



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Nicholas Thompson	63 (-7)
2	Brandon Harkins	64 (-6)
	Cameron Wilson	64 (-6)
	Paul Barjon	64 (-6)
	Carlos Ortiz	64 (-6)
	Tyler Duncan	64 (-6)

Curry records first-round 74 at Ellie Mae Classic; Thompson leads with 63

HAYWARD, Calif. – Two-time NBA MVP Stephen Curry found his first foray into another professional sport just as adrenaline-inducing as his day job, posting a 4-over 74 in his first start on the Web.com Tour Thursday at the Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae.

“It was an amazing experience. I’ve been looking forward to this since I found out, and to finally hit my first shot in a tournament play was really, really a nervous moment, but it was everything I hoped for,” Curry said. “If you told me I was going to shoot 74 going into the first round, I’d take that all day every day, so pretty happy with it. Obviously, as a competitor, you feel like you can play better, so hopefully I can do that tomorrow.”

Curry’s playing partner, Sam Ryder, who is currently No. 2 on the Web.com Tour money list and won in his last start, was especially impressed after Curry edged him by a shot.

“He impressed me today, for sure,” Ryder said. “I mean, I won my last start by eight shots, and he beat me today by a shot. So that just shows you, you know, I had a tough day and shaking off a little rust from last week, but he still beat me. I was impressed. A couple times, like he made an awesome par save on 18. A couple things that showed a lot of grit. And he hit some great drives, and his short game was awesome, too. I was very impressed.”

Curry compared hearing his name called on the opening tee shot at No. 10 to how he feels at center court when the NBA Finals is about to tip.

“The feeling’s the same, the adrenaline’s the same, but you have a whole lot more time to think about what’s going on,” Curry said. “As soon as he said my name on the first tee, that’s when I could barely feel my hands. I had to try to take a deep breath and still it wasn’t anything I could prepare myself for that moment. But after probably like the third or fourth hole, it was just golf and just tried to hit some good shots.”

His opening tee shot ended up in the cup holder of a golf cart down the left side of the fairway on his way to an opening bogey. After bogeys on three of his first five holes, Curry posted his first of three birdies on the day at the par-5 15th, where he showed a delicate touch with his approach with a wedge on the par-5 and then fist pumped after.

“It was a day of firsts for everything,” Curry said. “First, obviously, opportunity to play with these guys, the first tee shot was crazy, the first par that I made after just trying to settle in, and obviously the first birdie was a really cool moment.”

Curry went on to make the turn in 2-over 37 and then poured in his second birdie of the day at the par-5 third. Curry's last birdie of the day was his biggest highlight, draining a 25-foot putt and then borrowing Jordan Spieth's famous line, telling his caddie to "go get that."

"I have to take advantage of the opportunities because they don't happen very often," Curry joked. "I saw that right out of Jordan's playbook at Royal Birkdale. Johnny was a good sport about it, went and grabbed the ball out of the hole for me. It was a really cool way to bounce back from a double bogey."

Current 18-hole leader Nicholas Thompson, who opened with a 7-under 63, wasn't offended by being upstaged by a score 11 shots behind his and left quite impressed with the opening 74 considering golf isn't Curry's day job.

"You know what, most importantly, he brings more fans to the golf tournament than the rest of the tournament combined by probably 100 times. It's big," Thompson said. "It's getting our names out there. It's better for all of us. I think it was a good choice by the tournament to give him a sponsor's invite, and from what I understand, he's a very class act. And I mean 74 is good. Hats off to him. 74 is a solid score."

After beginning on the back nine, Thompson poured in birdies at Nos. 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 5 and then closed with a 12-foot birdie at the last to take the solo lead. Thompson is one shot ahead of a quartet of players – Brandon Harkins, Cameron Wilson, Paul Barjon, and Carlos Ortiz – at 6-under 66.

"I'm excited," Thompson said. "I'm hitting it good, playing good and putting good. Looking forward to it."

As Thompson looks forward to trying to hold his lead the next three rounds, Curry has his eyes on trying to play his way into the weekend Friday when he tees off for the second round at 2:15 p.m. PT.

"We'll see. Obviously, I said I want to play better tomorrow and now that I've got the jitters out, hopefully that will happen. Hit a couple more good shots, make a couple more putts," Curry said. "But I really don't know how to access the situation. I'll probably check scores this afternoon, see how everybody's doing, and obviously tomorrow morning, which I think as it goes I'll know sort of where I need to shoot going into my round to kind of give myself a chance. I probably shouldn't have said that because I don't want that extra pressure, so I just need to hit good shots."

Thursday Notes:

* Thursday weather: Partly Cloudy, High: 85, Winds: W-SW 7-14 mph.

* This week's purse is \$600,000 with \$108,000 going to the champion.

* Cameron Wilson, who became the first golfer since Tiger Woods to win the NCAA individual championship at nearby Stanford in 2014, posted his best round of the season with a 6-under 64. Wilson is currently No. 112 on the Web.com Tour money list with nine made cuts in 17 starts.

* Curry's 4-over 74 was at least one shot better than three players who have won on the Web.com Tour this season Thursday.

* Stephan Jaeger, who shot a 12-under 58 in the first round a year ago, opened with a 3-under 67 Thursday. Jaeger is looking for his third victory of the season this week.

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:
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