



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Andrew Landry	63 (-8)
2	Nicholas Thompson	64 (-7)
	Talor Gooch	64 (-7)
	Ben Taylor	64 (-7)
	Michael Gligic	64 (-7)
6	Seven players tied at	65 (-6)

Andrew Landry takes first-round lead at Digital Ally Open

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. – Andrew Landry attempts to emulate the game’s greats every time he competes. The 29-year-old from Port Neches-Groves, Texas holds the No. 1 spot on the Web.com Tour money list and doesn’t have any plans of relinquishing the throne.

On Thursday morning, Landry carded an 8-under-par 63, at the Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate, to take the first-round lead at the Digital Ally Open. The former Arkansas Razorback standout is one shot better than Nicholas Thompson, Talor Gooch, Ben Taylor and Mackenzie Tour - PGA TOUR alum Michael Gligic heading into Saturday’s second round.

“It’s been one of the best years I’ve had in professional golf,” said Landry, who has recorded six top-10s this season. “I’m just playing super consistent and just throwing under-par scores out there every single day and finishing top-10. That’s a huge accomplishment. I’m just trying to become a top-10 player in the world and that’s how I’m carrying myself.”

“I’ve got off to great starts in the first round this year,” continued Landry, who has carded just two rounds over par on his first 18 holes this year. “That helps out a lot when you’re entering the weekend.”

After missing the cut in the season-opening Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay, Landry has made 13 straight cuts. The Austin, Texas resident entered the week with 13 consecutive rounds of par or better, a scoring average of 69.49, which places him fourth this season, and finished tied for second at last week’s Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Heartland Chevy Dealers to surpass Stephan Jaeger.

“You want to be the best on any Tour you are playing on,” said Landry, who currently holds a \$20,994 lead over Sam Ryder. “No. 1 was on my mind, maybe not after the 87 in Exuma, but coming off a win in the second tournament. I put myself in position to have a solid year and that was my goal two years ago. My foot is down this year. I’m not going to take it off until November when the PGA TOUR fall events are finished.”

Landry was certainly racing toward the finish line on Thursday. After a first-nine, 3-under 33, that included a hole-out eagle on the par-5 15th, the eight-year pro made six birdies and a bogey on the front side for a second-nine 30.

“I got off to a weird start,” said Landry. “I hit a lot of good shots on my front nine. Just played good all day and hit a lot of wedge shots close and made one little hiccup on the fourth hole. I should’ve putted it (rather than chipping it). It’s just one of those things where you keep on learning and do what you do.”

Landry, who is playing for the third straight week, was able to get some rest on Thursday because of the postponement of the first round due to heavy rains making LionsGate unplayable on Thursday. The downside to that is the fact that all the players who make the cut, including Landry if he can keep up this pace, will have to play 36 holes on the final day of the tournament.

“I laid in bed all day yesterday (Thursday) and was pretty tight and tired this morning,” he said. “I know that the rest is going to be super important over the next two days. I’m looking forward to tomorrow and trying and get myself prepared for Sunday, because I know it’s going to be a long day.”

Thompson tied his lowest first-18 hole score this season with his 7-under round on Thursday. The 34-year-old Thompson is in a unique position where he could play on the PGA TOUR this season at times but has elected to compete on the Web.com Tour to try and regain TOUR membership by either finishing inside the top 25 on the money list at the end of the Regular Season or at the Web.com Tour Finals.

“It is what it is,” said Thompson, who is No. 34 on the money list. “I can go out there and play as good as I can and where I finish, I know I’m in the final four events. If I get into the top 25 before then, that would be phenomenal. That’s what my goal is, but if not it’s okay. I’ll be ready for the last four.”

Gooch carded a back-nine 30 to move into a tie for second at 7-under. The 25-year-old from Midwest City, Okla. is on the cusp of earning his TOUR card for the first time in his career. At No. 42 on the money list he realizes that these last few weeks leading into the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz are crucial.

“That’s the goal all year,” said Gooch, when asked about being outside the top 25 on the money list. “I’m hoping, in the next few tournaments, I can have some good weeks and get ready for the Finals.”

On Tuesday, Taylor, and his good mate Greg Eason, took part in a FootGolf expedition against some players from Sporting Kansas City. The 25-year-old from London, England carried that positive attitude into Friday and carded his third straight first-round score in the 60s. With five events remaining in the Regular Season, Taylor’s sense of urgency has kicked in and his results are improving each week.

“This is good time for me,” said Taylor, who has made three cuts in a row. “We are starting to run out of events. Without putting any pressure on myself, I need to play better. I’ve just upped the belief in myself. I know that I can be at the top of the leaderboard at the end of a tournament and it’s nice to be up there now.”

Thursday Notes:

* Thursday weather: Partly cloudy. High: 95, Low: 78, Winds: S-SW 8-16 mph.

* This week’s event is the 18th of 22 regular season events on the 2016 schedule. The top-25 money winners following the season-ending WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz at the end of this month will earn PGA TOUR cards for the 2016-17 wraparound season.

* This week’s purse is \$650,000, with \$117,500 going to the champion.

Michael Gligic is making just his fifth start of the season. In his four previous appearances, the 27-year-old from Ontario, Canada has made just one cut (T8 – Nashville Golf Open benefitting the Snedeker Foundation). In 2016, Gligic finished the Mackenzie Tour - PGA TOUR Canada season 10th on the Order of Merit with three top-four finishes in 12 starts. He carded all four rounds in the 60s, including a 6-under 65 in the second round, to finish T2 at the Players Cup, his best Mackenzie Tour finish since a playoff loss at the 2014 Wildfire Invitational.

* Marty Dou recorded his lowest first-round score of the season on Thursday. Dou has recorded one top-10 (3 – The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club) and entered the week No. 53 on the money list. Dou is looking to join Xinjun Zhang inside the top 25 on the money list.

* Players just inside the top 25 (21-25) and where they stand:

Rank this Week	Player	Score	Position
21	Lanto Griffin	65 (-6)	T6
22	D.H. Lee	65 (-6)	T6

23	Jimmy Gunn	71 (E)	115
24	Jason Gore	69 (-2)	T66
25	Augusto Nunez		DNP

* Players just outside the top 25 (26-30) and where they stand:

Rank this Week	Player	Score	Position
26	Rob Oppenheim	67 (-4)	
27	Alex Prugh	68 (-3)	T46
28	Casey Wittenberg	70 (-1)	T95
29	Chris Baker	70 (-1)	T95
30	Adam Long	76 (+5)	T154

Bogey Free Rounds:

R1 – Talor Gooch (64), Kyle Thompson (65), Sebastian Cappelen (65), Lanto Griffin (65), Bo Hoag (65), Wes Roach (66), Brice Garnett (67), Luke Guthrie (67), Abraham Ancer (68), Austin Cook (68).

Scoring Average for Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate for the week:

	Front (35)	Back (36)	Total (71)
Round 1:	34.756	34.378	69.135

* **NEXT WEEK:** The Web.com Tour heads west for the Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae where two-time NBA Champion Stephen Curry will compete for the first time on the Web.com Tour, July 31 – August 6.

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

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* First click on "FOLDER" on the top left of the main page. From there, navigate to the following folders:
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