



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Sepp Straka	64-65—129 (-13)
	Kyle Jones	63-66—129 (-13)
3	Sam Burns	66-64—130 (-12)
	Max Rotluff	67-63—130 (-12)

Kyle Jones and Sepp Straka tied for lead heading into the weekend at KC Golf Classic

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. – Sepp Straka and Kyle Jones have never met each other, yet the duo will play together in the final group on Saturday afternoon at the KC Golf Classic after posting 13-under 129 to share the second-round lead. The pair lead by one over Savannah Golf Championship winner Sam Burns and Germany’s Max Rotluff.

Local favorite Chris Thompson and Jin Park are two back with two rounds left to play at the Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate.

Jones and Straka will battle to become the 18th first-time winner this Web.com Tour season. For Jones, a win this weekend would secure his PGA TOUR card for 2018-19. At No. 32 on the money list, the 25-year-old Baylor University graduate is aware of the position he has put himself in.

“It’s exciting,” said Jones. “Especially in this part of the year. Having a chance to win is amazing because it would lock up my PGA TOUR card for next year. I’m excited, but there is a lot of golf left. I need to keep going.”

So how does someone who is so close not look ahead?

“It’s hard,” said Jones, who mathematically could secure his PGA TOUR card with a solo fourth or better. “I need to focus all the attention on staying in the present and hitting the next shot. I can’t control what these guys do out here. I just need to focus on what I can do and stay in the present.”

Since he was 5 years old, Jones has wanted to play professional golf. The Victorville, California native is 36 holes away from seeing his dream come true. Jones is no stranger to being in contention. Even though this is the first time he has co-led after the second round of a Web.com Tour event, Jones has posted three top-10s, including a T2 at the LECOM Health Challenge.

Straka has had a vastly different year to this point. The 25-year-old Austrian arrived in Overland Park at No. 130 on the money list after missing three straight cuts. Straka never felt far off but got frustrated a few different times this season.

“I’ve had a rough year,” said Straka, who has missed a total of eight cuts this season. “I’ve been playing really well and felt like I was hitting it well, just had some putting issues. It felt like my game was really good, but I kept finishing one outside the cut line. It’s felt like my game was there; I just haven’t had the results.”

Straka has never allowed his misfortunes to carry into the next week. The former University of Georgia Bulldog knows that one good week could turn his entire season around.

“Every week is a new chance, and out here, the money is so top-heavy that a good week can change your year,” he said. And Straka is right. This weekend, he has a chance to not only secure a spot in the Web.com Tour Finals, but also get one step closer to the top 25 on the money list.

“It could be awesome,” said Straka, about the possibility this weekend holds. “I’ve got a chance heading into the weekend to win a golf tournament, and that’s what we play for. I’m looking forward to it. Just need to try and take it low.”

Friday Notes:

* Friday weather: Partly cloudy. High: 89, Winds: S-SW 10-20 mph.

* The KC Golf Classic is the 21st of 23 Regular Season events on the Web.com Tour. The first 25 of 50 available PGA TOUR cards for 2018-19 will be determined when the Regular Season concludes at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz on Aug. 19.

* The cut came at 3-under 139 with 69 players advancing to the weekend.

* Four second-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win during the 2018 season, most recently Cameron Champ at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank.

* The Web.com Tour has produced 17 first-time winners this year. With 36 holes to play at Nicklaus Golf Club, there are currently 14 players inside the top 10 looking for their first Tour title.

* Bio Kim has made six cuts in 17 starts this season with his best performance coming at the United Leasing & Finance Championship. Kim entered the week No. 127 on the money and is currently three back in solo seventh.

* Kyle Jones has carded 63 four times this year (Utah Championship – R2, LECOM Health Challenge – R3, R1 – Price Cutter Charity Championship, R1 – KC Golf Classic). Jones has posted three top-10s this season with his best showing, a T2 coming at the LECOM Health Challenge.

* Curtis Luck entered the week No. 78 on the money list and is T11 heading into the weekend Luck has posted just one top-10 this season (T5 – Savannah Golf Championship) and is one more away from securing a berth in the Web.com Tour Finals. The top-75 on the money list after Portland qualify for the Finals.

* At No. 24 on the money list with \$151,866, Adam Long needs a solo ninth or better to secure his PGA TOUR card for the first time in his professional career. Long opened the KC Golf Classic with 65-70 and is five back heading into the weekend. Long has posted four top-10s in 20 starts including a T2 at the Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS. Long has played in Overland Park four previous times and made the cut once (2015 – T33).

* Leading money winner Sungjae Im posted a 5-under 67 in the first round. Im has led the money list the entire season and has a \$109,343 lead over Scott Langley after a runner-up performance at the Pinnacle Bank Championship. Im has played 66 rounds this season and posted just eight scores over par.

Scoring Average for Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate for the week:

	Front (35)	Back (36)	Total (71)
Round 1:	35.098	34.519	69.618
Round 2:	35.430	35.013	70.444

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