



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Conrad Shindler	63 (-9)
2	Chesson Hadley	65 (-7)
3	Bryan Bigley	67 (-5)
	Jeremy Paul	67 (-5)
	Andrew Svoboda	67 (-5)

Conrad Shindler leads halfway through first round of Price Cutter Charity Championship

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Conrad Shindler finished his first round in the twilight as darkness fell upon Springfield Thursday evening. The 29-year-old from Phoenix, Ariz. took the clubhouse lead at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper after a back-nine 30 put him at 9-under-par. Shindler's 63 was three shy of Highland Springs Country Club's course record, but was his second lowest opening-round score this season on the Web.com Tour.

Two back is a familiar foe in Chesson Hadley, who Shindler outdueled at the Rex Hospital Open for his maiden Tour victory.

Bryan Bigley, Jeremy Paul and Andrew Svoboda are four back. More than half the field will return on Friday morning at 7:30 a.m. local time to complete the first round.

Since his win in Raleigh, Shindler has posted two top-25s and dropped from No. 5 to No. 17 on the money list. While his position on the money list isn't alarming, the lack of consistency has certainly grabbed his attention.

"Golf is a fickle game," said Shindler, who has secured his PGA TOUR card for next season. "You can string together a month of bad luck and putts not going in and kicks don't go your way. I wouldn't chalk it up to just that. I struggled with my swing a little bit but slowly worked it out of the dirt. I like where things are headed."

Shindler was pleased with a round that included eight birdies, an eagle and a bogey. The 63 was one shot away from tying his best score, a 62 in the first round of the Nashville Golf Open benefitting the Snedeker Foundation.

"I had good pace around the greens and was seeing the lines well," said Shindler, who needed just 25 putts on day one. "I felt like every time I lined a putt up I never had to adjust it and it felt like it was going right in the middle. It was just one of those days, a special day for sure."

Everything went Shindler's way in the first round, including his approach to the par-4 ninth. With tree trouble in the right rough, the former Texas A&M Aggie was forced to aim over the water and cut the ball back to the hole, a shot that safely landed on the putting service and never threatened going in the hazard.

“I had a little gap but it was aimed at the water so I had to hold it off,” said Shindler, about the heroic effort on his final hole. “There was a good chance of it turning into the water but I was able to hold it off well and we got it on the middle (of the green) for a nice two-putt to end the day.”

Because Shindler finished in the dark, he doesn't have to come back to Highland Springs CC in the morning to complete the round. With more than half the field left on the course, it could be a long wait on Friday before the Dallas, Texas resident embarks on his second trip around the Robert Trent Jones Jr. design.

So how does Shindler plan to spend his time?

“Just take the day for what it is,” said Shindler. “Enjoy the time off, relax and kick back. Good thing there is a major (PGA Championship) this week. It's always fun watching a major so the time off will be spent well.”

Hadley's day got off to a hectic start. The 30-year-old from Raleigh, N.C. locked his keys in the trunk of his car and played the first eight holes of the tournament with that in the back of his mind.

Hadley blocked out the distraction and birdied five of his first eight holes before play was suspended at 9:45 a.m. The three-time Tour winner parred two par-5s after the six-hour delay but added two birdies coming home for a solid 7-under round, his first on Tour since a victory at the LECOM Health Challenge.

“Like a goober, I locked my keys in trunk of the car,” said Hadley, who was in great spirits during the suspension of the first round. “This Hyundai is an absolute spaceship. There isn't a button to unlock the trunk, keys hanging out there with my phone and wallet. Fortunately, I didn't get too flustered this morning by that and was able to play some golf.

“Can you just imagine how much mental fortitude and ability you have to have to play golf, knowing the keys are locked in car and all that stuff?” continued Hadley. “I'm really proud of myself; it's been a great morning.”

Hadley has spent the last few weeks playing on the PGA TOUR where he finished tied for 25th at the John Deere Classic and tied for 27th at the Barbasol Championship before missing the cut last week at the Barracuda Championship.

Hadley is currently No. 9 on the money list and secured his TOUR card for next season with his third Tour victory. The former PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year is not concerned with the Priority Ranking heading into the fall after accomplishing his main objective for 2017.

“A lot of people asked me about the No. 1 spot and why I didn't try to pursue that,” he said. “I'm not trying to take anything away from the No. 1 spot, but the goal is to get back to the PGA TOUR, I've done that.”

Thursday Notes:

* Thursday weather: Partly cloudy. High: 92, Low: 72, Winds: S-SE 4-8 mph.

* This week's event is the 20th of 22 Regular Season events on the 2017 schedule. The top-25 money winners following the season-ending WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz at the end of this month will earn PGA TOUR cards for the 2017-18 wraparound season.

* This week's purse is \$675,000, with \$121,500 going to the champion.

* The first round was suspended from 9:45 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. due to heavy rain making the golf course unplayable. Play will resume at 7:30 a.m. local time Friday.

* Jeremy Paul made the 19th hole-in-one in tournament history, and first since 2012 (Jimmy Brandt/R3/No. 6), on the par-3 sixth with a 9-iron from 152 yards. Paul carded an opening-round, 5-under-par 66.

* Curtis Thompson withdrew during the round with a shoulder injury.

* **NEXT WEEK:** The Web.com Tour heads back to the Midwest for the News Sentinel Open presented by Pilot at Fox Den Country Club (Aug. 15-21), the 21st of 22 Regular Season events on the schedule. Last year, J.J. Spaun outdueled good friend Sam Ryder to win the \$99,000 first-place prize.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INTERVIEWS from today's play are available via the following FTP site:
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