



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2017

Contact: Nick Parker
(904) 806-4582

Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Jacques Blaauw	66-68-61—195 (-18)
	Rob Oppenheim	66-63-66—195 (-18)
3	Denny McCarthy	69-63-64—196 (-17)
4	Andrew Landry	68-65-64—197 (-16)

Blaauw climbs into a share of the lead with Oppenheim after posting a 61 at the Utah Championship presented by Zion Bank

FARMINGTON, Utah – Jacques Blaauw entered the third round eight shots back of the lead but ended the day sharing the top of the leaderboard with Rob Oppenheim after posting a 10-under 61. Teeing off three hours before the final group, Blaauw tied the course record with his 61 to jump into a solo lead that he figured had no chance of holding. It did for much of the afternoon, though, until Oppenheim in the second-to-last group poured in a 15-foot birdie at the last to tie Blaauw at 18-under 195.

“This is definitely my best round to date, so I’m very happy with it,” Blaauw said. “Let’s just hope I can do it tomorrow. I don’t know how far I’ll be behind. I would think 20-under is going to have the lead after today or maybe a little more. So let’s see.”

Turns out Blaauw, who has four career top-10s on the European Tour, won’t be behind at all. As the 97-degree heat firmed the course up as the afternoon tee times began, the low, morning scores dried up, and Oppenheim’s 5-under 66 turned out to be the best score among the final six groups – a shocking development considering the scoring average for the day was 67.792.

“I thought [the lead would] be quite a bit lower to be honest with you,” Oppenheim said. “But it played harder this afternoon. It got firmer, the greens are faster, wedges were running out further, so it was tough to get it close.”

Oppenheim entered the day three shots back of the lead but quickly birdied two of his first three holes after knocking it to four feet at the first and 15 feet at the third. He striped it to a foot at the par-3 sixth for birdie and two-putted for birdie at the par-5 seventh. His first miscue of the day came at the eighth with a bogey, and he added another at the par-3 11th after dumping it in the front bunker. At that point, Oppenheim was three shots back of Blaauw, but he birdied three straight from Nos. 13-15 to jump into a share. An errant approach into the par-4 16th led to a tricky pitch and a bogey, but he got it all back with the birdie at the last to book his spot in the final group.

“To make that putt on the last for birdie was a good way to finish,” Oppenheim said. “It played hard in the afternoon, the greens got a lot firmer, and so 5-under I was happy with how it finished and in a good spot for tomorrow.”

Just one day after Christian Brand set the course record, Blaauw joined him, jumping 28 spots up the leaderboard. The 31-year-old poured in birdies at Nos. 1, 2, and 4 and added an eagle at No. 7 to turn in 5-under 31. After three straight pars to open the back nine, Blaauw birdied five of his last six holes including a 20-footer at the last to tie the course record and temporarily take the solo lead.

“I was pretty pumped,” Blaauw said about the birdie on 18. “That gap wedge went 152 yards, and I haven’t hit a gap wedge that far in my life. So the putt looked like it was kind of going right to left, left to right, I just went straight, and it went right in the middle of the hole.”

In his first season on the Web.com Tour, this is just the third cut Blaauw has made in in 13 starts with a streak of nine cuts in the middle of the season. But when Blaauw’s played the weekend, he’s been in contention with two top-10s in his two previous made cuts -- T6 at the Club Colombia Championship and T8 at the Lincoln Land Charity Championship.

“It’s not been good at this stage,” Blaauw said of his season. “I’ve missed a lot of cuts. I’ve only made two and this is the third one. When I make the cut, I play well. So obviously just need to get to the weekend.”

That could all change on Sunday, but both co-leaders know their work is not done with 29 players within five shots of the lead and 18 holes left on a course where there’s been 25 rounds of 64 or better through three rounds.

“Tomorrow someone’s going to shoot low, so happy to be where I am, but I know I’m going to have to go low again tomorrow,” Oppenheim said. “It’s going to be a shootout tomorrow. There’s a lot of guys right there and the course is for the taking, the par-5s are reachable, so you’re going to have to have another good one.”

Denny McCarthy is in solo third at 17-under 196 and has gone the lowest of anyone in the field over his last two rounds with back-to-back rounds of 63-64.

“For the most part, I’m hitting my short irons really good, so making decisions off the tee basically just putting the ball in the fairway and attacking with my short irons and playing to my strengths with my putter,” McCarthy said. “So I think if I just do that tomorrow, I’ll be in good shape.”

Saturday Notes:

* Saturday weather: Mostly Sunny, High: 97, Winds: W/NW 6-12 mph.

* Adam Schenk is in search of his fifth consecutive top-five finish and is in prime position to do so after a 5-under 66 has him in T5, just three shots back of the lead at 15-under 198.

* Nicholas Thompson tied his career-low round on the Web.com Tour with a 9-under 62 Saturday to jump within three shots of the lead. Thompson first posted a 62 at the 2007 Preferred Wichita Open. Thompson is in search of his second career Web.com Tour victory. Thompson is leading the field in greens in regulation this week (46/54) and in driving accuracy (36/42).

* Rookie Michael Johnson posted his lowest round of the season with a 7-under 64 to jump into T10. Johnson’s hit 31/36 greens in regulation over his last two rounds in which he’s gone 66-64. Johnson’s best finish of the season came last week at the LECOM Health Challenge where he finished T12. Johnson nearly won last year’s Barbasol Championship, where he finished solo third and one shot short of a playoff with Si Woo Kim and Aaron Baddeley.

* 36-hole leader Kyle Wilshire entered the day with a two-shot lead but is five shots back entering the final round after a disappointing 3-over 74. Wilshire is in search of his first top-10 on the Web.com Tour.

* Andrew Landry, who is in solo fourth, is projected to take over the top spot on the money list. Landry is in search of his second victory of the season after winning The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club earlier this year. Landry’s posted three additional top-fives this season and has made the cut in 12 straight starts. Money list leader Stephan Jaeger missed the cut.

* Landry and Adam Schenk are the only players in the top 15 on the leaderboard that entered the week inside The 25.

* Ben Silverman is in T5 and in position to eclipse his best career finish on the Web.com Tour, which came with a T8 at the Rust-Oleum Championship in June. Silverman posted a 6-under 65 Saturday to get within three shots of the lead.

* Christian Brand, who fired the course record a day prior, hit a rough stretch mid round with four consecutive birdies from Nos. 9-12, but bounced back nicely with birdies on three of his last six holes for a 1-under 70. Brand is in search of his first career top-10 on the Web.com Tour.

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
R3:	34.208	33.584	67.792	68.305

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