



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

Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores	Current \$ list position	Projected \$ position
1	Aaron Wise	64-65—129 (-13)	18	1
2	Eric Axley	66-66—132 (-10)	53	24
3	Adam Schenk	68-65—133 (-9)	10	3
	Lanto Griffin	68-65—133 (-9)	22	15
5	Four players tied at	135 (-7)		

Aaron Wise takes 36-hole lead in return to Oregon at the WinCo Foods Portland Open *Martin Piller and Eric Axley projected to move inside the top 25 and earn PGA TOUR cards*

NORTH PLAINS, Ore. – Aaron Wise, the 2016 NCAA individual champion at the University of Oregon, rewarded a strong contingent of Duck fans out Friday afternoon following him by tying the low round of the day with a second-round, 6-under 65 to take a three-shot lead at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz. Wise’s 13-under 129 total through two rounds at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club’s Witch Hollow Course leads former PGA TOUR winner Eric Axley by three entering the weekend.

“I saw low round of the morning wave was 6-under before I went out, and my goal was to tie it or beat it if I could. I went out there with that number in mind,” Wise said. “I can’t complain. It’s halfway there. I still have a lot of golf to play, but it’s a great spot. It’s where I want to be. I played some solid golf, so for me to be at the top of the leaderboard shows how I’m playing.”

After locking up his PGA TOUR card with his wire-to-wire, five-shot victory at the Air Capital Classic Supporting Wichita’s Youth in June, Wise, a Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada alum, had been disappointed with his last five starts since that victory with zero top-10s and two missed cuts over that stretch. He admits there was a bit of rust on his game from taking a couple of weeks off after securing his TOUR card in Wichita, but has been energized by the home crowd this week and is peaking at the right time.

“Playing for them and playing with them around is awesome,” Wise said of the Duck faithful. “It makes me focus more because I know they want to watch me hit good shots, and I want to hit good shots for them. I hope there’s a big crowd out there this weekend.”

Although Wise is heading to the TOUR next season regardless of what happens this week, his mind is on a bigger goal – finishing No. 1 on the combined Regular Season and Finals money list to secure fully-exempt status on TOUR next season.

Through two rounds, the 21-year-old is heading that direction as he is currently projected to take over No. 1 on the money list if he could win this week.

“[No. 1 on the money list has] has been on my mind for a while,” Wise said. “We’re trying to get as high as we can on the money list. Once I won in Wichita, it kind of became a possibility. I haven’t played well before this event, but

my whole lead-up was to try to get my game ready for this event with this kind of being a home event for me and me focusing on it. It's come to fruition. I put a lot of hard work in, so it's good to see the scores come with it."

Axley, who opened with his second consecutive 5-under 66, entered the week at No. 53 on the money list but is projected to move into the top 25 to secure his TOUR card if he can retain his spot in second. He's still two more rounds from making that projection a reality though but is focused on the winner's circle – not a TOUR card.

"I haven't even looked at [the projections]," Axley said. "I show up every week to try to win, so I assumed if I get in there and win it'll take care of itself."

Along with Axley, Martin Piller, who sits in a tie for fifth at 7-under 135, is projected to jump inside the top 25 after entering the week at 27th on the Regular Season money list. Beau Hossler, who entered the week squarely on the bubble at No. 25, is currently projected to retain his spot in 25th after opening with rounds of 69-68—137 (-5) to play the weekend. Ethan Tracy (No. 23), who missed the cut, and Roberto Diaz (No. 24) are currently projected to fall outside of The 25.

"I've been in a spot the last few weeks where If I play well, I'll secure my card and if I don't, then I won't," Hossler said. "There's no reason to get wrapped up in the numbers. It's just a matter of me going out and playing my game. Unfortunately, I've been pretty cold the last month and half or so but I seem to have found something a little bit coming into this week. I'm looking forward to the rest of the week. Like I said, it's either going to happen or not and if it doesn't, then I have four tournaments in the Finals to go and get my card that way."

Rob Oppenheim, the perennial bubble boy recently it seems, entered the week on the bubble for the third consecutive year at No. 26 on the money list and made birdies on his last two holes Friday for a 2-under 69 to make the cut by one shot. Oppenheim narrowly missed securing his TOUR card in Portland in 2015, finishing 26th on the Regular Season money list. But the 37-year-old secured TOUR status for the first time narrowly with a 25th-place finish on the 2015 Finals money list, securing his card by \$101 after Lucas Glover made a double bogey on the 72nd hole. Then again a year ago, Oppenheim again finished on the bubble in 26th on the Finals money list after Hurricane Matthew forced the cancellation of the Web.com Tour Championship, his last chance to slide inside the top 25 and retain his TOUR status.

Oppenheim is currently projected to finish 29th on the money list, but nevertheless, he's got a shot with two rounds to play, which is all he was hoping for after making bogeys on two of his first three holes Friday.

"I knew where I was. I knew where the cut was. You obviously don't play to make the cut, but in the situation I was, that's what I needed to be focused on – survive and get into the weekend and give myself a chance. So to finish birdie, birdie on 17 and 18, I'm still alive."

Adam Schenk and Lanto Griffin, who are both inside the top 25, are four shots back of Wise in a tie for third at 9-under 133.

FRIDAY NOTES:

* This week's event is the final event of 22 regular season events on the 2017 schedule. The top-25 money winners following this week's finale will earn PGA TOUR cards for the 2017-18 wraparound season. A second set of 25 cards will be on the line during the four-event Web.com Tour Finals, which follow in September and early October.

* This week's purse is \$800,000 with \$144,000 going to the champion.

* The cut came at 1-under 141, with 70 players advancing to the weekend.

* At No. 35 on the money list \$124,518, Chris Baker needs a two-way tie for third or better to move inside the top 25 and earn his PGA TOUR card. Baker is making his fourth appearance in Portland with his best performance, a T4, coming in 2016. His third-round scoring average at Witch Hollow is 69.50.

* Wise's 36-hole total of 13-under 129 ties 2014 champion Carlos Ortiz for the lowest 36-hole total in tournament history. Ortiz is the only 36-hole leader of the WinCo Foods Portland Open to go on and win the event. 2016 champion Ryan Brehm entered the weekend in a tie for fourth a year ago, two shots back of the 36-hole lead. Ortiz is the only past champion of the event in the field and enters the weekend in T44 after rounds of 69-71.

* The top five on the money list entering the week all missed the cut, with 13 of the top 25 in total missing the cut this week. Sam Ryder, who is in T10, is the highest ranked player on the money list to make the weekend at No. 6.

* Three players outside of the top 75 on the money list entering the week are currently projected to move inside the top 75 to earn fully exempt status on the Web.com Tour in 2018 and a berth in the Finals. Ken Looper (No. 79), Andrew Svoboda (No. 80), and Kent Bulle (No. 82) enter the week in T10 and are projected to jump inside the top 75. Looper posted a career-best T3 last week at the News Sentinel Open presented by Pilot and tied the low round of the day Friday with a 6-under 65.

* Axley leads the field in putting average (1.417) and putts per round (24.50). Wise is in second in putting average (1.481) and tie for third in putts per round (25.50).

* 18-hole leaders Drew Weaver and Conrad Shindler both went backwards in the second round. After opening with 63s, Shindler posted a 2-over 73 and Weaver recorded a 7-over 78 to make the cut on the number at 1-under 141.

* Portland native Scott Harrington, who played high school matches at Pumpkin Ridge, is in T29 entering the weekend after rounds of 68-70.

* John Merrick and Andy Pope entered the week at Nos. 163 and 164 on the money list but are in T5 entering the weekend. Both Merrick and Pope need a top two finish to secure a berth in the Web.com Tour Finals.

* Players just inside the top 25 (21-25) and where they stand:

Rank this Week	Player	Score	Position	Projection
21	Brandon Harkins	72-74—146 (+4)	MC	22
22	Lanto Griffin	66-67—133 (-9)	T3	15
23	Ethan Tracy	71-73—144 (+2)	MC	26
24	Roberto Diaz	71-68—139 (-3)	T35	27
25	Beau Hossler	69-68—137 (-5)	T20	25

* Players just outside the top 25 (26-30) and where they stand:

Rank this Week	Player	Score	Position	Projection
26	Rob Oppenheim	71-69—140 (-2)	T44	29
27	Martin Piller	65-70—135 (-7)	T5	23
28	D.H. Lee	68-75—143 (+1)	MC	31
29	Tyler Duncan	72-70—142 (E)	MC	32
30	Tom Lovelady	72-68—140 (-2)	T44	30

* Players just inside the top 75 (71-75) and where they stand:

Rank this Week	Player	Score	Position	Projection
71	Rhein Gibson	72-74—146 (+4)	MC	76
72	Jacques Blaauw	75-72—147 (+5)	MC	77
73	Scott Langley	71-66—137 (-5)	T20	66
74	Samuel Del Val	71-66—137 (-5)	T20	73
75	Brady Schnell	72-69—141 (-1)	T58	78

* Players just outside the top 75 (76-80) and where they stand:

Rank this Week	Player	Score	Position	Projection
76	Ben Taylor	76-77—153 (+11)	MC	79
77	William Kropp	76-72—148 (+6)	MC	80
78	Armando Favela	73-74—147 (+5)	MC	81
79	Ken Looper	71-65—136 (-6)	T10	65
80	Andrew Svoboda	70-66—136 (-6)	T10	72

* Scoring averages for the week:

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)	Cumulative
R1	36.374	34.710	71.084	
R2	36.616	34.768	71.384	71.237

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:
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