



LINCOLN LAND  
CHARITY CHAMPIONSHIP

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **First-Round Leaderboard**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Scores</b>
1	Carlos Ortiz	64 (-7)
	Vince India	64 (-7)
	Jin Park	64 (-7)
4	10 players tied at	65 (-6)

### **Carlos Ortiz, Vince India and Jin Park tied for lead at Lincoln Land Charity Championship** *Packed leaderboard has 63 players within four shots of the lead*

**Springfield, Ill.** – Carlos Ortiz went out in the morning wave and carded a first-round 7-under-par 64 to take the clubhouse lead at the second annual Lincoln Land Charity Championship. Vince India and Jin Park matched Ortiz's effort Thursday afternoon to tie the 18-hole lead. The trio are one-shot clear of the field and 63 players are four shots back.

In total, Panther Creek Country Club yielded 107 rounds under par on Thursday. And with a total 626 birdies made in the first round, the rest of the week should see plenty of fireworks as the next wave of stars take center stage in Springfield, Ill.

Ortiz is three years removed from an historic season on the Web.com Tour, that saw him become the 10<sup>th</sup> player in Tour history to earn a three-win promotion to the PGA TOUR. His rookie campaign at the next level didn't go as planned and Ortiz was forced to play in the Web.com Tour Finals, where the 26-year-old from Guadalajara, Mexico failed to earn enough money to regain his TOUR status.

"Obviously last year wasn't a great year for me," said Ortiz, who missed 19 cuts in 29 TOUR starts. "I lost my confidence and it's tough to get out of a hole. I'm starting to get out of it now, the confidence is coming back slowly and I've been practicing hard. I know my golf is trending in the right direction and I've proved that I can do it out here. It's just a matter of time."

On Thursday, Ortiz posted his lowest round on Tour since a second-round 63 at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Nabisco, site of his third Tour victory. The former Tour Player of the Year has missed two cuts in a row and cited an illness as the cause of his recent struggles.

Before the Rust-Oleum Championship, Ortiz made five straight cuts, earned just \$33,364 and was No. 46 on the money list.

"I've been playing great and I got really sick in Chicago," said Ortiz, who has dropped to No. 57 on the money list. "I was really weak and moody. And then the next week I hit my irons bad. It was weird those two weeks. My confidence has been high so I knew it was about time to start playing good. You have to be patient and know it's going to happen."

While Ortiz would certainly love to return to the winner's circle, he's not thinking about Sunday.

"The tournament has just started," said Ortiz, who tied his career-low first-round score. "For me it's playing a solid four rounds and trying to do the best I can. If they beat me or if I beat them, it really doesn't matter as long as I did the best I could."

India's round may seem just as surprising as Ortiz's, but the former Iowa Hawkeye felt something special brewing. India has posted 64 twice in his Tour career, but hasn't accomplished the feat since the 2014 Air Capital Classic Supporting Wichita's Youth. He hit 14 greens in regulation and was perfect in scrambling keeping his card blemish-free for the first time in five trips around Panther Creek CC.

"Seven-under after the first round is pretty dang good no matter where you play," said India, who is currently No. 112 on the money list. "If you're tied at the top after the first round you know you're going to have a good shot to play for some serious money on the weekend. I'm looking forward to it and I think my game has been coming around for a long time."

Park, who is riding a wave of momentum from Wichita where he placed solo third, believes he's amid a great stretch of golf. His 7-under-par round on Thursday afternoon is his lowest score on Tour this season. Park has played on Tour since 2006 and is having the best start of his career.

"I've been hitting it good all year and waiting for the putts to fall," said Park, who ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in putting this season. "Last weekend, I started getting a few mid-length putts to drop. I don't feel like I'm playing incredible but when you make those putts that keep the round going, that can be the difference between shooting 5-under and one or 2-under. I think I'm holing a few putts to keep the momentum going."

### **Thursday Notes:**

\* Thursday weather: Mostly sunny. High: 89, Low: 73, Winds: N-NW 10-15 mph.

\* This week's purse is \$550,000, with \$99,000 going to the champion.

\* Monday qualifier Matt Davidson opened with a 6-under-par 65. Davidson is playing in just his third event of the season and missed the cut in his previous starts this season. This is Davidson's second appearance in Springfield, Ill., where he carded 70-71 and missed the cut.

\* Fresh off the U.S. Open at Erin Hills, Brice Garnett carded a 6-under-par 65 on Thursday morning, Garnett's only top-10 performance this season came after a first-round 65 (T6 – Club Colombia Championship). Through 12 events, Garnett is No. 60 on the money list.

\* After a 6-under-par 65 on Thursday, Josh Teater is now 22-under-par in his last four rounds on Tour. Last week in Wichita, Teater opened with a 2-over 72 and closed with 66-64-64 for a T4 (Air Capital Classic). Teater entered the week No. 28 on the money list.

\* Tom Whitney carded a season-low 6-under-par 65 Thursday afternoon. In seven starts, Whitney has made two cuts and made \$10,458, which puts him at No. 133 on the money list.

\* In 12 starts this season, Michael Johnson has made three cuts and recorded one top-25 (T25 – United Leasing & Finance Championship). He is currently No. 137 on the money list. Thursday's 65 is his lowest round this season.

\* Web.com Tour money leader Stephan Jaeger carded a 2-under 69 in the first round. Jaeger (\$247,860) leads Andrew Putnam (\$242,245) by a little less than \$6,000. Putnam carded a 1-over 72 on Thursday.

### **Bogey Free Rounds:**

R1 – Carlos Ortiz (64), Vince India (64), Jin Park (64), Billy Kennerly (65), Brice Garnett (65), Abraham Ancer (66), Ben Kohles (66), Robert Allenby (67), Michael Gellerman (67), Brad Elder (67), Derek Ernst (68), Tyler Duncan (68), Jordan Niebrugge (68), Chris Worrell (68), Chris Naegel (69).

### **Scoring Average Panther Creek Country Club for the week:**

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (70)
Round 1:	34.885	34.449	69.333

\* **NEXT WEEK:** The Web.com Tour heads east to Nashville for the Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation where James Driscoll edged out Brian Campbell by three shots for the win, his second career Web.com Tour victory.

**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.

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