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**Contact: Alex Wood**  
**(850) 691-6756**

### **Third-Round Leaderboard**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Scores</b>
1	Ben Taylor	67-66-68—201 (-12)
T2	D.H. Lee	67-69-68—204 (-9)
T2	Jason Gore	70-66-68—204 (-9)
T4	Eight players tied at	206 (-7)

### **Ben Taylor maintains lead with 18 holes to play at Web.com Tour's Club Colombia Championship**

**BOGOTA, Colombia** – One day after earning the first overnight lead of his young Web.com Tour career, England's Ben Taylor secured the 54-hole lead at the ninth annual Club Colombia Championship with a third-round 68, good for a 12-under 201 total and a three-shot lead heading into Sunday's final round.

Taylor began his week at host Country Club of Bogota with a 4-under 67 to sit one shot off the 18-hole lead before surging to the top of the Friday leaderboard with a second-round 66, courtesy of three birdies over his final four holes.

Playing in Saturday's final twosome alongside Argentina's Augusto Nunez, Taylor stumbled early with a bogey on the arduous par-4 second to fall out of first place and into a mesh of contenders that permeated the leaderboard throughout the round.

"That's a tough hole, so if there's one where you'd accept a bogey, it's that one," said Taylor, who flew the green from 190 yards with a 9-iron, courtesy of the Bogota altitude. "I made bogey, shook it off, and got on with my round."

The former LSU golfer, who helped the Tigers win the 2015 NCAA Championship courtesy of a 3-0 match play record, rallied soon thereafter with birdies on Nos. 6, 7 and 10 to ascend to 11-under for the week.

"I had a run of pars, so to get a couple of birdies like that was quite nice. It sort of got me from grinding out an even-par round to moving in the right direction, so I was very pleased with that," he said. "It put me in a good position going into the back nine."

Taylor followed up the torrid mid-round stretch with pars on Nos. 11-17 before closing with one last red figure, thanks to a 15-foot birdie try on the par-5 18<sup>th</sup> that he converted in front of the large local crowds for an impressive 68 that pushed him to 12-under overall

Taylor, who finished T19 at the 2017 Club Colombia Championship (one of three top-25s on the year) during his rookie season on the Web.com Tour, clearly has an eye for the historic Country Club of Bogota course, which sits in the heart of downtown Bogota.

"I just like that it's quite tough and you have to hit good shots," said Taylor. "Today, again I got off to an inconsistent start. I underpredicted the altitude out here, so I hit a couple long a bit early, but then we found a bit of ground and grounded out a good round. I'm happy with that score because it wasn't easy today, it was actually quite tough."

The Epsom, London native, who now calls Orlando home, will enter Sunday's final round three shots clear of D.H. Lee and Jason Gore, and looking for his first victory of any sort since the 2014 David Toms Intercollegiate.

"I've finally got some experience under my belt. Other than Walker Cup, I kind of did everything as an amateur, and college was a huge success, so to go from the Mackenzie Tour to the Web.com Tour, and now to be out here again, I feel like I have some events under my belt now, and I feel very comfortable," said Taylor, who played full-time on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada in 2016.

Gore, who won the PGA TOUR's 84 Lumber Classic and has seven career victories on the Web.com Tour, played his first eight holes in 4-under par thanks to an eagle on the par-5 eighth, but dropped out of a tie for the lead when he double-bogeyed the lengthy par-3 12<sup>th</sup>.

The 43-year-old bounced back with a birdie on 13 and finished the day at 3-under 68. On Sunday, Gore will be looking for his first Web.com Tour title since the 2010 Miccosukee Championship, a span of 7 years, 3 months and 25 days.

Lee, who was 2-over par through five holes of his opening round on Thursday, started slowly on Saturday with bogeys on his first two holes to plummet to 4-under overall.

The South Korea native, who won the 2017 United Leasing & Finance Championship, fought back from his early deficit with seven birdies over his final 15 holes to post 3-under 68.

Lee spent three of the last six years on the PGA TOUR, recording a career-best T3 effort at the 2012 Quicken Loans National during a season in which he advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs.

In two prior starts at the Club Colombia Championship, the 30-year-old has one made cut to his name – a T43 in the event's 2015 edition.

Eight players sit tied for fourth at 7-under 206, including Sebastian Cappelén, Joey Garber, Chip Lynn, Dan McCarthy, Kevin Dougherty, Luke Guthrie, Edward Loar and Roger Sloan.

Dougherty, a former Oklahoma State golfer who used PGA TOUR winner Tom Pernice, Jr., as a caddie at Q-School in 2016, played his first eight holes in 4-under par on Saturday to take the outright lead at 10-under before closing in 3-over 39 for a 1-under 70.

Cappelén, a winner at the Tour's 2014 Wichita Open, recorded the day's best round with a 5-under 66. The third-round move pushed the native of Sweden 35 spots up the leaderboard.

### **SATURDAY NOTES:**

\* Saturday weather: Partly Cloudy, High: 71, Winds: E/SE 6-12 mph.

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

\* While the 36-hole leader has never gone on to win the Club Colombia Championship, the 54-hole leader/co-leader has won the tournament four times: 2010 (Steve Pate), 2012 (Skip Kendall), 2013 (Patrick Cantlay) and 2016 (Sebastian Munoz).

\* Sungjae Im (The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic) is the only 54-hole leader/co-leader to win on the Web.com Tour this year.

\* The largest 54-hole lead on the Web.com Tour this year is two shots, which occurred last week at the Panama Championship (Eric Axley). The largest 54-hole lead in tournament history is also two strokes, occurring in 2010 (Steve Pate) and 2015 (Steve Marino). Taylor enters Sunday with a three-stroke lead, breaking both 54-hole records.

\* In 2015, Steve Marino set the all-time 54-hole scoring mark at the Club Colombia Championship, reaching 15-under 198 through three rounds of play.

\* The largest deficit made up after 54 holes for an eventual champion in Bogota is four shots, occurring at both the 2015 (Patrick Rodgers) and 2017 (Ethan Tracy) editions of the tournament. There are currently only two players within four strokes of Taylor (Lee and Gore).

\* The best third-round score in tournament history is 63, recorded three times: 2014 (Alex Cejka), 2015 (Peter Tomasulo) and 2017 (Aaron Wise).

\* The last time all four of the first events of the Web.com Tour Season were won by first-time Tour winners was 2014. This year, the first three events have all been won by first-time Tour victors (Sungjae Im, Adam Svensson, Scott Langley).

\* Taylor, Lee and Gore are the only three players in the field better than 7-under par. The winning score at last week's Panama Championship was 7-under par. If the winning score this week is single digits under par, it will mark the first time that has happened in back-to-back events on the Web.com Tour since the 2010 Panama Championship and Moonah Classic.

\* Taylor finished 80th on the 2017 Web.com Tour money list to maintain conditional status for 2018 but improved that standing with a T16 finish at Q-School. Taylor opened that week with a 75 to sit tied for 109th but rallied with closing rounds of 64-63 to finish inside the top 20.

\* When Taylor led LSU to the 2015 NCAA Championship, he became the first player in history to win a national title at a Division I and Division II school. He led Nova Southeastern to the 2012 NCAA Division II Championship.

\* 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.

\* Brian Campbell (68) was the only player to post a bogey-free round on Saturday. There was only one on Thursday and there were six on Friday.

\* Luke Guthrie (T4) and Brian Campbell (T12) both enter Sunday inside of the top 25. Both Guthrie and Campbell attended the University of Illinois, the alma matter of last week's Panama Championship winner, Scott Langley.

\* The tournament champion has come from the final group on Sunday only once this season (Sungjae Im, The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic). The other winners have either been in the second-to-last group (Adam Svensson, The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic) or the fourth-to-last (Scott Langley, Panama Championship)..

\* 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
R3	35.167	36.005	71.172

\* 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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