



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores	Current \$ list position	Projected \$ position
1	Keith Mitchell	70-69-62—201 (-12)	36	7
	Brice Garnett	71-67-63—201 (-12)	11	2
	Abraham Ancer	67-70-64—201 (-12)	9	1
	Denny McCarthy	66-71-64—201 (-12)	44	13
5	Austin Cook	69-67-66—202 (-11)	16	14

Four players tied at 12-under through 54 holes of Web.com Tour's WinCo Foods Portland Open

Drama-filled Sunday at Pumpkin Ridge to conclude with 25 players earning PGA TOUR cards

NORTH PLAINS, Ore. – Entering Saturday's third round of the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz, Aaron Wise led one of the year's strongest fields by three shots with an eye on running away with his second win of the 2017 season. The former NCAA Champion and University of Oregon star struggled on day three, recording four bogeys and a double-bogey on his way to a 4-over 75 to fall three shots back of a quartet of leaders heading into Sunday's final round.

Keith Mitchell, Brice Garnett, Abraham Ancer and Denny McCarthy took advantage of Wise's struggles on the Witch Hollow Course at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club with matching totals of 12-under 201 to earn a share of the lead with 18 holes to play in the Web.com Tour's Regular-Season-ending event.

Mitchell, who began Saturday at 3-under 139 and tied for 35th, recorded the low round of the week with a 9-under 62, thanks to a chip-in eagle on the par-5 18th. Mitchell's third-round effort was one shot shy of the tournament course record of 61, set by Ted Potter, Jr., in the event's 2016 edition.

"It was nice, but it was a good round for a Saturday. We still have one more day to go, so I'm already thinking about that. I wish they gave out TOUR cards on Saturdays, but they don't," said Mitchell.

The Chattanooga, Tenn., native entered the week with seven top-25 finishes on the year, including a season-best T3 at last week's News Sentinel Open presented by Pilot. Mitchell's 16-under-par tally in Knoxville, Tenn., left him two shots back of winner Talor Gooch.

At No. 36 on the money list, the former University of Georgia golfer is on the precipice of earning his PGA TOUR card with a good Sunday finish, but knows he's not the only player with ascension to golf's biggest stage on his mind.

"I try not to approach it any differently. It's easy to say that but it's tough to do. I've been playing good lately, and played really good last week. I knew that if I just kept doing what I was doing and stayed focused, then I'd give myself a chance," Mitchell said after his round. "That's all I can really ask for out here because all these guys are good and we're all fighting for the same thing. So, if I can just keep my head on out there and stay focused, I know I'll have a chance."

Garnett, who won last month's Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, birdied five of his first six holes on his way to an 8-under 63, which tied his career-low round on Tour (Rd. 3, 2013 Chitimacha Louisiana Open; Rd. 2, 2013 Cox Classic).

The former Missouri Western State golfer was two-over par through five holes to begin his week at Pumpkin Ridge, but played the ensuing 49 holes in 14-under par to move into a share of the lead with 18 holes to play. Garnett, 34, was a TOUR member in 2014 and 2015 before losing his card and bouncing back to the Web.com Tour. After entering the week at No. 11 on the money list, Garnett has secured his return to the TOUR for the 2017-18 season.

"I've always wanted to play out here knowing that my card is locked up. I think you can free-wheel it and find out how well you can play when there's no pressure on you," he said. "I know a lot of guys are feeling pressure this week. For me, it's trying to win a golf tournament or get to No. 1 on the money list. I'm just going to keep pressing for that."

Ancer, who was born in McAllen, Tex., but raised in Reynosa, Mexico, entered the week at No. 9 on the Web.com Tour money list, thanks to runner-up finishes at the Nashville Golf Open benefitting the Snedeker Foundation and the Utah Championship.

The former Oklahoma Sooner standout notched his lone victory on Tour at the 2015 Nova Scotia Open, where he defeated Bronson Burgoon in a playoff. Even though he is winless this year, a victory in Portland would push Ancer to the top of the Tour's money list heading into the Finals next week.

"Once you're already locked up to the PGA TOUR, I always like to have other goals and obviously winning here would give me that No. 1 spot," said Ancer, 26. "I'm not trying to think about that, but I know it's there for the grabs so I'm going to try to put a good round tomorrow."

McCarthy was in sole possession of the lead at 13-under par heading to the 18th hole, but closed with a bogey to notch a 7-under 64 and a 12-under 201 total. For the day, the former University of Virginia star recorded one eagle, eight birdies and three bogeys. His roller coaster of a round included a 10-hole stretch from Nos. 8-17 which he played in nine-under par.

"I blacked out. I've been waiting for that stretch of golf for a while now, and I've been playing really, really well. It really takes one of those stretches to solidify that you are playing that well," he said. "Once I saw that ball go in (for eagle) from the first cut on No. 8, that kickstarted everything. I hit two 6-irons on Nos. 9 and 10 today that were two of my better shots of the day, just right at it. I don't know what else to say, I was just seeing my lines really well and rolling some putts in."

In his second full season on Tour, McCarthy entered the week with three top-10 finishes in 2017, but just one since a T8 at the El Bosque Mexico Championship by Innova in April. The 2015 U.S. Walker Cup team member sits at No. 44 on the Tour's money list heading into Sunday, and needs to put forth a stellar closing effort to realize his PGA TOUR dream.

"It has to be a first or a second, so I'm obviously playing for first," said the 24-year-old. "A fourth- or fifth-place finish doesn't do anything for me, so if I see myself back on that leaderboard, I'm obviously going to make a push to get to that No. 1 spot."

Austin Cook is alone in fifth place, one shot back of the co-leaders at 11-under par.

Wise, who posted two eagles and 13 birdies over the first two rounds, recorded just two birdies on Saturday to finish 54 holes at 9-under 204.

SATURDAY 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.

* Two players – Mitchell (No. 36) and McCarthy (No. 44) are currently projected to move inside the top 25 and earn a TOUR card with one round remaining. Roberto Diaz (No. 24) and Beau Hossler (No. 25) are currently projected to fall out of the top 25. Diaz is in T38 and Hossler is in T27 with 18 holes left.

* Mitchell will be playing in the final group on a Sunday for the second time this season. He played in the final group at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open, but dropped down the leaderboard with a final round 5-over 76. Mitchell missed the cut a year ago in his first start at the WinCo Foods Portland Open.

* McCarthy enters the week at No. 44 on the money list with \$100,496 in earnings and needs at least a three-way tie for second to have a chance at securing one of the 25 PGA TOUR cards. Even that might not be enough based off how other bubble members fare, but McCarthy has a shot with at least a three-way tie for second.

* Two 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. Andrew Svoboda (No. 80) and Kent Bulle (No. 82) are projected to move inside the top 75 with only one round remaining.

* 2014 WinCo Foods Portland Open champion Carlos Ortiz is within three shots of the lead entering the final round after a 7-under 64. Ortiz's win in 2014 was his third victory of the season on his way to the No. 1 spot on the money list in his only other appearance at Pumpkin Ridge. Ortiz needs at least a solo second or better to have a chance of moving inside the top 25 to earn his PGA TOUR card again.

* Ancer, the co-leader, is leading the field in driving accuracy at 84.62%.

* 2016 Web.com Tour graduate Sebastian Munoz is two shots back entering the weekend. Munoz finished 153rd in the FedExCup standings but is trying to secure a return to the PGA TOUR with a win this week. The Colombia native has made three starts on the Web.com Tour with two missed cuts and a runner-up finish. Munoz made eight cuts in 17 starts on TOUR this season with career-best T3 finish at the Greenbrier Classic.

* 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	23
22	Lanto Griffin	66-67-75—208 (-5)	T33	24
23	Ethan Tracy	71-73—144 (+2)	MC	25
24	Roberto Diaz	71-68-70—209 (-4)	T38	27
25	Beau Hossler	69-68-70—207 (-6)	T27	26

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

Rank this Week	Player	Score	Position	Projection
26	Rob Oppenheim	71-69-69—209 (-4)	T38	28
27	Martin Piller	65-70-74—209 (-4)	T38	29
28	D.H. Lee	68-75—143 (+1)	MC	31
29	Tyler Duncan	72-70—142 (E)	MC	32
30	Tom Lovelady	72-68-75—215 (+2)	69	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	75
72	Jacques Blaauw	75-72—147 (+5)	MC	77
73	Scott Langley	71-66-76—213 (E)	T62	74
74	Samuel Del Val	71-66-71—208 (-5)	T33	72
75	Brady Schnell	72-69-69—210 (-3)	T50	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	80
77	William Kropp	76-72—148 (+6)	MC	81
78	Armando Favela	73-74—147 (+5)	MC	83
79	Ken Looper	71-65-78—214 (+1)	68	82
80	Andrew Svoboda	70-66-69—205 (-8)	T14	71

* 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

R3 35.400 34.329 69.729 70.734

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website: <https://moveit.pgatourhq.com> <<https://moveit.pgatourhq.com/>>

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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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