

Bidding to win his eighth career title on the Champions Tour and is trying to claim his second straight tournament in the state of Texas. Near the end of the Champions Tour season last year, Allen won the AT&T Championship in San Antonio.

Allen is making his fifth appearance at the Insperity Invitational this year. His best finish was a T4 in 2012 and he's never been outside of the top 25 in any of his previous four events at The Woodlands Country Club.

Marco Dawson

Today marks the third time on the Champions Tour that he's either led or co-led after the first round, most recently at the 2014 AT&T Championship late last season.

Won for the first time on the Champions Tour earlier this year at the Tucson Conquistadores Classic.

Is making his first appearance in the Insperity Invitational. When he played six times at The Woodlands Country Club's Tournament Course during the Shell Houston Open, his best effort was T16 in 2001.

Started the 2014 season as a non-exempt player, but eventually played his way into fully-exempt status for

2015 after posting eight top-10 finishes in 18 starts.

Lone victory on the Web.com Tour was at the 2002 LaSalle Bank Open.

First-Round Leader Notes/Statistics

For the third time in the last four years at the Insperity Invitational, the leading score after the opening round at The Woodlands Country Club has been 66 and for the second straight year, there are co-leaders after Round 1.

Leader Statistics:

Allen-- Fairways Hit: 12/14—T6; Greens In Regulation: 13/18—T13; Putts: 25—2nd

Dawson-- Fairways Hit: 11/14—T20; Greens In Regulation: 14/18—T5; Putts: 26—T3

So far this year on the Champions Tour, just one first-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win the event (Paul Goydos/Allianz Championship).

In the previous 11 Insperity Invitational events, three first-round leaders have won – Jay Haas (2006), Bernhard Langer (2007) and Bernhard Langer (2014).

Fred Couples, the 2010 winner of the Insperity Invitational, was T14, five strokes back, after Friday's first round. That's the lowest a player has been in the standings after the first round of this event and the biggest deficit that has been made up after Round 1 to come back to win.

Esteban Toledo shot even-par 72 in the first round of the 2013 event, the highest Friday score by a winner in tournament history.

Miscellaneous Notes

Bernhard Langer, the defending champion in the Insperity Invitational and an overall winner three times at this event, shot 1-under 71 on Friday and is T31 after the first round. In addition to his victory last year, Langer won this event in 2007 and 2008. Langer is the only player to successfully defend his title at this event.

Both Joe Durant and Billy Andrade, teammates in winning last week's Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf, got off to good starts in their bids for a first individual title on the Champions Tour. Playing together in the same grouping, Durant carded a bogey-free 5-under 67 while Andrade used six birdies to post a 4-under 68. The last player to win consecutive events on the Champions Tour was Kenny Perry who claimed the 2013 Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship and the U.S. Senior Open in consecutive starts.

Dan Forsman recorded his first ace on the Champions Tour and the third hole-in-one in tournament history at the par-3 8th hole with a 3-iron shot from 209 yards. It was the first ace at the Insperity Invitational since Tom Kite's hole-in-one on No. 16 in the first round of the 2013 event. J.L. Lewis also aced the par-3 16th in the second round of the 2012 event. There now have been three aces made in the last two rounds on the Champions Tour and four overall thus far this year on the Champions Tour. Both Joe Durant and Mike Reid carded holes-in-one on the final day of the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf last week in Branson, Missouri.

After 31 professionals broke par on Friday last year, a total of 44 professionals managed to break par in Round 1 at The Woodlands Country Club this year. Today's scoring average was 71.772, the lowest first-round scoring average at this event since 2008 (71.434).

There were four bogey-free rounds at the Tournament Course at The Woodlands Country Club today – Colin Montgomerie (67), Joe Durant (67), Jeff Maggert (68), and Mike Goodes (70).

Just six players have now played in all 12 Insperity Championships – Ben Crenshaw, Bob Gilder, John Harris, Tom Kite, Wayne Levi and Fuzzy Zoeller.

Tomorrow's second round will also feature the 3M Oil & Gas Greats of Golf Challenge, a three-man, three-team event utilizing an 18-hole scramble format. World Golf Hall of Fame members Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino and Gary Player will play as a team. Don January, Tony Jacklin and Dave Stockton comprise a second team with Charles Coody, David Graham and Tom Weiskopf making up a third team. Weiskopf, the 1973 British Open champion, is making his first appearance in the event.

Bob Gilder made his 91st straight appearance in a Champions Tour event today and shot an even-par 72. Gilder has not missed a start on the Champions Tour since skipping the 2011 Greater Hickory Classic at Rock Barn.

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness, volunteers and tournament staff will be wearing pink shirts tomorrow at the Insperity Invitational to support the cause and pink flags will be used on each of the holes. The tournament is again a partner with the Houston affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure and fans coming to the tournament are encouraged to wear pink.

World Golf Hall of Fame member Curtis Strange was the recipient of the 2015 Dave Marr Award, given annually to honor individuals who exemplify all the traits of the 1965 PGA champion – sportsmanship, honesty, character, integrity and a passion for the game of golf. Strange shot even-par 72 today.

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