



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Julian Etulain	62 (-9)
2	Adam Svensson	63 (-8)
3	Jose Toledo	64 (-7)
	Joey Garber	64 (-7)

Julian Etulain grabs first-round lead at Chitimacha Louisiana Open

BROUSSARD, Louisiana – In his fifth appearance in Louisiana, Julian Etulain recorded nine birdies on Thursday en route to 9-under-par 62 in the first round of the 27th annual Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by NACHER. Etulain is now 22-under-par in his last five rounds at Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club.

The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club champion Adam Svensson sits one back while Jose Toledo and Joey Garber are two off the pace after 18 holes.

“I think the putter was the difference today,” said Etulain, who needed 27 putts around the Robert Trent Jones design on Thursday. “I think I’m going to sleep with him (putter) tonight.”

It has been a mixed bag for the 29-year-old from Buenos Aires, Argentina this season. In five starts, Etulain has made three cuts, recorded one top-10 and entered the week No. 40 on the Web.com Tour Regular Season money list. The 62, his lowest round on Tour, gave the 10-year-pro his first 18-hole lead on Tour. He has played 50 consecutive bogey-free holes at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open.

“I like this place and I like playing on this Tour,” said Etulain, who is making his 73rd Tour start this week. “I feel really good here.”

Etulain has now recorded five straight rounds under par at Le Triomphe. He has three career second-place finishes on Tour and one of those came in Broussard in 2016, where he held a share of the 54-hole lead with Greg Chalmers. Etulain carded a 1-under 70 in the final round and finished a shot behind 2016 Web.com Tour Player of the Year Wesley Bryan.

“I lost by one, two years ago,” said Etulain, when asked what he remembers from that blustery Sunday. “I hit the ball great that week. It was very windy and unfortunately I made 17 pars and one birdie.”

Svensson has recorded six straight rounds under par at Le Triomphe after a 63 on Thursday. The 24-year-old from Surrey, British Columbia hit all 18 greens in regulation in the first round and bested his lowest opening-round score by one shot.

“I played pretty well today and made a bunch of 20-footers,” said Svensson, who recorded 29 putts in the first round. “The putter was rolling and overall it was a solid round.”

Svensson relied on his caddie, Jace, for the line of the putts. They pair started using AimPoint this week and Svensson trusted his caddie to read the greens and tell him where to start the ball. Svensson also worked hard on his stroke earlier this week to correct a flaw.

“I told my caddie it just feels so good today,” he said. “A couple of days ago I was looping the putter. So, I focused on taking it straight back and it worked.”

Svensson won earlier this season and is ranked No. 2 on the money list after the first leg of the Regular Season. Despite the hot start, the former standout at Barry University plans to keep his foot on the gas all the way to the finish.

“I still need to play aggressive and make more money to move higher inside The 25,” said Svensson. “I just need to stay aggressive and try and make as many top-10s as possible.”

Thursday Notes:

* Thursday weather: Partly cloudy, High: 73, Winds: E/SE 6-12 mph.

* This week’s purse is \$550,000, with \$99,000 going to the winner.

* Max Homa ended his first-round birdie-birdie-eagle-birdie for a 6-under-par 65. In five starts this season, Homa has made three cuts and recorded three top-25s with his best showing coming at The Great Bahamas Exuma Classic (T7). This week marks Homa’s second appearance at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open (T47 – 2014).

* Web.com Tour rookie Joey Garber carded a bogey-free 7-under 64 in the first round. Garber opened with a 5-under 30 on the back nine, birdied holes 1 and 2 before closing with seven straight pars. The former Georgia Bulldog entered the week No. 34 on the money list after three consecutive top-25 finishes (Panama Championship – T17, Club Colombia Championship – T8, El Bosque Mexico Championship – T25).

* Guatemalan Jose Toledo recorded a season-best 7-under 64 in the first round. The 31-year-old from Guatemala City has missed four straight cuts since opening the season with a T47 at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic. He entered the week No. 132 on the money list.

* Monday Qualifier Daniel Mazziotta aced the par-3 sixth hole en route to an opening round, 4-under 67. Mazziotta is making his first start of the season and has conditional status on Tour after a T85 at the Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament last December. The 29-year-old from Fort Myers, Florida has made five holes-in-one since last June.

* Scoring Averages for the week:

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)
R1	35.097	35.326	70.424

* The lowest first-round scoring average (69.467) tournament history came in 2016.

* **NEXT WEEK:** The Web.com Tour will head east to Georgia for the inaugural Savannah Golf Championship contested at Deer Creek Course at The Landings Club.

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