



The Sentry

January 4th - 7th, 2024
Plantation Course at Kapalua
Kapalua, Maui, Hawaii
Par 73 / Yardage 7,596

Tournament average since 2015: 70.04

Rank of 28 events which have been played same course since 2015: 28

Average winning score since 2015: 24.44 under

Tournament record since played at Kapalua in 1999: 258 (-34) by Cameron Smith in 2022

Low 18 hole score: 61 - Justin Thomas 3rd Round 2022, Jon Rahm 3rd round 2022 and Matt Jones 4th Round 2022

Low 18 hole score by winner: 62 - Xander Schauffele 4th round-2019

In the 25 events at Kapalua since 1999, 15 have led or a share of the lead going into final round and won

HOW THE LAST FIVE WINNERS STOOD GOING INTO THE FINAL ROUND

2023: Jon Rahm was T-5th, 7 back of leader Collin Morikawa. Rahm shot 63 in 4th round to win by two shots over Morikawa.

2022: Cameron Smith was co-leader with Jon Rahm. Smith shot 65 in 4th round to win by a shot over Rahm.

2021: Harris English was co-leader with Ryan Palmer. English shot 69 in 4th round, then beat Joaquin Niemann in Playoff.

2020: Justin Thomas was 2nd, shot back of leader Xander Schauffele. Thomas shot 69 in 4th round, then beat Patrick Reed and Xander Schauffele in playoff.

2019: Xander Schauffele was T-4th, five back of leader Gary Woodland. Schauffele shot 62 in 4th round to win by a shot over Woodland.



SAL'S PICKS

Xander Schauffele - Since his win in 2018 has played the best and most consistent, 73 under in his last 17 rounds

Brian Harman - One of the best putters on the PGA Tour, if he can win the British Open he can win at Kapalua

Jordan Spieth - This course is perfect for him game and his putter, look for him to contend again.

Longshot: Eric Cole - Good wind player, always putts well he should do great in his first visit to Maui

JASON'S PICKS

Max Homa - He is playing some of the best golf of his career and Kapalua rewards accuracy and consistency, two of Homa's strengths

Longshot: Sahith Theegala - He has the talent and midst to make a splash. His swing and ball-striking ability translates well to the Plantation Course

OVERVIEW

The 72nd edition tournament was first played at Desert Inn and held in Las Vegas until it moved to La Costa C.C. in Carlsbad, California, in 1969, then moved again to Kapalua in 1999. The event was open to the winners of PGA Tour events from the previous season. Since it's a "Signature Event," it's no longer just tournament winners in the field. Not only are winners from the 2023 season playing, but those in the top 50 players from the final FedExCup standings also qualified for the BMW Championship. This is only the second time in tournament history they have had non-winners. They invited winners and those in the top 30 in 2021, which was won by Harris English, who didn't win in 2020. Now another thing for the players is the results of the wildfires that destroyed the town of Lahaina. The course is 10 miles north of Lahaina and didn't receive any damages. The players will stay at either the Ritz Carlton or at homes in Kapalua, again not effected by the fires. But for most players, they spent nights in restaurants in Lahaina which are now gone and frankly. Still one of the best perks on the PGA Tour for winning or finishing in the top-50 is getting to start the year off in Maui. For the average person, they would kill just to get to Hawaii. Those in the field will not only get to go to Hawaii, but they get a week at a Ritz Carlton on one of the prettiest beaches in the world. Food couldn't be any better; the scenery is the best and for those that like water sports from surfing to snorkeling the Kapalua beaches are the best. Yes, this is arduous work and to think, there is no hustle or bustle this week, play lousy, finish last, and you'll still make just under \$100,000. But if you play well and win, it's a \$3.6 million payday. What a life.

COURSE

The Plantation course was designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw and opened in May 1991. Between 1992 and 1997, the system was the venue of the Lincoln-Mercury Kapalua Open, with the Mercedes Championships moving to the Plantation course in 1999. The average green space at Kapalua is 9,500 square feet, meaning it has some of the most enormous green spaces on tour. This will place a premium on putting, especially on long putts. The course has 95 bunkers and no water hazards, the Plantation course will be the only par-73 course used on the PGA Tour.

Since the greens are so large, hitting lots of greens is a misnomer. The average proximity to the hole is 35 feet 4 inches which made the pins the hardest to get close so you can see that lag putting is crucial.

So two key stats stand out as necessary, first approach putt performance which gauges who lag putts the closest to the hole? In 2023, those playing at Kapalua averaged getting their first putt within 2 feet, 4 inches away. The other key stat is birdie or better conversion per greens hit, Kapalua was second to last in 2023 as players birdied 38.63% of the greens they hit, so making birdies is easy and necessary.

Last year, the course played to a scoring average of 68.92 (remember it's a par 73) so the course played just over 4 shots under par and it was again the easiest course on the PGA Tour in 2023.

Keys to Winning the Sentry

The ability to play well on Bermuda greens, hit the ball a long way, and play well in windy conditions. Of the 20 players who won the 25 Sentry's at Kapalua, all of them except for Jim Furyk, Jonathan Byrd, Steve Stricker, and Zach Johnson have something in common. They all are above average in driving distance. The biggest misnomer is that despite the course having the widest fairways on the PGA Tour, large enough to land a 747 on them, this is not a course for bombers. The biggest key to success at Kapalua is putting. Of the 25 winners, 24 ranked in the top five in the number of putts, which means they have putted well and avoided three-putting on the big Kapalua Greens. It's also interesting to note that the winners have been in the top 8 in greens in regulation in the last seven years. The other key stat is birdie or better conversion per greens hit. Last year, Kapalua was 57th (out of 58 courses) as players birdied 38.63% of the greens they hit, so making birdies is easy and necessary. Experience is also essential. Of the 25 champions at Kapalua, only two (Sergio Garcia in 2002 & Daniel Chopra in 2008) have won in their first event on the Plantation Course. We can't emphasize the importance of handling the element; it will be warm, but the weather could be inhospitable with high winds and sometimes driving rain. Winds could shift from day to day, making it a strategic nightmare. But when there is no wind, the course turns into a birdie fest as it did last year.

A Look Back At The Last Two Sentry Tournaments

2023 After entering the day seven shots back, Jon Rahm equals the largest come-from-behind win at the Sentry. Things looked even grimmer as he bogeyed the first hole while 3rd round leader Collin Morikawa made birdie to lead by nine over Rahm. He birdied four of the next five holes he played, and with birdies at 9, 13, and 14, he was only three back. Morikawa made his first bogey of the week at 14, and minutes later, Rahm made an 11-footer for eagle as they were tied. For Morikawa, his problems continued with bogeys at 15 and 16. When Rahm birdied 18, he won by two. Rahm one-putted six of his final seven holes as putting was the key to his victory. He led in Strokes Gained putting and one-putted 31 of the 72 holes, the best of the week. On another significant key, over his last 27 holes, Rahm made one eagle and 14 birdies.

2022 28-year-old Australian Cameron Smith won with a record-smashing week of rounds of 65-64-64-65 for a 34 under total, the lowest strokes under par total in the history of the PGA Tour. Because of perfect weather with no wind for all four days, Smith took advantage of the conditions to lead or co-lead after every round. Despite co-leading going into the final round, it took a final round 65 for Smith to claim a one-shot win over Jon Rahm. The key to Smith's victory was putting. He made 387 feet of putts for the week as he was 1st in Strokes Gained Putting. In 63 attempts in putts up to 8 feet, he only missed twice and made 62 of 66 putts inside ten feet, which ranked 3rd for the week. Smith also had 35 one-putts, the best in the field. Smith played the par 4s at 17 under and the par 5s at 17 under, the lowest totals ever recorded at Kapalua. For the week, he made a bogey at 2 in the first round and bogeys at 1 and 2 in the second round, playing his last 52 holes bogey-free and at 26 under par.



Eight Year Glance at the Sentry

Player	Events Played	Cuts Made	Top 10s	Avg Finish	Avg Score	Rds Und/Total	Earnings	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Jordan Spieth	6	6	4	8.17	68.29	23 / 24	\$2,773,000	T-13 (-19)	T-21 (-18)				9 (-12)	T-3 (-16)	Win (-30)
Tom Hoge	1	1	1	3.00	67.25	4 / 4	\$840,000	T-3 (-23)							
Rickie Fowler	4	4	4	5.00	69.53	13 / 15	\$1,067,500				T-5 (-10)		T-4 (-14)		5 (-20)
Tom Kim	1	1	1	5.00	67.50	4 / 4	\$555,000	T-5 (-22)							
Collin Morikawa	4	4	4	5.25	68.06	15 / 16	\$2,191,333	2 (-25)	T-5 (-25)	T-7 (-20)	T-7 (-9)				
Matt Fitzpatrick	1	1	1	7.00	67.75	4 / 4	\$368,750	T-7 (-21)							
Xander Schauffele	6	5	3	23.83	68.86	20 / 21	\$2,463,250	WD (-3)	12 (-22)	T-5 (-21)	T-2 (-14)	Win (-23)	T-22 (-4)		
Sungjae Im	3	3	2	8.67	67.67	12 / 12	\$763,000	T-13 (-19)	T-8 (-24)	T-5 (-21)					
Jason Day	5	5	3	9.40	69.35	17 / 20	\$936,667					13 (-11)		T-12 (-13)	T-10 (-15)
Cam Davis	1	1	1	10.00	67.25	4 / 4	\$188,000		T-10 (-23)						
Scottie Scheffler	2	2	1	10.00	68.25	8 / 8	\$494,000	T-7 (-21)		T-13 (-17)					
Rory McIlroy	1	1	1	4.00	69.25	4 / 4	\$305,333					T-4 (-15)			
Patrick Cantlay	5	5	2	10.40	68.95	19 / 20	\$1,262,250	T-16 (-18)	4 (-26)	T-13 (-17)	4 (-11)		T-15 (-9)		
Sam Burns	2	2	0	25.50	69.25	7 / 8	\$330,000	32 (-11)	T-19 (-19)						
Viktor Hovland	3	3	0	26.33	69.50	10 / 12	\$386,000	T-18 (-17)	T-30 (-14)	T-31 (-11)					
Mackenzie Hughes	3	3	0	29.00	70.83	8 / 12	\$326,500	T-21 (-16)		T-41 (-4)				T-25 (-6)	
Luke List	1	1	0	11.00	68.00	4 / 4	\$292,500	T-11 (-20)							
Brian Harman	3	3	1	12.00	69.25	11 / 12	\$792,333	T-16 (-18)					3 (-15)		
Cameron Young	1	1	0	13.00	68.25	4 / 4	\$265,000	T-13 (-19)							
Harris English	3	3	1	14.00	68.75	11 / 12	\$1,603,000		T-30 (-14)	Win (-25)					
Hideki Matsuyama	6	6	3	14.00	69.08	22 / 24	\$1,752,167	T-21 (-16)	T-13 (-21)	T-41 (-4)			T-4 (-14)	2 (-19)	
Andrew Putnam	1	1	0	14.00	70.50	3 / 4	\$132,000					T-14 (-10)			
Max Homa	3	3	1	14.33	69.42	10 / 12	\$1,047,500	T-3 (-23)	T-15 (-20)		T-25 (Even)				
Chris Kirk	4	4	1	15.25	70.13	11 / 16	\$470,250								T-24 (-9)
Tony Finau	4	4	2	16.50	68.94	15 / 16	\$713,083	T-7 (-21)	T-19 (-19)	T-31 (-11)				T-9 (-14)	
Brendon Todd	3	3	1	16.67	70.42	9 / 12	\$369,250			T-13 (-17)	29 (+2)				
Emiliano Grillo	1	1	0	18.00	70.00	3 / 4	\$90,000								T-18 (-12)
Lucas Glover	3	3	1	18.33	70.92	7 / 12	\$450,500		T-35 (-10)						
Corey Connors	2	2	0	18.50	70.63	5 / 8	\$319,500	T-18 (-17)			T-19 (-2)				
Russell Henley	4	4	1	19.25	70.31	14 / 16	\$706,500	T-30 (-12)					T-17 (-8)		
Seamus Power	2	2	0	20.00	68.63	8 / 8	\$345,833	T-25 (-15)	T-15 (-20)						
Keegan Bradley	4	4	1	20.25	71.00	11 / 15	\$682,250	34 (-9)				T-27 (-1)			
Si Woo Kim	3	3	1	21.00	70.67	10 / 12	\$352,000		T-23 (-17)				10 (-11)	T-30 (Even)	
Sepp Straka	1	1	0	21.00	69.00	4 / 4	\$220,000	T-21 (-16)							
Nick Taylor	2	2	0	29.00	70.63	7 / 8	\$113,000			T-29 (-13)					
Adam Hadwin	1	1	0	32.00	73.50	1 / 4	\$62,000						32 (+2)		
Sahith Theegala	1	1	0	33.00	70.50	4 / 4	\$206,000	33 (-10)							
Adam Svensson	1	1	0	37.00	71.75	3 / 4	\$202,000	37 (-5)							