



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 8, 2017

Contact: Royce Thompson
(321) 246-7687

Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Chesson Hadley	69-67-64—200 (-16)
2	Sam Ryder	67-67-67—201 (-15)
3	Beau Hossler	72-64-66—202 (-14)
4	Xinjun Zhang	64-69-70—203 (-13)
5	Austin Cook	69-66-69—204 (-12)

Chesson Hadley grabs 54-hole lead at LECOM Health Challenge with a flawless 64

CLYMER, N.Y. – Chesson Hadley took control of the LECOM Health Challenge with a flawless 8-under-par 64, his lowest third-round score on the Web.com Tour since 2013. The 30-year-old from Raleigh, N.C. was 8-under through 12 and closed out his round with six straight pars to post 16-under-par 200. Hadley sits one clear of Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada alum Sam Ryder, who birdie the par-5 18th to reach 15-under and get into the final pairing on Sunday afternoon.

Beau Hossler, who played alongside Hadley on Saturday afternoon at Peek’n Peak’s Upper Course, bogeyed three of his final five holes but carded a third-round 6-under 66 and is two back heading into the final round.

China’s Xinjun Zhang is 13-under-par, while Austin Cook is 12-under-par with one round to go.

“I struck the ball incredibly well today and made a few putts,” said Hadley, who hit 14 of 18 greens in regulation on Saturday. “It was just one of those days where everything was great and I got up and down when I needed to.”

Hadley got off to a fast start, making six birdies and an eagle in a 12-hole stretch. The former Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket was 16-under for the tournament and in sole possession of the lead standing on the 13th tee. Hossler caught Hadley with a birdie on the par-3, but quickly fell back after bogeys on 14 and 15.

Hadley held his ground, making critical par saves down the stretch to stay atop the leaderboard with one round to go. He missed the green short on 16, left his chip short and knocked in a tricky five-footer for par. On the home hole Hadley sailed his approach long into the back bunker and blasted it to two feet to keep his card clean on Saturday.

“Every shot counts,” said Hadley, who has made two bogeys in 54 holes. “It doesn’t matter if it is for par, birdie or whatever.”

Hadley came close to winning earlier this season, at the Rex Hospital Open in front of his friends and family, on a course where he was victorious in 2013. He was tied with Conrad Shindler at the conclusion of the final round and lost in a playoff after missing a short putt for par to force a second extra hole.

“I will never forget that,” said Hadley, about the deflating playoff loss. “That’s good, I can fuel off that for a long time. It’s alright, we are alright. We’re leading another golf tournament.”

This is the second-time Hadley will hold the outright lead in a Tour event. In 2013, he led the Digital Ally Open by one, carded a final-round 70 and finished tied for third. Hadley has a way of rebounding from shortcomings like the one in Overland Park. At the end of that season, he won the Web.com Tour Championship and ended the year with the third-best career earning total in Tour history (\$535,432).

He's hoping history will repeat itself this week.

"I knew I was going to be back in this position," said Hadley. "With my game over the years I know when I'm trending and heading in the right direction."

Hadley's been in good spirits since arriving to the Peek'n Peak Resort. On Wednesday, the father-of-two had his 30th birthday and his wife Amanda surprised him with a cake in player dining and even got some of the players to sing him happy birthday as two-time Tour winner walked in.

"My family came which was great," he said. "I haven't seen my kids in three weeks. I typically don't like to go more than two weeks without seeing them but I did three, it was just the way it went. There are a lot of positive things going in my direction."

Ryder stood in the fairway at the par-5 18th with a great opportunity to reach the green in two, but elected to layup and rely on his wedge game. The second-year Tour pro knocked a wedge to within five feet of the cup and made the birdie putt to breakout of a two-way tie for second with Hossler, and earn a spot alongside Hadley on Sunday afternoon.

"I saw he (Hadley) was lighting it up," said Ryder, who admitted he looks at scoreboards during the round. "I wanted to get into that last pairing. It was nice to make that last one because I wanted to play in the last group with Chesson."

While Ryder is in search of his first Tour win in his 36th career start, the 27-year-old from Winter Park, Fla. has won as a professional. In 2015, the Stetson University alum won the National Capital Open to Support Our Troops on the Mackenzie Tour and ended the season No. 4 on the Order of Merit.

This week, Ryder has been able to rekindle some of the magic he had in the Capital of Canada.

"I was thinking back to when I won in Ottawa and the greens were Poa Annu/Bent (grass) like these," said Ryder. "I was struggling early in the round and told myself these are the same kind of greens. I shot 20-under to win there and the scores are similar here."

Saturday Notes:

* Saturday weather: Partly cloudy. High: 76, Winds: SSW 6-12 mph.

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

* There was almost a three-hour delay to the start of round three because of heavy rain overnight.

* Making just his fourth start on Tour, Beau Hossler is looking to the second youngest winner on Tour this season (Aaron Wise – 20). Hossler has made the cut in all four appearances this season and has not carded a final round over par (67.67). With \$75,578 in earning through three events, Hossler could secure his PGA TOUR card with a victory on Sunday.

* Xinjun Zhang, who has made \$125,587 this season, needs around \$40,000 to become the first Chinese-born player to earn a PGA TOUR card. To accomplish this feat on Sunday, Zhang must finish solo third or better.

*Austin Cook entered the week No. 33 on the money list. In 13 starts, Cook has had six top-25s including two top-10s (T3 – El Bosque Mexico Championship, T8 – Rust-Oleum Championship). His final-rounds scoring average this season is 71.71.

Bogey Free Rounds:

R1 – Xinjun Zhang (64), Adam Long (65), Jeff Gove (65), Anders Albertson (66), Albin Choi (66), Jarin Todd (67), Rob Oppenheim (68), Nick Rousey (68), Dawie Van der Walt (69), Armando Favela (69), Nicholas Thompson (69), Nick Flanagan (69), Andrew Yun (70), Dan McCarthy (70), Ben Kohles (70).

R2 – Austin Cook (66), Chesson Hadley (67), Matt Harmon (67), Jarin Todd (69).

R3 – Chesson Hadley (64), Michael Letzig (66), Rhein Gibson (67), Jamie Arnold (68).

Scoring Average for the Upper Course for the week:

	Front (35)	Back (35)	Total (70)
Round 1:	35.891	35.295	71.186
Round 2:	36.188	35.221	71.409
Round 3	35.694	35.042	70.736

* **NEXT WEEK:** The Web.com Tour heads west to Farmington, Utah for the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank contested at Oakridge Country Club July 13-16. Last year, Nicholas Lindheim held off a late charge by J.J. Spaun and Xander Schauffele to take home the crown and moved inside the top 15 on the money list after starting the week No. 83.

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