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### **First-Round Leaderboard**

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	David Skinns	64 (-7)
2	Sangmoon Bae	65 (-6)
	Fabian Gomez	65 (-6)
	Martin Trainer	65 (-6)
5	Four tied at	66 (-5)

### **David Skinns takes first-round lead at Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco**

BOISE, Idaho – Teeing off in the final group of the afternoon, David Skinns used a late run – including a birdie-par-birdie finish – to card a 7-under 64 and lead after the first round at the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco. Seven players are within two strokes of the lead at Hillcrest Country Club.

In 2017, Skinns withdrew from the Albertsons Boise Open, despite sitting T9 after two rounds, when he learned his wife, Kristin, was about to give birth. The Englishman flew home to Atlanta to see the birth of his second son, Bennett.

“Last year was just good memories for me in general,” Skinns said. “It was a shame that I didn’t get to finish the tournament, but it was a great time in my life...There was about two minutes where I sat on my bed contemplating [once I heard], but it was no more than that. I was required, and I knew that, so it was a no-brainer in the end.”

Skinns started his round with a bang, birdying three straight before settling in to make the turn at 4-under 32. After sandwiching a bogey at No. 12 with birdies on Nos. 11 and 13, Skinns birdied two of the last three to take the solo lead by a stroke. The 36-year-old mentioned Hillcrest Country Club as reminiscent of courses he played growing up in England.

“I like everything about this course,” Skinns said. “It looks a lot like England to be honest, looks a lot like the Parkland courses I grew up playing, which is hard to believe when you tell people that. Everyone thinks links golf over there. But it looks similar to what I was used to and it just seems to shape well for me.”

The University of Tennessee alum specifically discussed the par-4 ninth as a turning point in his round.

“On nine, I decided to hit driver, which not everyone does, but I ended up stymied under a tree even though I only had 100 yards to the front of the green,” Skinns said. “I hit this little chippy-cut 6-iron and it came out exactly as I saw it in my mind. It landed just short and rolled up to eight feet, and then I made the putt. That was a momentum gainer for sure.”

Statistically, Skinns enjoyed a very accurate day. He hit 16 out of 18 greens in regulation and all 14 fairways. He birdied each of the three par-5s.

Teeing off in the morning wave, Sangmoon Bae briefly enjoyed the clubhouse lead at 6-under 65. He posted six birdies in an eight-hole stretch (Nos. 15-4) to reach 7-under before falling back to 6-under on the day. At \$38,156, Bae sits 12<sup>th</sup> on the Finals money list and is the closest player who has yet to earn TOUR status for the 2018-19 season. The top-11 earners have all locked up their PGA TOUR cards in the first two Finals events. Bae competed on the PGA TOUR during the 2017-18 season after two years of mandatory military service in South Korea.

Early in the afternoon wave, Fabian Gomez matched Bae's mark with an opening-round 65. The 39-year-old Argentine took advantage of the par-5 16<sup>th</sup> hole with an eagle, one of six eagles at the 16<sup>th</sup>. The 535-yard hole played as the second-easiest hole on the course. Gomez has won on many different levels of professional golf. Professional wins include once on the MacKenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada (2009), three times on the PGA TOUR Latinoamérica (2013, 2014, 2015), once on the Web.com Tour (2010) and twice on the PGA TOUR (2015, 2016). Most recently, he won in a playoff over Brandt Snedeker at the 2016 Sony Open in Hawaii.

Later in the afternoon, Martin Trainer capped his round with a birdie at the ninth to enter a three-way tie for second. Trainer is looking to improve his position as a member of The 25 players that have already secured their 2018-19 PGA TOUR card. Trainer, who currently sits sixth in The 25, won twice on the Web.com Tour in 2018: first at the El Bosque Mexico Championship by Innova in March and again at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper in July.

#### **THURSDAY NOTES:**

- \* Thursday weather: Partly cloudy to mostly sunny, High of 70, Winds NW 6-12 mph, with gusts of 15-18 mph.
- \* This week's purse is \$1,000,000, with \$180,000 going to the champion.
- \* This week marks the penultimate event of the Web.com Tour Finals, a four-event series that concludes at the Web.com Tour Championship in Atlantic Beach, Florida, Sept. 20-23. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards were awarded following the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz. An additional 25 cards are up for grabs during the four Finals events, as well as positioning for all 50 cards.
- \* The highest start by an eventual tournament currently sits at 2-under 69, with 1999 champion Carl Paulson and 2008 champion Chris Tidland having both opened tournament play with the score. Currently 55 players are at 2-under or better.
- \* Should he capture the title at the end of the week, Fabian Gomez would join Nelson Ledesma and Julian Etulain as the third Argentine winner in the 2018 season. Since the Tour's inception, there have been five winners from Argentina representing a total of six wins.
- \* Since the tournament's inception in 1990, only four 18-hole leaders/co-leaders have been able to convert their lead into a victory, with the most recent being Martin Piller in 2015. Through 23 events this year, four first-round leaders have captured a title at the end of the week, with the most recent being Kramer Hickok at the DAP Championship presented by NewBrick.
- \* This week's field features two past champions, Martin Piller (2015) and Michael Thompson (2016). Thomas began the week with a 4-under 67, while Piller opened play with a 3-under 68.
- \* NEXT WEEK: The Web.com Tour Finals concludes at the season-ending Web.com Tour Championship contested at Atlantic Beach Country Club in Atlantic Beach, Florida. \* While it is difficult to estimate exactly how much money is needed to finish in the top 25 of the Finals money list and collect one of the remaining 25 PGA TOUR cards handed out at the conclusion of the Web.com Tour Championship, below is how much money the 25th man on the money list earned in each of the past two four:

2013 Bobby Gates	\$33,650.00
2014 Eric Axley	\$36,311.66
2015 Rob Oppenheim	\$32,206.00
2016 Cody Gribble/Kelly Kraft	\$35,125.00#
2017 Seamus Power	\$40,625.00
# - denotes three events played (Web.com Tour Championship was cancelled)	

\* Hillcrest Country Club scoring average:

	<b>Front (36)</b>	<b>Back (35)</b>	<b>Total (71)</b>
<b>R1</b>	<b>35.795</b>	<b>34.500</b>	<b>70.295</b>

*For highlights from today's round, or any 2018 event visit <http://bit.ly/webcomtour2018>*

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