



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Brett Drewitt	69-63-132 (-10)
	Alex Prugh	67-65-132 (-10)
	Sangmoon Bae	65-67-132 (-10)
4	Fabián Gómez	65-68-133 (-9)
	Henrik Norlander	66-67-133 (-9)

Brett Drewitt, Alex Prugh and Sangmoon Bae share lead after 36 holes at Albertsons Boise Open

BOISE, Idaho – At first glance, it would be hard to believe that the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco was a home game for Brett Drewitt. The 27-year-old was born in Taree, Australia, lived in Dallas, Texas, for a bit and eventually settled down in his current residence of Scottsdale, Arizona. But for Drewitt, the town of Boise, Idaho, marks the beginning of an exciting time in his life. Just a few years ago, while in town for the tournament, Drewitt met his current fiancé, Brianna, who was a student at nearby Boise State University at the time.

The Australian gave his fiancé and friends something to cheer about Friday, carding an 8-under 63 during the second round to take a share of the 36-hole lead with former Web.com Tour champion Alex Prugh and 2015 Presidents Cup International Team member Sangmoon Bae. Sitting one stroke back of the leading trio are two-time PGA TOUR winner Fabián Gómez and Sweden native Henrik Norlander.

Drewitt was firing on all cylinders right out of the gate at Hillcrest Country Club Friday, picking up a birdie on the par-4 10th (his first hole of the day). The 2014 PGA TOUR China champion picked up another birdie on the par-4 12th before truly hitting his stride on No. 15, where he picked up a birdie to start a birdie-eagle-birdie streak.

“It definitely gives you a lot of confidence,” Drewitt remarked of the streak. “To see some putts go in as well is great. It got really tough there at the end, so it did help because I had a bit of a buffer. To get low early is a big confidence builder.”

The fifth-year pro ran into trouble as he neared the turn, picking up his lone bogey of the day on the 18th hole. Drewitt refused to let the mistake get to him, however, fighting back with a par and three bogeys on his next four holes.

“My short game has been really good all week,” Drewitt said of overcoming his bogey. “I’ve hit a lot of chip shots really close and not had to work too hard for par, so it was building off that. I kind of got a little squirrely there and hit a couple of poor shots, even down No. 1 when we made the turn I hit a couple of poor shots, but my short game got me out of it. It kind of kept the momentum going, really. It was good. I just tried to forget about it and take it one shot at a time.”

Drewitt went on to par out his remaining holes, finishing the day with an 8-under 63 to move to 10-under 132 through the first two rounds. The score was the second-best second-round score in relation to par of his Tour career, just one-stroke shy of his career-best 9-under 63 at this year’s BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation.

Success in the Finals is nothing new for Drewitt, who graduated from the Web.com Tour in 2016 after a T5 finish at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship locked up his spot in The 50. He struggled on the PGA TOUR the following season, making just nine of 19 cuts before returning to the Web.com Tour for the 2018 season.

After following a season-opening T3 with a T10 at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, Drewitt battled inconsistent finishes, entering the week in Boise having picked up just four top-25 finishes in 23 starts. Things are clicking this week for Drewitt, however, who feels as though his best golf is waiting to be played.

"I've got some goals set mentally for myself that I've kind of struggled with a bit this year," he said after his round, "but I just want to play the best golf I can. If I'm at the top of the leaderboard at the end of the week and I think I've played the best golf I possibly can, then that's great. I know my best golf can win this golf tournament, and I know my best golf is better than what it has been and probably better than it has been in the first two days, but I know if I can stay patient, it's just going to happen."

Also taking advantage of the hometown feel is Prugh, whose friends and family made the trip from nearby Spokane, Washington, for this week's event.

"It means a lot to be in the northwest," he remarked. "It was only a 41-minute flight for me, and I have a lot of friends and family that are around. It's nice seeing a bunch of friendly faces around and Boise puts on a great golf tournament here."

The 34-year-old had a slow start in Boise, going par-bogey-par on Nos. 10-12 to open the second round. Prugh picked up two birdies on his first nine to move back into red digits, building momentum for a second-nine run that would move the University of Washington alum up the leaderboard.

"Fortunately, I've just been hitting the ball well off the tee," Prugh said of the day. "Looking back at it, my only two bogeys were three putts. Other than that, I've been scrambling well and giving myself birdies opportunities. You see a couple of 20- or 30-footers drop and basically that's been my first two days."

The ball was dropping on the second nine for Prugh, who birdied five of his last nine, including a three-hole stretch at the close.

The father-of-one earned his first return to the PGA TOUR since 2016 after finishing the Regular Season at No. 18 on the money list. With his card for the 2018-19 season already locked up, Prugh is playing the Finals to improve his priority ranking on TOUR next year, while also chasing the fully-exempt status and 2019 PLAYERS Championship berth that comes with finishing at No. 1 on the combined money list.

While Boise may be a home game for two of the leaders, Idaho is far from familiar for South Korean Bae, whose opening rounds of 67-65-132 (-10) have him tied for the 36-hole lead for the first time since the 2015 Sentry Tournament of Champions.

The 32-year-old returned to the professional golf world in September of last year after taking a two-year hiatus to fulfill his mandatory military service. Bae had been at the peak of his game before stepping away, having captured a win at the 2015 Safeway Open and four additional top-10s in his last season on the PGA TOUR. The Daegu, South Korea, native finished that year at No. 26 in the FedExCup standings, a career-best.

Bae played in 17 events on TOUR in the 2017-18 season but struggled to regain his form, making just five of 17 cuts. He has found his stride in the Web.com Tour Finals, however, picking up a T35 and a T6 in the first two Finals events, respectively. His Tour performance has him at No. 11 on the Finals money list, in need of just one strong finish to lock up a PGA TOUR card for next year.

FRIDAY NOTES:

* Friday weather: Mostly sunny, High of 80, Winds SE 6-12 mph, with gusts up to 15 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.

* Friday's cut came at 2-under 140 with 77 players advancing to the weekend. Cameron Percy made the biggest jump up the leaderboard with a 7-under 64 to make the cut, rising from T93 to start the day to T18 entering the weekend.

* The par-4 fifth hole has played as the toughest on the course (according to scoring average) at 4.237. The hole has only allowed 18 birdies through two rounds, compared to 70 bogeys or worse. The par-5 16th is playing as the easiest on the course at 4.424 and has relinquished 11 eagles, including one to co-leader Brett Drewitt.

* Should he capture the title at the end of the week, Fabián Gómez 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. Gómez has tallied wins across multiple professional levels, including: the PGA TOUR (2), Web.com Tour, Makenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada and PGA TOUR Latinoamérica (3).

* Since the tournament's inception in 1990, only seven 36-hole leaders/co-leaders have been able to convert their lead into a victory, with the most recent being Martin Piller in 2015. Through 25 events this year, seven second-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.

* The winning score has varied over the past 29 iterations of this tournament. In 2017, Chesson Hadley won at 16-under 268, the highest winning score in relation to par since 2009. In 2015, Martin Piller set the tournament record at 28-under 256.

* This week's field features two past champions, Piller (2015) and Michael Thompson (2016). Both players made the cut with Thompson at T8 and Piller at T60.

* 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:

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)	Cumulative
R1	35.795	34.500	70.295	
R2	35.515	34.392	69.908	70.102

* NEXT WEEK: The Web.com Tour Finals comes to a conclusion at the season-ending Web.com Tour Championship contested at Atlantic Beach Country Club in Atlantic Beach, Florida.

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

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