



2009 Omega Mission Hills World Cup
Shenzhen, China November 26-29, 2009
Mission Hills Golf Club
Format: Four-ball

Purse: \$5,500,000
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,320

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, November 28, 2009

Italy's 11-under 61 matched Korea for the low 18-hole, third-round score. The team of Edoardo and Francesco Molinari had 11 birdies and seven pars to move them into a tie for second to play alongside Ireland, who lead Italy and Sweden by one stroke. In the previous 54 tournaments, no family members have played together and gone on to win.

The best front-nine score Saturday was 30, by Australia (Robert Allenby-Stuart Appleby), the Republic of Korea (Charlie Wi-Y.E. Yang) and Canada (Stuart Anderson-Graham DeLaet). The top back-nine score was 30, from Italy (Edoardo Molinari-Francesco Molinari) and Wales (Stephen Dodd-Jamie Donaldson).

Defending champion Sweden remains in position to win a second consecutive OMEGA Mission Hills World Cup. After opening with a 64 followed by a 65, Robert Karlsson and Henrik Stenson returned to the Four-ball format and fired a third-round 62. Sweden is tied for second place, a stroke behind Ireland. The last time a team represented by the same players won World Cups in succession was in 1994 and 1995, when the United States' Fred Couples and Davis Love III won the first World Cup held at Mission Hills (at the Nicklaus World Cup Course).

In its last seven rounds at the OMEGA Mission Hills World Cup, Sweden is a combined 52-under. A year ago, Robert Karlsson and Henrik Stenson shot rounds of 65-67-66-63 on their way to a 27-under winning score. This week, through 54 holes, Sweden is 25-under (64-65-62).

Italy's Edoardo Molinari and Sweden's Robert Karlsson are getting quite acquainted with each other. Last week on the Japan Golf Tour, at the Dunlop Phoenix in Miyazaki, Japan, Molinari outlasted Karlsson in a two-hole playoff. Entering the final round of the OMEGA Mission Hills World Cup, Sweden and Italy are tied at 25-under, a stroke behind Ireland.

Through 54 holes, Ireland has moved atop the leaderboard on the strength of 27 birdies, one eagle and the rest pars. Rory McIlroy is playing in his first World Cup, while partner Graeme McDowell is playing in his second after making his debut a year ago with Paul McGinley.

Host country China wasn't able to make a move Saturday, shooting a 4-under 68. The team of Zhang Lian-Wei and Liang Wen-Chong is currently tied for 18th entering Sunday's final round. Zhang is one of two players to play in all four previous World Cups held at Mission Hills. The other is Germany's Alex Cejka.

The best birdie streak during the third round came from the top and bottom of the leaderboard. Pakistan's Muhammad Munir and Muhammad Shabbir, tied for 26th after three rounds, opened Saturday's play with birdies on the first four holes and recorded 10 birdies overall. Sweden, led by Robert Karlsson and Henrik Stenson, are tied for second place, with their consecutive birdies coming on the 12th-through-15th holes.

South Africa's Rory Sabbatini and Richard Sterne made a charge up the leaderboard, thanks to a third-round 62—with a pair of 31s on each nine. Sabbatini teamed with Trevor Immelman to win the 2003 World Cup for South Africa.

Only two teams had worse-than-bogey scores on holes Saturday. The United States made a triple-bogey 8 on the par-5 15th, while Pakistan made double bogey on the finishing hole. That double bogey led to one of two par-or-worse nine-hole scores Saturday. The Americans and the Brazilians (Rafael Barcellos and Ronaldo Francisco) shot even-par 36s.

Playing in its fifth World Cup, but the first in the current format, Pakistan is in a tie for 26th. The team of Muhammad Munir and Muhammad Shabbir shot 31 on the front nine and 33 on the back on their way to an 8-under 64. This is Pakistan's first World Cup appearance since 1982 when the country, behind Ghulam Nabi and Mohammed Shafiq played in Acapulco, Mexico. That year, Pakistan its top finish, a tie for 24th.

There were five eagles Saturday, with four of them coming at the par-5 seventh hole (by South Africa, Venezuela, Canada and the United States). Germany made an eagle at the 11th hole. Overall, there have been 13 eagles this week, with Canada, Germany and Venezuela the only teams with two eagles.