



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Final-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Sam Ryder	67-67-62-67—263 (-21)
2	Scott Harrington	66-71-70-64—271 (-13)
	Andrew Landry	67-70-68-66—271 (-13)
	Michael Johnson	68-71-65-67—271 (-13)
	Scott Gutschewski	67-69-67-68—271 (-13)

Sam Ryder secures PGA TOUR card with win at Pinnacle Bank Championship

ELKHORN, Neb. – Earlier this week, Sam Ryder met Bill Gotch, the owner of The Club at Indian Creek. Among the topics of their conversation was how tough of a test Indian Creek would present to the Web.com Tour in its return to Omaha. The pair didn't see anyway a player could post 20-under-par.

Ryder disproved his own theory in record fashion and blitzed the field at the inaugural Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Heartland Chevy Dealers with a 72-hole total of 21-under-par 263. Scott Harrington, Andrew Landry, Michael Johnson and Scott Gutschewski finished second at 13-under-par 271.

"When you have a seven-shot lead heading into the final round, you're always going to want a bigger lead," said Ryder. "It's just a different kind of pressure, because you kind of have the tournament in your back pocket already. You feel like if you lose it, then you really lose it. I was just proud of myself for getting out here and playing solid."

Ryder did more than play solid. The 27-year-old from Winter Park, Fla. became just the sixth player in Tour history to win an event by eight shots or more. His victory in Omaha propelled him to No. 2 on the money list and secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2017-18 season.

"This is the beginning of the journey for me," said Ryder, who earned a first-place prize worth \$108,000. "Now my goals are set for the PGA TOUR. There's a big difference between second and first on the money list. My goal is to finish the season No. 1 and I'm in a good position to do that now."

Ryder's ball striking was spot-on all week, but his putter was the difference-maker. The Stetson University grad made 24 birdies and an eagle this week. He ended the week second in putting thanks to some guidance from an eight-time PGA TOUR winner.

"Brad Faxon called me, and I've been struggling with the putter, and he just helped clear my mind a little bit," said Ryder, who spoke to Faxon the night before he carded a course-record 62. "He's top-5 all time (in putting), for sure, and having Brad call me, and we kind of just talked for an hour or so, and it just freed me up a little bit, and put a couple different ideas in my head. It allowed me to stop trying to be so perfect and try so hard, necessarily, on the greens. I just felt relaxed, that was all the difference in the world."

Ryder has received plenty of support since turning pro in 2012. The Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada alum had a special person in attendance on Sunday afternoon to make his maiden Tour victory even sweeter.

“I didn’t expect to get emotional but I might have watered up when I saw her,” said Ryder, about seeing his mom, Kelly, on Sunday in the gallery. “She was able to fly in today. I know it was special for her and it was super special to me to have her here. She’s been along for the ride and was there last week. She’s been to every single college event I played in. No one has supported me more than my mom and dad.”

Ryder has enjoyed success on every level. In 2015, he won the National Capital Open to Support Our Troops on the Mackenzie Tour, where he ended the year No. 4 on the Order of Merit, and now he’s a Web.com Tour champion.

Last season, Ryder came painstakingly close to winning the News Sentinel Open presented by Pilot but was caught and passed by good friend J.J. Spaun. The near-miss didn’t upset Ryder because he knew his time would come.

“I think last year, I don’t know if I was ready,” Ryder admitted. “I think my dreams were coming at me too quick when I had a chance to win in Knoxville and lock up my card. I had a chance the next week and in the (Finals) and it took me off guard. Mentally I don’t know if I was quite ready. I would’ve been maybe a little overwhelmed.”

“When I came out here this year I had different goals in mind and I want to be No. 1 on the money list and now I’m close,” continued Ryder, who is \$20,994 behind Andrew Landry in the race for the top spot. “This year it felt like what I was meant to do. I belong on the PGA TOUR and this year I believe that. I have enough people in my corner telling me that.”

Sunday Notes:

- * Saturday weather: Partly cloudy. High: 94, Winds: N 10-14 mph.
- * This week’s purse is \$600,000, with \$108,000 going to Sam Ryder.
- * Ryder moves from No. 17 to No. 2 on the Tour money list.
- * Ryder’s win comes at age 27 years, 7 months, 8 days. Ten players in their 20s have won a total of 11 tournaments this season.
- * Ryder is the 10th first-time winner this season.
- * Ryder’s victory comes in his 38th career start.
- * Ryder’s season at a glance (starts/cuts made/top 10s/wins): 16/12/5/1
- * Ryder’s third-round 9-under-par is a new course record at The Club at Indian Creek.
- * Largest winning margin on Tour:
12 strokes (Steve Wheatcroft, 2011 Melwood Prince George's County Open)
11 strokes (Chris Smith, 1997 Omaha Classic; Marc Leishman, 2008 WNB Classic)
8 strokes (Chris Nallen, 2004 Gila River Golf Classic; Casey Wittenberg, 2012 Chitimacha Louisiana Open; Sam Ryder, 2017 Pinnacle Bank Championship)

About Sam Ryder

HEIGHT: 6-2

WEIGHT: 175

BIRTHDATE: December 15, 1989

BIRTHPLACE: Winter Park, Florida

RESIDENCE: Longwood, Florida

EDUCATION: Stetson University (Finance, 2012)

TURNED PROFESSIONAL: 2012

JOINED TOUR: 2016

- * With his tie for second, Scott Harrington recorded his best finish on Tour since a P2 at the 2012 Price Cutter Charity Championship.
- * Michael Johnson enjoyed his best outing of the season, but hurt his chances of contending when he shot a second-round, even-par 71. He took care of business over the weekend, though, with rounds of 64-67 to finish at 13-under and moved from 97th to 51st on the money list.
- * Omaha native Scott Gutschewki recorded his best performance of the season, with his tie for second, bettering his T6 at the United Leasing & Finance Championship.

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).

R3 – Sam Ryder (62), Brice Garnett (65), Vince Covello (66), Michael Johnson (66), Matt Harmon (68), Bo Hoag (68), Matt Davidson (70).

R4 – Scott Harrington (64), Michael Johnson (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
Round 3:	35.833	33.744	69.577
Round 4:	35.052	34.935	69.987
Cumulative:	35.644	34.640	70.285

* **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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