



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 20, 2017**

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### **First-Round Leaderboard**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Scores</b>
1	Tom Lovelady	64 (-7)
2	Justin Hicks	65 (-6)
3	Stephan Jaeger	66 (-5)
	Bronson Burgoon	66 (-5)
	A.J. McInerney	66 (-5)
	Roberto Diaz	66 (-5)
	Scott Harrington	66 (-5)

### **Tom Lovelady takes opening-round lead at Pinnacle Bank Championship**

**ELKHORN, Neb.** – Tom Lovelady carded a 7-under-par 64, his lowest round of the season, to take the first-round lead at the inaugural Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Heartland Chevy Dealers. The Web.com Tour rookie recorded eight birdies and a bogey at the Club at Indian Creek on Thursday morning and leads PGA TOUR veteran Justin Hicks by a stroke.

Two back, are the Tour's leading money earner Stephan Jaeger, Mexico's Roberto Diaz, Scott Harrington, A.J. McInerney and Bronson Burgoon.

"Playing the practice round on Tuesday, I thought it was brutal," said Lovelady. "It's still a really tough course, but I got some breaks. I still think it's a very difficult golf course. That doesn't mean I'm going to do the same thing tomorrow. It's a course where you must put the ball on the green."

Lovelady's game was spot-on in the first round. The former standout at the University of Alabama hit 10 of 14 fairways and 17 of 18 greens.

"I gave myself a lot of birdie putts," said Lovelady, who had 29 putts in Round 1. "I was lucky to make some putts and got some good breaks along the way."

In his last two starts, Lovelady has placed tied for 11th, at the Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation, and tied for 13th, at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. At No. 47 on the money list, the 23-year-old from Mountain Brook, Ala. has secured a spot in the Web.com Tour Finals later this year with \$69,175 in earnings.

"I didn't really know what to expect, so nothing surprised me.," said Lovelady, about his first season on Tour. "I just kind of learned some stuff. Everything is kind of how I would like it to go. Everybody wants to do a little better, but I'm happy with where I am and hope to finish strong the rest of the season."

A win this week would put Lovelady over the threshold required to earn a PGA TOUR card for the 2017-18 season.

Hicks, who is a two-time Tour graduate, is making just his second start of the season. The 42-year-old from Wyandotte, Mich. has been competing on mini-tours in the Palm Beach area and won one last week by 12 strokes at PGA National, home of The Honda Classic.

“When you’re spending as much time at home as I have, you’re thinking about how much you can’t wait to get out here and do some good stuff,” said Hicks, who resides in Wellington, Fla.

Hicks is taking advantage of his shot this week. The two-time Tour winner hit 16 of 18 greens and made seven birdies Thursday afternoon, including a 3 at the par-4 ninth to get within one of the lead.

“It’s huge,” said Hicks, about getting a sponsor’s invite this week. “I thought I would’ve gotten more this year. It’s been tough hearing ‘no’ every week. I do think at times it’s nice for people to pick you up when you need it the most, and I’m grateful for the people at the Pinnacle Bank Championship. They saw that I’m worthy of being a pick this week and I hope I’m proving to them that they made a good choice.”

### **Thursday Notes:**

\* Thursday weather: Partly cloudy. High: 99, Winds: S 6-12 mph.

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

\* Leading money earner Stephan Jaeger carded a bogey-free, 5-under 66. Jaeger, who missed the cut in Utah last week, has a lead of just under \$4,000 over Andrew Putnam in the race for No. 1. In his last three starts on Tour, since his second victory, Jaeger has posted a T38 (Lincoln Land Charity Championship), T59 (Nashville Golf Open), and a missed cut (Utah Championship).

\* In his third start of the season, Bronson Burgoon carded a 5-under 66, his lowest round in nine attempts. Burgoon is playing on a medical and is exempt into the Web.com Tour Finals as a result. He has finished T56 (Nashville Golf Open) and T53 (LECOM Health Challenge) in his two appearances.

\* A.J. McInerney has missed six cuts in a row and only carded three rounds under par before his opening 5-under 66 on Thursday. McInerney made nine consecutive cuts to start the season and entered the week No. 98 on the money list.

\* Mexico’s Roberto Diaz is on pace to join fellow countryman Abraham Ancer on the PGA TOUR next year after an opening 5-under 66. Diaz, who made eight birdies on Thursday, needs a two-way tie for fifth or better, this week, to secure his TOUR card for the 2017-18 season.

### **Bogey Free Rounds:**

R1 – Stephan Jaeger (66), Scott Harrington (66), Sebastian Cappelen (67), Lanto Griffin (69), Daniel Chopra (71).

### **Scoring Average at the Club at Indian Creek for the week:**

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)
Round 1:	35.699	34.590	70.288

\* **NEXT WEEK:** The Web.com Tour heads east to Overland Park, Kansas for the Digital Ally Open, contested at the Nicklaus GC at LionsGate, July 27-30. Last year, Wesley Bryan birdied the second extra hole in a three-man playoff with J.T. Poston and Grayson Murray, to earn an automatic promotion to the PGA TOUR with his third Web.com Tour victory of the season.

**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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