



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Score
1	Peter Uihlein	62 (-9)
2	Alex Cejka	63 (-8)
3	Ryan Armour	64 (-7)
	Ted Potter, Jr.	64 (-7)

Peter Uihlein takes the first-round lead with a 9-under 62 at the Albertsons Boise Open

Boise, Idaho – Fresh off a victory at the first Web.com Tour Finals event in Columbus, Peter Uihlein brought the momentum with him out west with a 9-under 62 in the opening round at the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco. The 2010 U.S. Amateur champ spent his week off between events boarding up his house in Jupiter, Fla., to protect it from Hurricane Irma, and then evacuated to Ohio for a childhood friend’s wedding before arriving in Boise. Nevertheless, the game remained sharp with a bogey-free round that has him one shot ahead of Alex Cejka.

“I’ve been wedging the ball really well, and I’ve been putting it nicely and driving it straight,” Uihlein said. “If I feel like I do those well, I can make a lot of birdies and get it going. That’s really been the key.”

The 28-year-old was sharp out of the gates in his first start in Boise. After knocking it to three feet for birdie at the first, he holed a 15-footer at the second and poured in his third in a row with a tap-in at the par-5 third. He added birdies at Nos. 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17 on his way in with dialed in approaches in a round in which he hit 16 of 18 greens.

“After the PGA Championship, I took two weeks off. Leading up to Columbus, I just plopped behind TrackMan and hit a lot of wedges, and it seems to be working out pretty well,” Uihlein said.

After locking up his PGA TOUR card with his win at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship, Uihlein figured he’d head back to the European Tour, where he currently sits 13th in the Race to Dubai standings, but changed his plans when he discovered that No. 1 on the Finals money list earns fully-exempt status on TOUR for the 2017-18 season including an exemption into THE PLAYERS Championship. With three events remaining in the Finals, his goal is set, and that’s why he’s playing this week after locking up his TOUR card already.

“After I won at Ohio State, I just thought I won and got my TOUR card and would go back to Europe, but I found out [about the exemption] and was like, ‘No, gotta keep playing, keep finishing high on the leaderboard,’” Uihlein said. “So that’s kind of my goal and hopefully I’ll get it done after next week and then I can go back to Europe for the Race to Dubai.”

Uihlein’s unsure of how he’ll schedule his TOUR schedule next season, but the comforts of playing at home in the United States the last two weeks have given him a taste of what he has to look forward to. It’s simple things like

being able to pop over to a Dave and Busters for “about five hours” like him and his girlfriend did Thursday that he’s appreciated. It’s being able to go to his favorite restaurants for lunch or being able to jet home after the tournament finishes in time to sleep in his own bed on a Sunday night.

“Just the comfort of being home that I think has been key. Being able to have your own car, go off and do whatever you want. I don’t feel like I have to go from golf course to hotel all the time,” Uihlein said. “I don’t think people appreciate how easy it is. So just something like that makes it more comforting, and I think that’s why I’m playing a little bit better.”

Cejka, who teed it up in the afternoon wave, looked like he might have the lead at the end of the day after opening with a 7-under 28 on his opening nine. That 28 culminated with a hole-in-one at the par-3 17th.

“I hit a gap wedge, and I think I had 120 meters. It was a great shot. Gap wedge, straight at the pin. I was hoping it’d be the right number and suddenly the ball disappeared. I flew it straight in. Not one bounce. It was a lucky shot, and I’ll take it.”

He added birdies at Nos. 2 and 6 on his back nine to tie Uihlein for the lead, but he dropped a shot at the ninth, his last, to fall one shot back of the 18-hole lead.

“It was a great front nine. On the back nine I had a lot of chances, but I unfortunately missed two short putts like two or three feet on seven and eight and bogeyed nine, so that was a little bit of a disappointing finish. But I’m very happy with the round today. I played solid. I hit a lot of good shots and made a lot of good putts, so that’s the key here. It’s a low-scoring week, and you have to make those putts.”

Ryan Armour and Ted Potter, Jr., trail by two shots after a pair of 7-under 64s.

Thursday Notes:

* Thursday weather: Partly cloudy with scattered showers. Wind NW 8-14 mph. High of 70.

* This week’s purse is \$1M with \$180,000 awarded to the champion.

* This is the second tournament in the Web.com Tour Finals, a series of four events that will conclude at the Web.com Tour Championship in Atlantic Beach, Fla., Sept. 25-Oct. 1. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards were awarded last week following the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz. An additional 25 cards are up for grabs during the four Finals events, as well as positioning for all 50 cards.

* This week’s purse is \$1M with \$180,000 going to the champion.

* Ryan Armour, who finished runner up in Columbus, carded a 7-under 64 on Thursday, his lowest score in 23 rounds at Hillcrest CC. In the race for No. 1 on the Finals money list, Armour is \$80,000 behind first-round leader Peter Uihlein.

* After a T31 at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship, Carlos Ortiz opened the Albertsons Boise Open with a 6-under-par 65, his second lowest round at Hillcrest CC (2014/R2/64). Ortiz’s best performance this season was a T8 (Nashville Golf Open, Corales Puntacana Resort & Spa Championship).

* Local favorite Troy Merritt, who played collegiately at Boise State University carded a 1-under 70 on Thursday afternoon at Hillcrest Country Club. Merritt missed the cut in the first of four Finals events. In six previous appearances at the Albertsons Boise Open, Merritt has a scoring average of 68.80. His best performance in Boise came in 2011 (T11).

* This is the third year of the Finals format and it’s difficult to estimate exactly how much money it will take to finish in the top-25 on the Finals money list and collect one of the remaining 25 PGA TOUR cards that will be handed out in a few weeks.

Here's how much money the No. 25 man on the money list earned in each of the past two years:

2013	No. 25	Bobby Gates	\$33,650.00
2014	No. 25	Eric Axley	\$36,311.66
2015	No. 25	Rob Oppenheim	\$32,206.00
2016	No. 24	Tim Wilkinson*	\$27,425.00

*denotes three events played (Web.com Tour Championship was cancelled)

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website: <https://moveit.pgatourhq.com> <<https://moveit.pgatourhq.com/>>

Username: webcom_Highlights

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* First click on "FOLDER" on the top left of the main page. From there, navigate to the following folders:
/Home/Highlights and then locate the event folder of your choice.

* All footage is HD and use is free.

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