



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 9, 2017

Contact: Alex Wood
(850) 691-6756

Third-Round Leaderboard

| Pos. | Name | Scores |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Sung-jae Im (DC) | 68-67-60—195 (-21) |
| | Lee McCoy (DC) | 65-67-63—195 (-21) |
| 3 | Conner Arendell (DC) | 69-65-64—198 (-18) |
| | Jose Toledo (DC) | 61-70-67—198 (-18) |
| 5 | Curtis Luck (DC) | 67-64-68—199 (-17) |
| | Brian Richey (DC) | 68-64-67—199 (-17) |

Sung-jae Im and Lee McCoy tied for lead after third round of Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament

CHANDLER, Arizona – Saturday’s third round of the Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament (Final Stage) brought higher temperatures and lower scores. South Korea’s Sung-jae Im scorched Whirlwind Golf Club’s Devil’s Claw with a 12-under-par 60 to post 21-under-par 195. The University of Georgia’s Lee McCoy matched Im at the top with a 9-under-par 63 on the same course. The duo will tackle The Cattail in Sunday’s final round of Final Stage in an attempt to become fully exempt for the 2018 Web.com Tour Season.

“If you would’ve told me I would’ve started one back, shot 9-under and tied for the lead, I would’ve told you, you were crazy,” said McCoy. “That’s the talent of the players out here. It’s really impressive.”

After the round, McCoy estimated that he left three shots on the course. In two trips around Devil’s Claw, the 23-year-old from Dunedin, Florida has made 14 birdies and no bogeys. Even with numerous red numbers on his scorecard in the second and third rounds, McCoy tipped his cap to Im, who set a new tournament-low 18-hole score.

“He had to have left nothing out there,” said McCoy, when asked about Im’s third-round score. “Twelve-under-par is impressive. I don’t care what type of golf course it is or how nice it is, that’s a lot of birdies. It’s really impressive, but it was definitely out there to be had today.”

McCoy arrived in Arizona with no expectations on what this week could hold for him. The Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada alum doesn’t spend much time on the practice range, opting to get his work done on the golf course. McCoy is playing with a lot of confidence after winning the Freedom 55 Financial Open earlier this summer.

He didn’t go into that week trying to win the golf tournament and feels like that is the perfect formula for him to perform at his peak.

“I found that when I try to achieve something or reach for a certain number, I put too much pressure on myself,” he said. “I’ll just come out tomorrow as relaxed as I did today and see where we end up.”

The 19-year-old Im was impressive on Saturday. On his first nine holes, he made eight birdies and one bogey.

“I made birdie on the first three holes and felt good,” he said. “After the bogey, I had a tap-in birdie so I was okay after that. I never thought about making so many birdies, but my putting was good today.”

Im added birdies at 13, 14 and 17, with his lone eagle of the round coming at the par-5 15th. The birdie on 17 put him at 12-under for the round, a closing birdie away from breaking 60.

Im wanted to hit his second shot close on 18, but when it found the putting surface some 40 feet away, he had one goal in mind.

“I just wanted to two-putt and make par,” he said.

Golf has really taken off in the last few decades in South Korea, and more juniors are drawn to the game each year. Im was no different. He grew up watching Hideki Matsuyama, Adam Scott and Tiger Woods. He also competed against THE PLAYERS Championship winner Si Woo Kim.

“I’ve known Si Woo since junior golf,” said Im. “After this tournament, I will go back home and see him. I want to play hard next year so I can join Si Woo on the PGA TOUR the following year.”

Q-SCHOOL NOTES

The Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament is a four-day, 72-hole competition that ends on Sunday December 10. The tournament is being contested at the Whirlwind Golf Club’s Devil’s Claw (DC) and Cattail (TC) course.

There were nearly 1,000 entries for the tournament, which included previous Pre-Qualifying, First and Second Stages that began in August.

A total of 144 players began play on Thursday morning.

Players in this event are competing for positions on the 2018 Web.com Tour priority ranking, which will be used to form tournament fields. The medalist (or co-medalists) will be guaranteed fully-exempt status next year. Players Nos. 2- 10 (and ties) will be subject to the third reshuffle next year and players Nos. 11-45 (and ties) will be subject to the second reshuffle.

This week’s medalist will earn \$25,000. Players Nos. 2-10 (and ties) will earn \$15,000 each. Players Nos. 11-45 (and ties) will earn \$10,000 each.

Connor Arendell

University of Central Florida alum Connor Arendell carded his third-consecutive sub-70 round, tallying eight birdies on the Devil’s Claw course en route to an 8-under 64. The performance was enough to move the 27-year-old into a tie for third, just three strokes shy of tournament leaders Sung-jae Im and Lee McCoy. Arendell has competed in the Qualifying Tournament before, with his most recent finish being T114 in 2015. Arendell’s last start on Tour came in 2013 at the Midwest Classic Presented by Cadillac, though he failed to make the cut. While a Knight, Arendell earned First Team All-American Conference honors and was a member of three conference championship teams.

Michael Arnaud

Web.com Tour veteran Michael Arnaud followed up a second-round 71 with an 8-under par 64 on Devil’s Claw to move into a six-way tie for seventh after 54 holes. The Stephen F. Austin State University alum first joined the Web.com Tour in 2015 and has competed in 48 Tour events since then. In 25 made cuts, Arnaud has picked up two top-10 finishes, both coming in 2015 (T5 at the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco and T9 at the Air Capital Classic Supporting Wichita’s Youth). His best finish during the 2017 season came at the LECOM Health Challenge, where he finished T18. Arnaud earned entry into this week’s field after posting 67-72-73-70–282 (-6) to finish T10 at the Second Stage site in Dothan, Alabama.

Mark Blakefield

Kentucky native Mark Blakefield took advantage of a second day on the Devil’s Claw course by posting a 6-under 64 to move to 16-under for the tournament heading into Sunday. Blakefield birdied three of the four par-5’s to remain in a tie for seventh in Arizona, five strokes back of the lead. The 35-year-old spent most of 2017 playing on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, finishing at No. 14 on the Order of Merit and picking up a victory at the National Capital Open to Support Our Troops. Blakefield’s last appearance at the Qualifying Tournament came in 2015, when he finished T79.

Scoring Averages for the week:

| Devils Claw | Front (36) | Back (36) | Total (72) |
|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| R1 | 35.361 | 35.361 | 70.722 |
| R2 | 33.889 | 33.889 | 67.778 |
| R3 | 33.403 | 33.722 | 67.125 |

| The Cattail | Front (36) | Back (36) | Total (72) |
|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| R1 | 36.458 | 36.667 | 73.125 |
| R2 | 34.847 | 35.514 | 70.361 |
| R3 | 34.403 | 34.792 | 69.194 |

**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.

For the latest information and updates on the Web.com Tour visit www.pgatourmedia.com

Scores available at www.pgatour.com or on the Associated Press wire

Follow the Web.com Tour on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/webdotcomtour> on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/WebDotComTour and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/webdotcomtour