



First Round Notes and Statistics

Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic
Ocean Club Golf Course - Paradise Island, Bahamas
Jan. 25, 2017

LEADERBOARD

1, -5 (68) – Brooke Henderson

T2, -4 (69) – Luna Sobron Galmes, Sarah Jane Smith

Transcripts can be found at <https://tee-scripts.com/transcripts/lpga-tour/pure-silk-bahamas-lpga-2018/>

HENDERSON LEADS WITH FIRST-ROUND PLAY SUSPENDED

Thursday's play concluded with Canada's **Brooke Henderson** leading the 2018 Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic by a single stroke after her bogey-free round of 5-under par.

The first day's windy conditions slowed down play, forcing the round to be suspended at 5:59 p.m. due to darkness. Four groups were unable to complete their rounds, leaving 12 players to resume first-round play on Friday at 7:10 a.m. Round 2 will begin as scheduled at 7:10 a.m. (all original starting times remain the same).

Scores were impacted because of the windy gusts, with only 25 players shooting even or better. Henderson's lead at 5-under par would match 2014 as the highest score to lead this event after the first round.

Australia's **Sarah Jane Smith** and Spain's **Luna Sobron Galmes**, a 2018 LPGA rookie, sit in a tie for second after matching rounds of 69 (-4). They are followed by a group of six players at 3-under par.

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

Brooke Henderson, Canada (68, -5)

"Beginning of the week, I thought it was going to be Friday through Sunday that was crazy wind. I thought I was going to get a break today, and I thought I was going to be in the good wave in the afternoon today and in the morning tomorrow. But I guess it's going to keep getting stronger every day, so (I) just try and go out and do what I did today, but I think that will be tough to repeat."

Luna Sobron Galmes, Spain (69, -4)

"The course really is good. You play well, everything goes well. I am very confident."



INFORMATION



Sarah Jane Smith, Australia (69, -4)

"I like playing in the struggle. I grew up playing in the wind, and I do enjoy playing difficult shots and stuff like that, so it's probably better for me in people don't like it. I don't hate it."

Shanshan Feng, People's Republic of China (70, -3)

"This is really windy and my ball striking is not 100% yet, so maybe I will miss a lot of greens, so I practice a lot of chipping and I did some putting, and that's why I think I did really well today. I didn't hit many greens, but I saved a lot of up and downs."

Lexi Thompson, USA (72, -1)

"I hit some very solid golf shots. You have to trust your lines out here because sometimes you have to aim or you will have trouble ending up in the fairway. I felt very comfortable in the course and I putted really well, and it's hard when the wind is blowing and you're looking over your putt and the ball is trying to move, but, yeah, it was tough."

FENG ENJOYS "BONUS" TIME AT WORLD NO. 1

This week marks **Shanshan Feng's** maiden trip to Paradise, opening her season at the Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic for the first time in the tournament's six-year history. After starting her round with bogey at the par-4 first, the 28-year-old from the Republic of China fairly cruised around the golf course, carding four birdies for a 3-under 70.

Feng appeared unfazed, though surprised, by the gusty winds that buffeted the Ocean Course Golf Club on Thursday after picture-perfect conditions earlier in the week.

"Yesterday was totally calm and no wind at all, and I was expecting like, you know, the scores would be, like, real low today, and the cut would be, like, real low," said Feng, who ended the first round tied for XX with XX. "But this morning I asked the girls I was like, is it normal here, the wind blowing like this? And they're like, well, they're not surprised. And I'm like, okay, this is an island, so I understand."

Feng ascended to the top of the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings on Nov. 13, 2017, after taking back-to-back victories at the TOTO Japan Classic and Blue Bay LPGA. That led to quite a decorated offseason, as she received the Breakthrough of the Year award at the China Top Ten Laureus Awards, the Chinese equivalent of the ESPY Awards.

However, Feng pointed to something other than her big award as one of her favorite World No. 1 perks. Since she went to the top just as the LPGA Tour season ended, she has held that mark, uncontested, for 11 consecutive weeks.

"I think I claimed the No. 1 at the right timing, because it was like nine, or eight weeks for me? I didn't do anything!" said Feng with her trademark giant laugh. "But I chose the right timing to become No. 1, so, I mean, that was a bonus, such a bonus."

TORRES KEEPING IT CALM

Battling gusts of wind up to 35 mph, **Maria Torres** completed her very first professional round at 3-under 70 at the 2018 Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic. Torres, a recent graduate of the University of Florida, said dealing with nerves and completely different weather conditions than her practice round was like "waking up and having all this rain and wind you're like, oh my god, it's the first day." She ultimately said to herself, "You can play in the wind and the rain, so just keep it calm."

Torres is no stranger to extreme conditions, as she grappled with the challenges of finishing LPGA Q School amid Hurricane Maria wreaking devastation throughout her hometown of San Juan, Puerto Rico. She then secured the 20th and final card after a three-hole playoff, becoming the first LPGA player to play under the Puerto Rican flag. "I love the course and like being near Puerto Rico," she said, "so starting in the Caribbean this season is kind of nice."

INFORMATION



'Simple' was the key word for Torres' first round of play. "We tried to keep it simple and tried to just take it shot by shot," Torres said of her game plan with her caddie, Nicolas Pereira. Should she win on Sunday, Torres would join Beverly Hanson at the 1951 Eastern Open as the only players in LPGA history to win their first tournament in their first appearance as a member.

OF NOTE

Brooke Henderson is playing in her fourth Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic, with a best finish of T21 in both 2016 and 2017

Henderson has five career LPGA wins, with her most recent coming at the 2017 MCKAYSON New Zealand Women's Open.

This is the third time in **Henderson's** career that she has held the lead after the first round, joining the 2017 MCKAYSON New Zealand Women's Open and 2017 Meijer LPGA Classic; she went on to win both events

Sarah Jane Smith is playing in her sixth Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic, with a best finish of T33 in 2014.

Smith is looking for her first LPGA Tour victory; she was runner-up at the 2016 Citibanamex Lorena Ochoa Invitational and 2014 Kingsmill Championship.

Luna Sobron Galmes, a 2018 LPGA rookie, is playing in her first Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic.

Sobron Galmes has played in two Ricoh Women's British Opens, finishing tied for 13th in 2015, where she won the Smyth Salver as the low amateur, and missing the cut in 2016.

TV TIMES *(all Eastern Time)*

Thursday, Jan. 25: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Golf Channel

Friday, Jan. 26: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Golf Channel

Saturday, Jan. 27: 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Golf Channel

Sunday, Jan. 28: 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Golf Channel

IN OTHER NEWS

LPGA AND EXECUTIVE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION TO UNITE IN STRATEGIC ALLIANCE TO GROW THE WOMEN'S GAME

The LPGA and the Executive Women's Golf Association (EWGA), the largest national women's amateur golf organization, jointly announced today plans to form a strategic alliance to further promote the growth of women's golf.

More details regarding the alliance will be communicated within the next few months, with the goal to create additional playing opportunities for women golfers which is seen by both organizations as the perfect complement to the LPGA Women's Network, a digital platform for female golfers to share their passion for the game. The LPGA Women's Network was officially launched earlier today.

"As we roll out the LPGA Women's Network, it was clear to us that the piece that was missing was the 'play' component," said Nancy Henderson, Chief Teaching Officer for the LPGA Teaching & Club Professionals and President of The LPGA Foundation. "We wanted the opportunity for all women to have the chance to know where to go to play with other women.

"By forming a strategic alliance, we are able to position the EWGA as the play component of the LPGA Women's Network. Our intention would be to take what the EWGA has built in terms of a base over their 25-plus years and to

COMMUNICATIONS



help elevate the EWGA and all that they do by putting the full resources of the LPGA behind it. Our goal would be to grow the player and chapter base to create more opportunities for women golfers in a comfortable environment.”

For more information, visit <http://www.lpga.com/news/2018-lpga-and-ewga-unite-in-strategic-alliance>