



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2017

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Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Ben Taylor	67-66—133 (-9)
T2	Augusto Nunez	66-69—135 (-7)
T2	Roger Sloan	69-66—135 (-7)
T2	Conner Godsey	67-68—135 (-7)
T5	Nine players tied at 136 (-6)	

England's Ben Taylor grabs 36-hole lead at Web.com Tour's Club Colombia Championship

BOGOTA, Colombia – Former LSU golfer Ben Taylor opened his week at the Web.com Tour's Club Colombia Championship with a 4-under 67 to sit one shot off the 18-hole lead entering Friday's second round at host Country Club of Bogota. The 25-year-old, who spent much of the day flirting around the top of the leaderboard, took outright control of the tournament with birdies on Nos. 15, 16 and 17 to post 5-under 66 and 9-under 133 through 36 holes, good for a two-shot lead entering weekend play at the ninth annual event.

Taylor, who originally hails from London, England, was one-over par through three holes in his second round, but rallied early with birdies on Nos. 4 and 8 to turn in one-under 34.

A birdie on the par-5 10th pushed him to two-under for the day, but it was a par save on the narrow par-4 13th that kept the round going.

"I hit my tee shot left on 13, and I had to hit a good second shot knowing that I couldn't go long of the green, and I managed to hit a chip-and-run 180 yards to the middle of the green, and from there two putt to keep the momentum going," he said.

The clutch save on the back nine gave way to a torrid finish for the Orlando resident, as birdies on 15, 16 and 17 moved him from the role of hunter to that of hunted, thanks to a 9-under 133 tally and a two-shot advantage with 36 holes to play.

"I knew I was close, but I've been in this situation a couple of times now having played my rookie year last year, so I learned to stick to the game plan and close out a good finish, which we managed to do," said Taylor when asked if he was looking at leaderboards.

Taylor, in his second full season on the Web.com Tour, entered the week with one top-25 in three starts this year – a T19 at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic.

As a rookie in 2017, he recorded three top-25 finishes in 22 starts, including a career-best T7 at the Knoxville Open in August. One of Taylor's three top-25s came at the Club Colombia Championship, where a final-round 65 propelled him 24 spots up the Sunday leaderboard and into a tie for 21st.

"I like that it's challenging, so if you have a couple of bad holes, you know you're not going to fall down as far as you would on a golf course where it's a birdie-fest," Taylor said of the demanding Country Club of Bogota. "I really like the golf course and I'm very excited for the next couple of days."

Argentina's Augusto Nunez, Canada's Roger Sloan and Conner Godsey of the United States are tied for second, two shots back of Taylor at 7-under 135.

Nunez, who was one of four players to share the opening-round lead, birdied three of his first six holes on his way to a 2-under 69.

Beginning his round on the opening nine, Nunez birdied Nos. 2, 3 and 6 to race out to a three-under-par start, immediately seizing the outright lead at eight-under for the week.

"I felt very good today on the golf course, especially on the front nine," he said. "When I started the back nine, I saw the crowd and I felt some nerves. That's normal when you have fans following you."

Friday's large crowds, which dotted the fairways and stands of the prestigious club located in the heart of downtown Bogota, triggered a few less-than-stellar holes for Nunez, as bogeys on the par-5 10th and par-4 14th dropped him down to 6-under par.

A late birdie on the par-4 17th righted the ship for the Buenos Aires resident, who finished the day with a 2-under 69.

In 61 career starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica between 2012 and 2017, Nunez recorded 15 top-10 finishes, including a victory at the 2016 Flor de Cana Open, where his 25-under-par total set the Tour's all-time scoring record. The \$121,173 he earned that season gave way to a second-place finish on the Order of Merit and a Web.com Tour card for the 2017 season.

Nunez made 7 of 20 cuts on the 2017 Web.com Tour, recording a career-best runner-up at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship. Nunez missed the cut in Bogota with rounds of 72-82—154, a full 19 shots higher than his 2018 tally at the event's halfway point.

"I started pretty well this season, but I need to continue working on my game. Like I said yesterday, my goal is get one of the PGA TOUR cards through this Tour," he said. "Now, in 2018, I have more experience and I already know the courses, so that is so helpful."

Sloan, who finished solo-fourth at last week's Panama Championship, was even par through four holes today before playing his final 14 in 5-under par to move into a tie for second.

The former University of Texas-El Paso golfer is making his 94th career Web.com Tour start this week and looking for his first victory since the 2014 Nova Scotia Open.

Of the three players tied for second, Godsey is perhaps the biggest surprise, as the week marks just his sixth career start on the Web.com Tour. The 25-year-old finished T16 at Q-School in December to earn status for the 2018 season and entered the week with made cuts at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic and the Panama Championship.

He is currently No. 81 on the money list with \$3,534 in earnings.

FRIDAY NOTES:

* Friday weather: Mostly/partly cloudy with a high of 70 degrees and winds S/SE at 6-12 mph.

* This week's purse is \$700,000, with \$126,000 going to the champion.

* The 36-hole cut fell at even-par 142 with 76 players making it through to the final 36 holes of play. The 76 players mark the second-largest number to make the weekend in tournament history, trailing only the 2015 event (77). This week's cut line marks the fourth straight event on the Web.com Tour with a cut at even-par or higher in 2018.

* In the eight-year history of the Club Colombia Championship, the 36-hole leader has never gone on to win the event when 72 holes have been completed. In 2011, Brenden Pappas was declared the tournament champion after weather forced the cancellation of the final two rounds.

* The last 36-hole leader to win a Web.com Tour event was Aaron Wise at the 2017 Wichita Open, who opened with rounds of 62-62 en route to a dominant five-shot victory.

* Taylor's college career in Baton Rouge was stellar, with a 3-0 record in match play to help the Tigers win the 2015 NCAA Championship, allowing him to become the first player in history to win NCAA Division I and II team titles.

* Nunez entered the week in Bogota with two top-25 in three starts this year on the Web.com Tour, including a T13 in The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic. Entering Saturday's round, he will need to improve his third-round scoring average, which is currently 76.67 in 2018, and ranks as the lowest on Tour for any player to make all three cuts this year.

* First-round co-leader Christian Brand held the outright lead at 8-under par with two holes to play on Friday, but bogeyed Nos. 17 and 18 to post 6-under 136, good for a tie for fifth. The 36-hole standing marks the second-best of his Web.com Tour career, dating back to the 2017 Utah Championship, where he was in solo-second place before finishing T13 for the week.

* Sebastian Munoz, who won the Club Colombia Championship in 2016, is the only one of four Colombian players in the field to make the cut, doing so with rounds of 69-69—138 (4-under). In total, 21 countries were represented in the field this week.

* After Nick Rousey (69) was the only player to post a bogey-free round on Thursday, a total of six players pulled off the feat on Friday, including Luke Guthrie (66), Roberto Castro (66), Derek Bard (66), Brett Drewitt (69), Kramer Hickok (69) and Max Marsico (69).

* C.C. of Bogota scoring averages:

	Front (35)	Back (36)	Total (71)
R1	35.603	35.986	71.589
R2	34.885	36.070	70.995

* NEXT WEEK: The Web.com Tour takes two weeks off before traveling to the El Bosque Golf Club in León, Mexico, for the El Bosque Mexico Championship by Innova.

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

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