



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2017

Contact: Royce Thompson
(321) 246-7687

Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Matt Davidson	68-65—133 (-9)
2	Beau Hossler	68-66—134 (-8)
	Sam Ryder	67-67—134 (-8)
	Justin Hicks	65-69—134 (-8)

Matt Davidson grabs 36-hole lead at Pinnacle Bank Championship

ELKHORN, Neb. – Matt Davidson arrived in Omaha, Neb. midweek after his second child, Graham, was born three days premature. The Davidsons were expecting a Wednesday delivery but plans changed and the 36-year-old from West Windsor, N.J. is in the Midwest vying for his first win on the Web.com Tour at the inaugural Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Heartland Chevy Dealers.

Davidson carded a second-round, 6-under 65 and his 9-under-par 133 total places him one-shot ahead of Tour rookie Beau Hossler, Sam Ryder and PGA TOUR veteran Justin Hicks heading into the weekend.

Davidson's wife Natalie was doing great after giving birth, but Graham needed further testing before the pair could be discharged. Once everything checked out, Davidson boarded a plane and turned his attention to the Pinnacle Bank Championship.

"It wasn't until Tuesday afternoon when I actually booked a flight," said Davidson. "Everything was good. Her (Natalie) mom was in town and my parents live in Greenville so she had a lot of help. I felt like I was in a decent spot to come up here and play on Wednesday."

Davidson was all set to participate in the pro-am at the Club at Indian Creek, but there was one problem, his clubs didn't arrive on his flight. Without his tools, the Furman University grad was forced to walk the 7,581-yard layout learning the nuances on the fly.

"I would've liked to have played a practice round for sure," said Davidson, who is No. 197 on the money list. "I was still trying to figure some stuff out and today felt a lot better knowing exactly where I needed to go off the tee. It was different. It lowered my expectations a little bit, which might have helped."

After back-to-back rounds in the 60s for just the second time this season. Davidson grabbed the 36-hole lead for the first time in his eight years on Tour. It's impressive to see him on top of the leaderboard given he's five days removed from a life-changing event.

"Yesterday, I didn't putt that great but I hit my irons close and made a few birdies," said Davidson, who has hit 27 of 36 greens in regulation. "Today, I hit my irons nicely. I didn't hit as many balls tight as I did yesterday but I made a bunch of 10- to 15-footers, which you do when you shoot a good round."

Davidson is making just his fifth start of the year as the Tour approaches the end of the Regular Season. Every week is crucial as he looks to get inside the top 75 and earn a berth into the Finals. Most players would be uneasy about not

seeing a course before a competitive round, especially a new venue on the schedule. The 13-year-pro seemed unfazed by the lack of preparation entering Thursday's first round.

"I've played in so many of these now," said Davidson, who has competed in 143 Tour events. "Nothing seems to be that big of deal when you've done it that many times. It didn't feel that different."

Once again, Hossler is in contention after a second-round, 5-under 66, where he nearly aced the par-3 17th. The 22-year-old from Mission Viejo, Calif. has recorded two runner-up performances in just five starts and arrived in Omaha at No. 19 on the money list. Hossler, who earned Special Temporary Membership in June, is looking to take that next step and take home his first trophy of the season this weekend.

"On this Tour I've done well," said Hossler, who has made the cut in every event he has entered. "I felt like I've shot some good numbers but I feel like there is a lot more in the tank for me. I had a close call in New York. I want to get into the winner's circle, but at the same time you can't force. I feel good about the position I'm in going into the weekend."

Ryder stalled out of the gates Thursday for an opening-nine 37 but rebounded with closing 30. The 27-year-old from Winter Park, Fla. has played the last 27 holes bogey-free and is within striking distance yet again after a second consecutive 67. Ryder, who sits No. 17 on the money list, is a top-10 away from earning his PGA TOUR card for next season and playing with plenty of confidence now.

"I'm expecting to play well," said Ryder, who has recorded four top-10s this season. "Even though, I walk off the course not necessarily thinking I played a great round of golf, the scores are adding up and I'm still near the top of the leaderboard. It's a testament to how I've been playing because it doesn't feel like I'm doing anything special out there. I'm just consistent. It's frustrating, because I'm playing so well. I feel like I'm leaving some out there, but that goes with the territory when you're playing well."

Hicks, who played in the afternoon wave, was the last to join the group at 8-under 134. After a 2-over 37 on the front nine, the 42-year-old from Wyandotte, Mich. came in at 3-under 32. Hicks, who is a two-time Tour winner, is playing this week on a sponsor's invite and has warmed up to Indian Creek this week.

"I think this place plays like a PGA TOUR event," said Hicks, who has competed in 112 TOUR events. "This is the perfect kind of course for me. I like the way it's been drawn up."

Friday Notes:

* Friday weather: Partly cloudy. High: 101, Winds: SSW 7-14 mph.

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

* The cut came at 1-under-par 141, with 78 players advancing to the weekend.

* After starting the season with three rounds in the 90s and 12 missed cuts, Greg Eason has recorded a T34 (Lincoln Land Charity Championship), T18 (LECOM Health Challenge) and a T42 (Utah Championship). For just the third time this season, Eason has posted two rounds in the 60s to start the tournament. Eason entered the week No. 145 on the money list.

* Omaha native Scott Gutschewski carded a second-round 69 and is 6-under for the tournament. Gutschewski is a three-time Tour graduate (2004, 2008, 2010) who has won twice on Tour (2003 Monterey Peninsula Classic. 2008 Rex Hospital Open). In 12 starts this season, the former Nebraska Cornhusker has recorded four top-25s including a T6 at the United Leasing & Finance Championship. He is currently No. 63 on the money list.

Bogey Free Rounds:

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

R2 – Michael Hebert (66), Sam Ryder (67).

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
Round 2:	35.994	35.292	71.286

* **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.

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