



**BMW
Charity Pro-Am**
presented by SYNEX CORPORATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Oscar Fraustro (TC)	65-64—129 (-14)
T1	Michael Arnaud (TC)	69-60—129 (-14)
T1	Robby Shelton (CV)	65-63—128 (-14)
4	Max Rottluff (FG)	66-62—128 (-13)

FG=Furman University GC, CV=The Cliffs Valley, TC=Thornblade Club

Arnaud earns share of 36-hole lead with 11-under 60 at BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation

GREENVILLE, S.C. – After earning the last spot in the field at the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation, Michael Arnaud of Covington, Louisiana flirted with golf immortality during Friday's second round at tournament host Thornblade Club. Arnaud, who gained his spot when Kent Bulle withdrew, played his first seven holes in 9-under par before reaching 11-under through 16 holes, only to par his final two holes for a course-record-tying 60. The career-best round pushed Arnaud to 14-under 129 through 36 holes of play, good for a share of the lead alongside Oscar Fraustro and Robby Shelton heading into the weekend in the 18th annual event in South Carolina's Upstate.

Arnaud, who entered 2018 with conditional status on the Web.com Tour, began his week with a 3-under 69 at The Cliffs Valley before venturing to Thornblade for Friday's second round.

Beginning on the front nine at the Tom Fazio-designed course, the 36-year-old opened in torrid fashion with two eagles and five birdies in his first seven holes to race out to an incredible 9-under-par start.

"I don't think I've ever done that to start a round. I think I've had a few times back home where I've done it in the middle of the round but never to start the round off," said Arnaud, who had tournament officials scrambling to verify the scores. "I thought I put a cheat code in for a video game. It almost got laughable."

Arnaud bogeyed the par-3 ninth to turn in 8-under 27, matching the Web.com Tour's all-time mark for nine-hole scores.

On the back nine, pars on 10, 11 and 12 slowed his momentum, but follow-up birdies on 13, 15 and 16 vaulted him to 11-under par with two holes to play, and on the precipice of a 59 or even 58 with an electric finish.

"I tried to block it out and keep doing my thing," said Arnaud when asked if he started thinking about 59. "I knew there was a lot of golf left and I had a lot of birdie opportunities and if it happened, it happened."

On the par-3 17th, he hit his tee shot to 12 feet but failed to convert the birdie try, leaving him still at 11-under with one hole to play.

The par-4 finishing hole at Thornblade has traditionally been one of the more demanding holes on the course, but Arnaud laced his tee shot down the middle before pulling his approach shot just to the left of the hole and approximately 10 feet over the green.

With Golf Channel cutting in and out of Regions Tradition coverage to show his march towards 59, Arnaud opted to putt through the damp fringe on 18 and wound up leaving his birdie try short and just left of the hole. The course-record-tying 60 put him at 14-under 129 and with a share of the tournament lead.

“The last thing I told myself, was don’t leave it short. A friend of mine, Roland Thatcher, had a shot at 59 a few years ago, and I think he left it short as well,” said Arnaud. “It was a tricky little shot, I’m happy with it. A 60 is a 60. You can’t complain about that.”

Arnaud played the Web.com Tour full-time in 2015 and 2016, but has played sparingly over the last two seasons with limited status. The former Stephen F. Austin golfer finished T57 at Q-School last December and entered the week with just one start in 2018.

With the expanded, 168-player field at the BMW Charity Pro-Am, Arnaud had a chance to gain entry on his number and was able to do so when Bulle withdrew. When he got the news, he promptly withdrew from this week’s APT tour event and flew to Greenville.

“I found out Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. I was planning on coming up because I was first alternate, but I found out Wednesday and I flew in Wednesday afternoon. I got in at 6:30 p.m. and rode the Furman golf course to see what it looked like.”

Regardless of this week’s outcome, Arnaud’s run towards a share of sub-60 history is something he’ll cherish for a number of years.

“When you get in that zone, you just kind of let it go. You sit there and take a moment and realize this is actually happening. Just keep it rolling, don’t think about it too much,” he said. “I don’t have any regrets about it, no. Those are special rounds, a once-in-a-career round. You appreciate them, you don’t think you can change them. You accept them and go about it.”

Like Arnaud, Fraustro opened his week at The Cliffs Valley, and promptly double-bogeyed his third hole of the tournament to fall to two-over par. The 35-year-old recovered soon thereafter, notching nine birdies to close out a 7-under 65 on Thursday.

At Thornblade, Fraustro kept the opening-round momentum intact with two birdies on his outward nine and eagles on Nos. 2 and 5 (his back nine) to move into the lead at 13-under par. The Mexico native bogeyed the par-4 seventh but bounced back with birdies on Nos. 8 and 9 to finish off a second-round 64 and a 14-under total.

Fraustro, making his 87th career Web.com Tour start this week, has struggled for most of 2018, with just one made cut in five starts entering the week – a T17 at the Panama Championship in his first event of the year.

“It’s been hard waiting to see if I’m going to get into tournaments or not. I’ve been playing pretty well at home, but competition is different,” said Fraustro. “The last couple of tournaments that I got in, I just never figured them out. I knew I was going to get in here and I worked very hard to prepare and get in that tournament mind frame.”

Fraustro played the PGA TOUR during the 2014-15 season, making just seven of 21 cuts with a season-best T9 finish coming at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba. The former University of South Florida golfer played the Web.com Tour full-time in 2013, 2014 and 2016, earning his TOUR card via the Web.com Tour Finals in 2014.

Through 36 holes, Shelton has notched 14 birdies against zero bogeys for a pair of clean cards following rounds of 65-63. The former University of Alabama star has played the par-70 Furman University Golf Club and the par-72 Cliffs Valley, which has him at 128 at the tournament halfway point.

“I just had so many good looks at it. My irons are good, I’m hitting fairways and I’m putting it well,” he said. “It’s feeling really good right now and it felt the same last week in Knoxville, but I just had a few bad swings and didn’t make a lot of putts so it’s just rolling right now.”

Shelton, in his first full year on the Web.com Tour, has made five of six cuts this season, including a pair of top-30 finishes at the Panama Championship and last week’s Knoxville Open. In 2017, he starred on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, recording a win at the GolfBC Championship and a pair of runner-up finishes at the Players Cup and Cape Breton Open on his way to a second-place standing on the final Order of Merit.

Shelton’s tenure in Tuscaloosa, Alabama was record-setting, with first-team All-America honors in each of his three seasons, and the all-time career scoring record (70.42) in the program’s storied history.

Friday Notes:

* Friday weather: Scattered thunderstorms with rain heavy at times, High: 79, Winds S 5-10 mph.

* This week's purse is \$700,000, with the winner set to collect \$126,000. The 10 lowest Pro-Am teams, six lowest Pro-Celebrity teams and the low 65 pros (and ties) will advance to play Sunday's final round at Thornblade Club.

* Arnaud's round of 11-under 60 is tied for eighth-lowest in Web.com Tour history and marked the eighth straight year with a round of 60 or better on Tour, dating back to the 2011 season.

* The round of 60 marked the first on the Web.com Tour since Eric Axley posted 10-under 60 in the third round of the 2016 Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae.

* Arnaud's 8-under 27 tied the Web.com Tour's all-time scoring mark for nine holes. The lowest nine-hole scores in Tour history:

27: Notah Begay III, Second round, 1998 Dominion Open (9-under)

27: Doug Dunakey, Second round, 1998 Miami Valley Open (8-under)

27: Chesson Hadley, Final round, 2013 BMW Charity Pro-Am (8-under)

27: Chad Collins, Second round, 2013 Utah Championship (9-under)

27: Albin Choi, Final round, 2016 BMW Charity Pro-Am (8-under)

27: Michael Arnaud, First round, 2018 BMW Charity Pro-Am (8-under)

* Arnaud's birdie-eagle streak, playing Nos. 1-7 in nine-under par with two eagles and five birdies, is the second-lowest in Web.com Tour history:

10-under: Kyle Reifers (B-B-E-B-B-B-E-B), 2009 Ford Wayne Gretzky Classic

9-under: Ahmad Bateman (B-B-B-B-E-B-B-B), 1996 Utah Classic

9-under: Michael Arnaud (B-E-B-B-E-B-B), 2018 BMW Charity Pro-Am

* Through 36 holes of play, there are three international players inside the top 10 on the leaderboard. Thus far in 2018, the Web.com Tour has had winners from seven different countries claim titles in the first 10 events: Argentina, Canada, England, Germany, Mexico, South Korea and the United States.

* The BMW Charity Pro-Am has had six international players win the title a total of seven times: Ryuji Imada, Nick Flanagan (2), Michael Sim, Garth Mulroy, Rod Pampling and Stephan Jaeger.

* In the 17-year history of the BMW Charity Pro-Am, the 36-hole leader or co-leader has gone on to win the tournament just three times: David Mathis (2008), Rod Pampling (2015) and Stephan Jaeger (2017).

* Two second-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win during the 2018 season, most recently Julian Etulain at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by NACHER in March.

Scoring Averages at the par-71 Thornblade Club (host):

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	33.125	34.696	68.821	
R2:	33.3286	34.964	68.250	68.306

Scoring Averages at the par-72 The Cliffs Valley:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	34.929	34.071	69.000	
R2:	35.089	34.821	69.911	69.455

Scoring Averages at the par-71 Furman University Golf Club:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	33.661	34.964	68.625	
R2:	33.607	35.446	69.054	68.839

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