

Thursday, June 21 2018

Thursday at the Travelers Championship delivered a very familiar scene: Women's Day festivities off the golf course, and Jordan Spieth in the lead on it.

Spieth shared the first-round lead with Zach Johnson, each player shooting a 7-under-par 63 at TPC River Highlands. Rory McIlroy was part of a three-player group at 64, with Paul Casey among three players who shot a 5-under 65.

Women's Day presented by Travelers has become one of the most popular attractions during tournament week. The sold-out breakfast attracted a crowd of more than 700 and included a Q&A with Norah O'Donnell, award-winning television journalist and host of "CBS This Morning." Emmy Award-winning actor and singer Christopher Jackson performed, singing a song from the hit Broadway show "Hamilton," which earned him a Tony Award nomination for the role of George Washington. All women attending the Travelers Championship on Thursday received special discounts and benefits.

One year after he holed out from a greenside bunker to win the 2017 Travelers Championship in a playoff, Spieth authored a similar highlight with another bunker hole-out, this time for eagle on the par-5 sixth hole. Of the five rounds Spieth has played at the Travelers Championship, he has been in the lead after every one.

Johnson used a string of six straight birdies on holes 11-16 to finish at 7-under-par. McIlroy was part of the group tied for the lead until he made a bogey on No. 18, the only hole he failed to hit in regulation. McIlroy was tied for third with Peter Malnati and Brian Harman at 6-under. Casey, Beau Hossler and Matt Jones were another shot back at 5-under.

The second round is scheduled for Friday. After play concludes, the American rock band Survivor will kick off the first night of the Liberty Bank Concert Series in the Stanley Black & Decker Fan Zone.