



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Nick Parker
(904) 806-4582

Second-Round Leaderboard

| Pos. | Name | Scores |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Kyle Wilshire | 64-62—126 (-16) |
| 2 | Christian Brand | 67-61—128 (-14) |
| 3 | Three players tied at | 13-under 129 |

Kyle Wilshire takes 36-hole lead with seven consecutive birdies at the Utah Championship presented by Zion Bank

FARMINGTON, Utah – Kyle Wilshire birdied his first seven holes Friday, tying the longest streak to open a round in Web.com Tour history, to take a two-shot advantage into the weekend at the Utah Championship presented by Zion Bank with rounds of 64-62—126 (-16). Wilshire’s front nine 7-under 29 tied the lowest nine-hole score of the season and the lead. He then birdied his last two holes of the day to overtake Christian Brand, who had fired a course record 10-under 61 in the morning wave, for the first 36-hole lead of his career.

“It’s great, but those two days are done now. I’ve done a good job of putting myself in position, but I think it’s important to keep the pedal down,” Wilshire said. “I don’t need to do anything different than what I’ve been doing. You can’t really control what other people do. It’s out there for the taking, so I just want to attack it myself and see where we end up.”

For Wilshire, the hot start wasn’t unfamiliar territory. It reminded him of last season’s Freedom 55 Financial Championship on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, where he played his first 10 holes of the final round in 9-under for a 26 to tie the Mackenzie Tour record.

“I’ve had starts like that before, so I was kind of familiar with it,” Wilshire said. “But it’s just one of those things where you’re just hitting shots. You’re not thinking about scores. It was nice to get off to a good start, and it’s just one of those things you hope you can keep going and see how it ends up.”

On a course where the 6-under 136 ties the lowest cut in Tour history, Wilshire knows he has to keep the same recipe that’s worked for him so far, hitting lots of greens and holing the intermediate and short putts for birdie. Through two rounds, Wilshire’s second in the field in greens in regulation with 32/36 and is fourth in putting average (1.500), and that’s a formula he’s hoping he can replicate on the weekend.

“I’ve hit a lot of greens, but you’ve got a lot of short and intermediate irons in, even on the par-5s, so just hitting the ball close is key,” Wilshire said. “I think everybody wants to hit it closer, but when I do give myself 15 feet, I think I can make those. You just gotta believe, and I like to think I have that.”

At No. 137 on the money list with just eight made cuts in 15 starts and a season-best T38, Wilshire’s results didn’t seem to indicate a 16-under 126 two-day total was on the horizon, but the Central Florida grad says he’s not unfamiliar with slow starts and had all the confidence in the world that he’d turn his season around with only seven events remaining on the regular season schedule.

“I just have an incredible amount of belief in myself,” Wilshire said. “I had to go all the way from first stage of Q School to get here, and I’ve played some good golf. In Canada a couple years ago, I had to top-10 the last three events to keep my card, so I’m familiar with slow starts and some stronger finishes. I think it’s just a comfortable level. It’s a learning curve, but I’m excited about it and just got to go out and keep doing what I’ve been doing.”

Joining him in the final group on Saturday will be Brand, who is in solo second at 14-under. Despite bogeying his first hole of the day (No. 10) Friday, the Marshall grad poured in five consecutive birdies on Nos. 11-15 to charge up the leaderboard. The 29-year-old poured in six more birdies on the back, including a 35-footer at the last (No. 9) to break the course record with a 61.

“I switched putters this week. I got a face balanced putter, which has helped me out,” Brand said. “The last few weeks I haven’t been playing the best and it’s because of the putter. So we’ve got something new in the hands, and I’m just hitting the ball the same way as I always do but rolling a couple in.”

It’s working. Brand’s needed the putter only 51 times through two rounds, tied for fourth best in the field. He was driven to change putters after playing the Greenbrier Classic last week on the PGA TOUR. He missed the cut with rounds of 72-70, but played the first two rounds with the 36-hole leader Sebastian Munoz and felt like his ball-striking had been better than Munoz’s.

“He was making everything, and I keep looking at my caddie, and I’m going, ‘I’m hitting it better than this guy, I’m hitting it better than this guy, but I couldn’t make a 10-footer to save my life,’” Brand said. “I couldn’t throw it in the ocean if I was standing on the beach, and I’m not kidding. So I said we got to save something, definition of insanity, so I switched the putter and switched some of the mental practices and it seems to be working, so we’re going to keep it rolling.”

Rob Oppenheim (63), Tyler Duncan (66), Taylor Moore (63), and Brice Garnett (65) sit in a tie for third at 13-under 129.

Friday Notes:

* Friday weather: Partly Cloudy, High: 96, Winds: W 5-10 mph.

* The 36-hole cut line fell at 6-under-par with 77 players advancing to the weekend. 6-under 136 ties the lowest cut in Web.com Tour history and is the 10th time in Tour history the cut has come in at 136.

* After missing his first 12 cuts of the season, Greg Eason has turned it around recently with back-to-back made cuts including a T34 and T18 finish in his last two starts. That upward trajectory has continued through two rounds here in Utah, where Eason posted a 8-under 63, his best score of the season, to

* Web.com Tour money list leader Stephan Jaeger missed the cut and could lose his hold of the money list this weekend after Andrew Putnam, No. 2 on the money list, made the cut.

* Adam Schenk, who has posted four consecutive top-five finishes, is in search of his fifth after rounds of 65-67—132 (-10). Schenk is six shots back in T10 entering the weekend.

* 18-hole co-leader James Driscoll (68) sits four shots back in T7 at 12-under. Fellow first-round co-leader Matt Atkins fell down the leaderboard with a 2-over 73 and is in T39.

* Adam Long, who sits six shots back of the lead at 10-under, leads the field in putts per round (23.50).

* Lanto Griffin, who won the Nashville Golf Open two weeks ago, is back in contention after rounds of 66-65—131 (-11) with a chance at his second victory. Griffin made the cut on the number two weeks ago on his way to victory.

* Billy Kennerly, who entered the season with conditional status after finishing T141 at Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament, has taken advantages of limited starts with his five consecutive made cut this week in five starts. Kennerly’s season opener was a T8 at the Rust-Oleum Championship, and the former Clemson Tiger has posted top-25s in back-to-back starts and is in T10 through 36 holes in Utah after back-to-back rounds of 66.

Scoring Averages at the par-71 Oakridge Country Club:

| | Front 9 | Back 9 | Total | Cumulative |
|-----|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| R1: | 34.452 | 34.103 | 68.645 | |
| R2: | 34.111 | 34.366 | 68.477 | 68.561 |

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

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* 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.

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