



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Final-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Trevor Cone	64-63-66-64-257 (-23)
2	Josh Teater	64-62-68-67-261 (-19)
3	Chris Thompson	66-65-69-64-264 (-16)
4	Six tied at	265 (-15)

Trevor Cone picks up maiden victory at Web.com Tour's Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae

HAYWARD, California – After claiming the third-round lead at the Web.com Tour's Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae, Virginia Tech alum Trevor Cone jokingly quoted the film Talladega Nights; "If you're not first, you're last," he said when asked about sitting at No. 135 on the money list with just two events left in the Regular Season. Though his answer might have had some humor to it, Cone took the phrase to heart Sunday, shooting a smooth 6-under 64 during the final round to finish the week at 23-under 257, good for a four-stroke victory over Josh Teater and his first Web.com Tour title.

"It won't sink in for a while," Cone said following his victory. "I'm enjoying it right now, but I've been so concentrated on just playing golf today and yesterday that – I mean, you never think it's going to happen until it does. It's crazy how it works, but I'm ecstatic to be honest."

The 25-year-old began the day slow and steady, paring his first two holes before picking up a birdie at the par-5 third, a hole he birdied three out of four rounds. Cone picked up another birdie on No. 5, allowing himself to reclaim the lead on an increasingly bunched leaderboard. The North Carolina native added to his total as he neared the turn, birdieing No. 8 to begin a three-hole birdie streak and pull away from the pack.

"When I woke up this morning," he remarked, "I was lying in bed and I had the excited energy feeling in my stomach. Once I got ready and was leaving the hotel, it turned into, like, you know, this is my eighth [career] event, what do I have to fret over? A good finish is a good finish regardless, so I kind of just came out and was like, however I play, I'm just going to commit to every golf swing and where it goes is where it goes, and I'll play it from there."

Cone remained poised on the back nine, picking up two birdies alongside seven pars to finish the day with a clean 66, his third-straight bogey-free round of the week. When it came time for him to tee off on the final hole, he was four strokes shy of the field and with all other groups having already completed play, the title was his to lose.

"I kind of glanced up on No. 15 after I made birdie," Cone commented when asked about the final hole, "and I think I saw that [Josh] Teater was at 19-under... I had to get through that tee shot on No. 18 but after that, I just kind of knew where I was, and I asked Murph [my caddie] walking up to the shot on 18 where I stood, and he said, 'I think it's three or four. It depends on whether Teater made birdie or not.'"

"That's the first time I've never really looked at a leaderboard in that position. It was the right move. I was just trying to play good golf, and not making a bogey really helps. We're here now, so everything is good."

Cone spent the 2016 and 2017 seasons competing on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, where he made 23 starts and picked up 11 top 25-finishes, including a T4 at the 2017 Freedom 55 Financial Open. The former ACC

Individual Championship winner turned his sites to the Web.com Tour for the 2018 season, advancing to the Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament for the second time in his three years as a professional (Cone advanced in 2016 as well). Unfortunately for Cone, he finished the week T99, leaving Arizona with no guaranteed starts for the season.

“It’s been funny,” he joked after the round. “I didn’t really see this kind of trajectory. I’ve always been kind of steadily, through college and whatnot, just getting progressively better, like good finishes, good finishes. So to get through Q-School in 2016 and get conditional last year but not get any starts was kind of disappointing. And then getting back there last year was kind of disappointing because I knew I could play better golf. After that, I took like a month off and I didn’t even touch a golf club.”

Despite Monday qualifying and earning sponsor’s exemptions into three events, Cone struggled to move into the reshuffle. When the field at the LECOM Health Challenge went deep, Cone found himself with another chance. A T8 on the week allowed him to move into the reshuffle and earned him a spot in the following week’s Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, where he followed up his strong play with a T24.

“I tell everyone back home that it’s a fine line,” Cone said, “and one week can change your life and now here I am, talking to [the media after a win]. It’s a really fine line. Anyone who is out here each week can win. It doesn’t matter if you’re the last man in the field or No. 1 on the money list like Sungjae Im. It’s pretty awesome to say that I’m a champion this week.”

Cone’s victory came with a \$108,000 paycheck, enough to move him to No. 37 on the money list and secure his first Web.com Tour Finals berth. With next week’s WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz marking the end of the 2018 Regular Season, the Tour rookie finds himself in a place he didn’t think he would be at the start of the season – within reach of his first PGA TOUR card.

“I’m definitely going to enjoy this tonight at least,” he remarked, “and maybe even tomorrow, and then kind of shift gears. It’s kind of a whirlwind, but being No. 37 on the money list now, I’ve got a decent chance if I have a really good finish with the purse next week to get a PGA TOUR card, as odd as that sounds, but we’re going to go for it. I’m looking forward to it.”

SUNDAY NOTES:

- * Sunday weather: Mostly sunny, High of 80, Winds W/SW 10-15 mph, with gusts of 20 mph.
- * This week’s purse was \$600,000, with \$108,000 going to the champion, Trevor Cone.
- * With his win, Cone becomes the third player this season to begin the year with only conditional status and play his way to a victory. He joins Michael Arnaud and Cameron Davis. Martin Trainer is the only player this season to begin the year with no status and play his way into a victory.
- * Cone’s victory marks the 19th title won by a first-time winner this season. The most first-time winners in a single season currently sits at 23, occurring in 1991. He also becomes the seventh rookie to win on Tour in 2018.
- * Despite not making a start this week, as he was competing in PGA Championship (T42), Sungjae Im remains atop the Regular Season money list for a 22nd-straight week. Im is closing in on overtaking Michael Sim for the longest consecutive stretch atop the money list in a single season (24 weeks).
- * With a solo-second finish this week, Josh Teater moved to \$188,118 in earnings on the season, securing a return to the PGA TOUR for the first time since 2015.
- * Adam Long secured a spot in The 25 and his first PGA TOUR card with a T4 finish at TPC Stonebrae. The 30-year-old is in his fifth season on the Web.com Tour, having first joined in 2012 (was not a member in 2013 or 2014).
- * Web.com Tour veteran Chris Thompson birdied four of his last six holes Sunday to move to solo-third. The finish moved him to No. 19 on the Regular Season money list, nearing in his first PGA TOUR card in his 19 years as a professional.

* TPC Stonebrae scoring average:

	Front (35)	Back (35)	Total (70)	Cumulative
R1	34.390	34.766	69.156	
R2	34.221	34.195	68.416	68.792
R3	34.561	33.879	68.439	68.675
R4	34.185	34.662	68.846	68.717

* NEXT WEEK: The Web.com Tour travels up the west coast to Oregon for the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz, the final event of the Regular Season.

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

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