



DAP Championship



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Score
1	Nicholas Lindheim	64-69-68—201 (-9)
	Matt Atkins	64-68-69—201 (-9)
3	Four players tied at	203 (-7)

Nicholas Lindheim and Matt Atkins share 54-hole lead at DAP Championship

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Nicholas Lindheim is working to finish what he wasn't able to last year at the DAP Championship. The 32-year-old fell in a playoff a year ago to Bryson DeChambeau, and he's working to atone for that this weekend after grabbing a share of the 54-hole lead Saturday with Matt Atkins at 9-under 201.

"I played well today. I played better than I did yesterday," Lindheim said. "I just stayed steady. Obviously, hanging in there and letting it happen is what you have to do out there. You can't force anything out here. You force it and you're going to make mistakes."

Atkins has held at least a share of the lead after each round thus far and continued his steady play with a third-round 1-under 69. Throughout the week, the 26-year-old has ridden a hot putter with only 82 putts through three rounds. He ranks tied for third in putts per round (27.33) and tied for fourth in putting average (1.667).

"I feel like the putter has been there all week, and I had a nice little birdie on No. 9 that I was lagging down there that pretty much fell in the hole," Atkins said. "But, yeah, I've been putting well, and I've had a really good feel on the greens all week. For me, I think that's the strength of my game."

For Lindheim, the recipe has been a little different. Superior ball-striking has led him to the top of the leaderboard after a second-round, 2-under 68. Through three rounds, he's tied for the field lead in greens in regulation with 45 of 54 greens hit.

"Just cause you have a sand wedge in your hand doesn't mean you have to go after the flag," Lindheim said. "So I've been good about listening to where my caddie wants me to hit the ball and take our chances from there."

Atkins held the lead for much of the day with a lead that ballooned as high as three shots entering the 15th hole, but Lindheim poured in back-to-back birdies on 15 and 16 to narrow the gap.

"I made some putts. I made a long on 15, which was a bonus, and a nice par putt on 16, which once again was a bonus," he said.

After Lindheim narrowed the gap, Atkins made his biggest mistake of the week with a double bogey at the par-5 16th after losing his approach in the back bunker and the lead in the process.

“I came out here thinking anything under par would be a solid round. Obviously had a little hiccup on 16 and blew an opportunity to kind of extend the lead or keep it at one or two shots and it is what it is,” Atkins said. “That’s the first time I didn’t really get out of jail this week. But overall it was a solid day. I played really well. I don’t want to let what happened on 16 define how the rest of the round went because I played pretty well.”

Atkins, who already has his PGA TOUR card secured through the Regular Season money list, has the freedom of a TOUR card entering the final round that Lindheim doesn’t have. Whether players want to admit it or not, the Owensboro, Kentucky native believes it’s an advantage. When a player might only need a top-four finish to lock up their TOUR card, they might not play for the win as aggressively or with the freedom of thought that he can.

“I think that’s one of the benefits of me being in my position is there’s not that extra thing on the line,” Atkins said. “All of us want to win and that’s the bottom line, but when you let your mind wander and you don’t have your card wrapped up, in the back of your head you want to win but you’re ok with finishing top-five because you know what that means.”

Not Lindheim, though. He says the victory is the only thing he’ll be concerned with Sunday. Where he ultimately falls on the money list will be a byproduct of his play, not his approach.

“Why do we all play this game for a living?” Lindheim asked rhetorically if his mindset would change. “We play this game to make a living, so \$180,000 sounds a lot better than \$50,000. That’s always gotten my fire going.”

Both Lindheim and Atkins have held the lead/co-lead once previously on the Web.com Tour after 54 holes, and both were able to convert that lead to victory. But Lindheim, the self-taught player, won’t be leaning on thoughts of how he handled the lead in his victory at the 2016 Utah Championship. Instead, he’ll be trying to replicate what he did last year in the final round when he shot a 4-under 66 to play his way into the playoff. Only this time he’ll be hoping for a different result.

“I don’t really revert back to what I’ve done in the past. I know a lot of guys do, and it’s probably more so the proper thing to do, but I take each day at a time,” Lindheim said. “So tomorrow I’m going to go out and play exactly the way I did the first three rounds and wherever I end up on the leaderboard, whether it’s first or fifth or 50th, it doesn’t matter. I’m going to stick to the same routine.”

Matt Harmon (67), Joel Dahmen (68), Chesson Hadley (68), and Shawn Stefani (69) are all just two shots back of the lead in a tie for third at 7-under 203.

“If you’re in double digits tomorrow, you’re going to have a really good chance to win,” Atkins said, “because the golf course is playing really tough.”

Saturday Notes:

* Saturday weather: Mostly sunny; High of 87; Wind N 6-12 mph.

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

* This is the third 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 month 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.

* 2016 champion Bryson DeChambeau held a one-shot lead entering the final round a year ago but posted a 1-over 71 to get into a four-way playoff with Andres Gonzales, Julian Etulain, and Nicholas Lindheim.

* Julian Etulain, who was runner-up a year ago at Canterbury, was 4-under for the day and up to 6-under for the tournament when he arrived at the par-3 17th, where he made a quintuple bogey. Etulain ended the day with a 1-over 71 and is 10 shots back of the lead entering the final round. He was four shots back a year ago when he posted a final round 3-under 67 to play his way into the playoff.

- * The 54-hole leader/co-leader has converted that lead into victory 13 of 24 times on the Web.com Tour this season.
- * Keith Mitchell appears on the verge of securing his PGA TOUR card. The former Georgia Bulldog is currently 14th on the Finals money list with \$34,750 in earnings and could lock up his card with a top 30 or better. The 25-year-old, who finished on the Regular Season money list bubble at No. 26, enters the final round in T9 after rounds of 67-71-67—205 (-5) and is projected to move to eighth on the Finals money list.
- * Tag Ridings shot an opening nine 6-under 29 in the third round but posted a 3-over 38 on the back nine for a 3-under 67.
- * Lanto Griffin posted his third consecutive 2-under 68. Griffin is in search of his fourth top-10 in his last 12 starts after failing to register a top-10 in his first 12 career starts on the Web.com Tour.
- * Rob Oppenheim, who finished 26th on the Finals money list a year ago, is set for redemption Sunday after rounds of 68-69-68—205 (-5). Oppenheim entered the week at 12th on the Finals money list with \$36,650 in earnings – a number that would have secured his PGA TOUR card each of the first four years of the Web.com Tour Finals. But the 37-year-old is in T9 entering the week and is projected to move up to fifth on the Finals money list.
- * Matt Harmon is making his first Web.com Tour Finals start this year and could secure his first PGA TOUR card. Entering the final round, Harmon is two shots back of the lead in T3 after rounds of 68-68-67—203 (-7) and projected to move up to 10th on the Finals money list.
- * 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. 25 Tim Wilkinson*	\$27,425.00

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

Scoring Averages at the par-70 Canterbury Golf Club:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	35.008	35.916	70.924	
R2:	35.351	35.473	70.824	70.874
R3:	34.940	35.821	70.761	70.836

HIGHLIGHTS AND INTERVIEWS from today's play are available via the following FTP site:

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

Username: webcom_Highlights

Password: pgatour13

* 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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