



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2018

Contact: Royce Thompson
(321) 246-7687

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Taylor Moore	65-67—132 (-10)
	Julian Etulain	62-70—132 (-10)
3	Max Homa	65-68—133 (-9)
4	Joey Garber	64-70—134 (-8)
	Curtis Luck	68-65—134 (-8)

Taylor Moore, Julian Etulain share 36-hole lead at Chitimacha Louisiana Open

BROUSSARD, Louisiana – Coming off of a solo fifth at the El Bosque Mexico Championship by Innova, Taylor Moore arrived in Broussard brimming with confidence. The 24-year-old from San Angelo, Texas recorded five birdies and one bogey on Friday morning at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by NACHER to card a second-round 4-under 67. At 10-under-par 132, Moore has now broke par in five consecutive rounds on the Web.com Tour. Julian Etulain battled the afternoon winds at Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club for a 1-under 70 to tie Moore at the top of the leaderboard.

Both Moore and Etulain entered the week outside the top 25 on the Regular Season money list and are two rounds away from their maiden Tour win. Etulain is in his third full season on Tour and making his 73rd career start this week. Moore, who turned pro in 2016, has competed in 28 tournaments and is in his sophomore season on Tour.

The pair will play together in the final group on Saturday, teeing off at 1:10 p.m. local time.

“I didn’t really strike the ball great my first seven holes,” said Moore, who made one birdie and one bogey in that stretch. “I had a few key up and downs, and then got into a groove on those three holes and that kind of kick-started my round.”

Moore birdied holes 17 and 18 to turn in 2-under. The former Arkansas Razorback added birdies at 1 and 7 to post 10-under and take the clubhouse lead. Moore finds himself in unfamiliar territory heading into the weekend. Saturday will mark the first time he’s entered the third round with a share of the lead.

In his rookie season on Tour, Moore competed in 23 events, made 18 cuts and posted three top-10s. The Mackenzie Tour- PGA TOUR Canada alum has developed his game the past few years and even enjoyed success at the professional level, winning the Staal Foundation Open presented by Tbaytel in 2016. That progression can be seen in Moore’s results this season. He’s now made the cut in five of his six starts.

“I just have to keep playing golf,” said Moore. “I’ve got 36 holes left and 36 more opportunities to get out there and execute. I’m just going to go do that and whatever happens is going to happen.”

“I’m a lot more mature than I was when I first turned pro,” he continued. “I learned a lot about the game and about how it’s supposed to be played over the last two years. I think that’ll help me not only this weekend but moving forward as well.”

In his quest to earn his PGA TOUR card this season, Moore doesn't need to look outside of Fayetteville for motivation. Andrew Landry, Ethan Tracy and Austin Cook once called the University of Arkansas home and all earned their TOUR cards last season. Cook was the first of the trio to win on TOUR, picking up his first victory at The RSM Classic last fall, while Landry came painstakingly close, losing to Jon Rahm in a playoff at the CareerBuilder Challenge.

"We're all pretty close buddies," said Moore. "It fuels the rest of us to see them out there and doing well and being in contention and winning golf tournaments. It's fuel, we're all buddies."

Etulain made a miraculous par on the par-4 finishing hole to finish tied with Moore. The 29-year-old from Buenos Aires, Argentina hit his tee shot behind a tree and was left with a delicate second shot. Having to maneuver the roots of the tree and being so close to the trunk, Etulain opted for a lob wedge and blasted his ball to the middle of the green. From there, the 10-year-pro two-putted for par and a second-round 70.

"It was tough," said Etulain, about the par-save at 18. "I hit a good 3-wood and thought it was perfect. I had 110 yards to the pin and tried to put the ball on the front and save par."

Etulain is once again in contention heading into the weekend at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open. After recording just one bogey in 36 holes at Le Triomphe, the PGA TOUR Latinoamérica alum likes his chances to finally enter the winner's circle on the Web.com Tour.

"I like how I feel with my swing," said Etulain. "I think I'm going to have a great chance this weekend."

Friday Notes:

* Friday weather: Partly cloudy, High: 77, Winds: S 12-16 mph with gusts of 20-25.

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

* The cut came at 1-under 141, with 70 players advancing to the weekend.

* Following an opening-round 6-under 65, Max Homa carded a 3-under 68 and is one back of Taylor Moore and Julian Etulain entering the weekend. Homa is in search of his third Web.com Tour win this week (2014 BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation, 2016 Rust-Oleum Championship). Last season, Homa made a total of three cuts between three starts on the Web.com Tour and 17 on the PGA TOUR. IN 2018, the 27-year-old from Burbank, California has made three of five cuts and is No. 29 on the money list.

* Former Georgia Bulldog Joey Garber is two shots off the lead after a Friday 70. Garber's second round included four birdies, a bogey and a double-bogey. Garber 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).

* The round of the day belonged to Australia's Curtis Luck, who arrived in Lafayette fresh off a T58 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard. The 21-year-old from Perth recorded eight birdies and two bogeys on Friday for a 6-under 65. Luck entered the week No. 40 on the money list.

* Scoring Averages for the week:

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)
R1	35.097	35.326	70.424
R2	35.167	36.333	71.500

* **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.

For the latest information and updates on the Web.com Tour visit www.pgatourmedia.com

Scores available at www.pgatour.com or on the Associated Press wire

Follow the Web.com Tour on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/webdotcomtour> on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/WebDotComTour and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/webdotcomtour