



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Jonathan Byrd	64-65-64—193 (-20)
2	Sam Saunders	59-66-70—195 (-18)
3	Cameron Tringale	65-66-65—196 (-17)
T4	Three players tied	197 (-16)

Byrd ties the round of the day to take the 54-hole lead at the Web.com Tour Championship

ATLANTIC BEACH, Fla. — Jonathan Byrd tied the round of the day with a 7-under 64 to overtake Sam Saunders for the 54-hole lead at the Web.com Tour Championship. Saunders, who opened with a 12-under 59, entered the day with a two-shot lead, but Byrd, a five-time PGA TOUR winner, poured in eight birdies on the day to grab a two-shot lead at 20-under 193.

"I was telling myself I'm a clutch putter and I've made a lot of clutch putts over the year and I just felt good out there," Byrd said. "I felt at ease. When you feel that way, you're kind of letting it come to you, you're not working hard to make putts. You're just kind of letting it happen and that's kind of the way I felt."

Byrd, who has played the Web.com Tour each of the two seasons, is in search of a return to the PGA TOUR Sunday and could lock up his TOUR card with a top-six finish or better. The 41-year-old, though, is more focused on securing a victory, which would be his first on the Web.com Tour since the 2001 BMW Charity Pro-Am.

"I told myself at the beginning of the week I had to get to 20-under to do what I need to do this week for next year, which is probably the top five or six, and I'm already at that point so I've got to kind of reevaluate," Byrd said. "We're probably going to have tough conditions tomorrow, it's going to be a little more windy. But I like this golf course, and I think I can kind of work myself around it. I don't know what it's going to take tomorrow, but I'm going to shoot the best score I can and see what happens."

For a period earlier this week, the Sea Island, Georgia resident considered not even coming even though the season finale was just an hour and half down the road from his home. His game was in a funk following consecutive missed cuts, but his wife had a talk with him and he headed to south to Atlantic Beach, Florida for this week's season finale. Needless to say he's glad he did even if he didn't expect this type of week.

"I've been in the mix a couple times this year, but I haven't had any leads or anything like that. I was telling Phil Blackmar that actually on Monday or Sunday I was debating on whether to even come down here because I just was in a funk. Missed the last two cuts and played pretty horrible."

Turns out the pep talk and Bermuda greens was all the recipe he needed for a turnaround. His fellow playing partner, Keith Mitchell, who also lives in Sea Island and plays with Byrd frequently in the offseason, joked that Byrd was even walking them in from 30 feet on Saturday.

“Coming into this week, I really like this golf course. It gives you a little extra room off the tee. I love the Bermuda greens, I love the fact that there’s no rough,” Byrd said. “I think being a southern boy, you like Bermuda anytime you can get it. I’ve puttied good all week, and I kind of had a nice attitude adjustment on Monday and just came down here trying to play like I’ve got nothing to lose and I’ve done a good job of that this week. But you’ve still got to make the putts, still got to be committed out there and it’s been a little bit of a battle but I’ve stayed focused.”

Saunders, who is a member at Atlantic Beach Country Club, opened the day with a bogey at the first but appeared to right the ship with birdies at Nos. 3, 4 and 6. However, the 30-year-old, who is in search of his first career Web.com Tour victory, made bogeys at the par-5 seventh and another at the par-4 11th to fall out of the lead. Saunders entered the par-5 18th with a chance to tie the lead but made a closing three-putt bogey for a 1-under 70.

“Honestly, it’s 18 more holes of golf,” Saunders said. “That putt right there, it’s a bummer but in the scheme of 18 holes it’s irrelevant. There’s a lot of golf left and I played solid today. I missed a lot of really short putts, which is weird. I’ve been putting solid all week. I’ve just got to work that out and tomorrow not do it and I’ll be fine.”

Cameron Tringale sits in solo third at 17-under 196 and is three shots back of Byrd. The former Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket is looking to return to the PGA TOUR, where he’s played full-time the last eight seasons.

“Saturday was a good day,” Tringale said. “I got off to a nice start, I birdied the first three and then the fifth hole, and didn’t get the par-5s but just played steadily to finish that nine. And then birdied 10 and just got a lot of looks.”

With one round remaining before 25 PGA TOUR cards are distributed, five players – Byrd, Matt Harmon, Roberto Castro, Cameron Tringale, and Shawn Stefani – are projected to jump into the top 25 on the Finals money list (excluding the 25) to secure their TOUR card.

Adam Svensson, who missed the cut, is currently projected in the 25th spot with \$37,937 in earnings. Chad Collins, who enters the final round in T48, is currently projected in the 26th spot. Ben Crane, who did not play this week, is currently projected in 27th.

SATURDAY NOTES:

* Saturday weather: Showers; High of 79; Wind NE 12-20 mph with gusts up to 25-30.

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

* This is the fourth and final tournament in the Web.com Tour Finals, a series of four events that will conclude this week. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards were awarded last month following the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz. An additional 25 cards will be issued to the top 25 players on the Finals-only money list on Sunday night, with positioning for all 50 cards set at that time as well.

* 69 players made the 36-hole cut with a score of 5-under 137 or better.

* Byrd has held the lead/co-lead after 54 holes once previously on the Web.com Tour – 2001 Virginia Beach Open. He went on to finish T3 after a final-round 4-over 76. Byrd has converted the lead/co-lead two out of three times on the PGA TOUR. He held the solo 54-hole lead at the 2004 BC Open, which he went on to win, and the 2011 Wells Fargo Championship, where he finished runner-up. He held a share of the third-round lead with Robert Garrigus and Steve Stricker at the 2011 Sentry Tournament of Championship but posted a 6-under 67 and beat Garrigus in a playoff.

* With a victory Sunday, Byrd would have the most time in between victories in Web.com Tour history with over 16 years since his first career victory.

* Tyler Duncan posted the round of the day with a 7-under 64 to jump into T4 and get within four shots of the lead entering the final round. Duncan is in search of his first Web.com Tour victory but has already secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2017-18 season.

* Cameron Tringale, who made the FedExCup Playoffs each of the last six seasons on the PGA TOUR before finishing 133rd in the FedExCup standings this year, is in search of a return to the TOUR. The former Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket entered the week at 49th on the Finals money list (excluding the 25) but has posted rounds of 65-66-65—196 (-17) at the Web.com Tour Championship to get to solo third.

* Rob Oppenheim has the chance of overtaking Chesson Hadley for the Finals money list title with a victory this week. The 37-year-old enters the final round four shots back of the lead in T4 at 16-under 197. With a victory, Hadley would need to finish 23rd or better to hold onto the Finals money list title. Hadley enters the final round in T39. Oppenheim and Hadley both fell in a playoff a week ago to Nicholas Lindheim at the DAP Championship. The winner of the Finals money list earns fully-exempt status on the PGA TOUR next season and an entry into THE PLAYERS Championship in May.

* Only two of the six players to record a 59 or better on the Web.com Tour went on to win that same week – Jason Gore (2005 Cox Classic) and Stephan Jaeger (2016 Ellie Mae Classic).

* Of the nine players to post a sub-60 round in PGA TOUR, only four went on to win that same week – Al Geiberger (1977 Memphis Classic), David Duval (1999 Bob Hope Chrysler Classic), Stuart Appleby (2010 Greenbrier Classic) and Justin Thomas (2017 Sony Open in Hawaii).

* The Web.com Tour Championship field includes five players who are Atlantic Beach Country Club members: Sam Saunders (2), Steve Wheatcroft (T28), Chris Baker (T48), Vince Covello (MC) and Luke Guthrie (MC).

* Tyler Duncan leads the field in greens in regulation having hit 50 of 54 through three rounds.

* Players ranked Nos. 23-30 on the Finals-only money list and where they stand:

Player	Finals \$	Score	Standing
23. Steve Wheatcroft	\$29,025	203 (-10)	T28
24. Sam Saunders	\$27,900	195 (-18)	2
25. Cameron Percy	\$27,855	202 (-11)	T20
26. Zac Blair	\$26,830	138 (-4)	MC
27. Roger Sloan	\$25,495	138 (-4)	MC
28. K.H. Lee	\$24,955	138 (-4)	MC
29. Matt Harmon	\$24,400	201 (-12)	T16
30. John Chin	\$24,193	148 (+6)	MC

* Money earned by the No. 25 player on the Finals-only money list in each of the past four years:

2013: Bobby Gates \$33,650.00
2014: Eric Axley \$36,311.66
2015: Rob Oppenheim \$32,206.00
2016: Tim Wilkinson* \$27,425.00

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

* Scoring Averages at the par-71 Atlantic Beach Country Club:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	33.865	34.587	68.452	
R2:	33.661	34.992	68.653	68.553
R3:	34.426	35.618	70.044	69.061

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:
/Home/Highlights and then locate the event folder of your choice.

* All footage is HD and use is free.

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