



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Third-Round Leaderboard**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Scores</b>
1	Kramer Hickok	66-63-65—194 (-19)
	Rhein Gibson	62-67-65—194 (-19)
3	Four tied at	196 (-17)

## **Kramer Hickok and Rhein Gibson share 54-hole lead at Lincoln Land Championship**

**Springfield, Ill.** – Two players tied the Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS 54-hole scoring record set by 2016 Web.com Tour Player of the Year Wesley Bryan. Austin, Texas native Kramer Hickok and Australian Rhein Gibson posted matching three-round totals of 19-under-par 194, in their quest for their maiden Tour title.

Two shots back are two-time Tour winner Ben Kohles, 2015 Tour graduate Wes Roach, Anders Albertson and 2014 Player of the Year Carlos Ortiz.

Six players are another stroke back at 16-under. In all, 18 players will start Sunday's final round within five strokes of the lead.

Gibson and Hickok were two of 70 players to record a score of 71 or better on the Hale Irwin design in the third round. Gibson made seven birdies, with his only bogey coming at the 15<sup>th</sup> hole. The lone blemish dropped the 32-year-old from Bendigo, Victoria out of solo first.

"It's definitely going to be a birdie fest," said Gibson. "You're going to have to play solid golf and hope the putts drop. Just give yourself an opportunity on every hole and see where it puts you at the end of the day."

Gibson, who is No. 25 on the money list, hasn't been in contention since the Tour departed The Bahamas back in January. Coming into the week, the Oklahoma Christian University graduate missed two straight cuts and dropped down the money list. Gibson has responded well playing on the bubble, grabbing a share of the 54-hole lead for the first time since the 2016 LECOM Health Challenge, where he ended the week T2.

"I'm in a good spot," he said. "If you would've told me at the beginning of the week that I would be tied going into Sunday I'd take. It's definitely going to be a shootout, there are some low score out there. I'm just going to go out there and try and do what I did today. I played solid today and gave myself a lot of opportunities."

Hickok, who made his first bogey of the week on No. 15, played great in the third round. The 6-under 65 on Saturday matched his lowest round-three score this season. Hickok, like Gibson, is coming off two straight missed cuts. The three-year pro entered the week No. 49 on the money list, posting just one top-10 in 15 starts. Sunday marks the first time Hickok will play in the final group of a Web.com Tour event in the fourth round.

"The goal out here is to get into contention and I'm doing that this week," he said. "The goal tomorrow is to limit the mistake. There are plenty of opportunities so if you limit the bogeys you will pick up ground and hopefully be in contention coming down the stretch,"

Hickok hasn't looked at one leaderboard this week and won't start checking until the final nine on Sunday. You never know who will make a run and Hickok wants to be prepared in case he needs to alter his approach coming down the stretch.

"Does Kobe or LeBron want to know what the score is coming down the stretch in the fourth quarter," he said. "That's the same mentality I'm going to take tomorrow."

Hickok isn't a stranger to playing in the final group. In 2017, the former Texas Longhorn played 12 events on Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, posted six top-10s and win twice. The 26-year-old Dallas resident won the Order of Merit and was voted Player of the Year.

"I always draw on past results, past things I've done," he said. "I'll certainly be doing that tomorrow, knowing I have the confidence to close and play my best golf under pressure. It's motivating to know that I can pull it out whenever I need it is going to help tomorrow."

### **Saturday Notes:**

\* Saturday weather: Mostly sunny. High: 94, heat index reached 110 in the afternoon. Winds: S-SE 6-12 mph.

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

\* Five third-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win during the 2018 season, most recently Eric Axley at the North Mississippi Classic.

\* In the two previous playing of the Lincoln Land Championship, the winner has come out of the final group, neither held the 54-hole lead (2016 – Martin Flores, 2017 – Adam Schenk).

\* The Web.com Tour has produced 11 first-time winners this year. With 18 holes to play at Panther Creek CC, there are currently six players inside the top 10 looking for their first Tour title.

\* Three-time Tour winner Carlos Ortiz struggled midway through his third round and carded a 3-under 68. Ortiz made a double-bogey at the par-4 eighth but rebounded with three birdies on the back before a final dropped shot at the 17<sup>th</sup> left him two behind after 54 holes. Ortiz trailed by one at the 2014 Panama Claro Championship and carded a final-round 6-under 64 to win by one. At No. 16 on the money list, a win on Sunday would secure his PGA TOUR card for 2018-19.

\* Coming off a T4 at the Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth, Wes Roach is in contention after a 7-under 64 at the Lincoln Land Charity Championship. In 15 starts this season, Roach has posted three top-10s (T4 – Knoxville Open, T6 – Rex Hospital Open, T4 – Wichita Open) and is No. 23 on the money list. Roach's lone victory on Tour came at the 2015 Mexico Championship. In the 2017 Lincoln Land Championship, Roach carded a final-round 74 at Panther Creek CC for a T11.

\* Two-time Web.com Tour winner Ben Kohles posted a flawless 62 in the third round to pull within two shots of the lead. Kohles, who is currently No. 33 on the money list, came from behind in one of two of his victories. Kohles trailed by two at the 2012 Cox Classic, heading into Sunday, and posted a 9-under 62 in the final round.

\* Wyndham Clark carded a third-round 9-under 62 to move inside the top 10. Clark, 24, posted a Saturday 63 at last week's Wichita Open en route to a T12. In 14 starts, Clark has posted three top five performances (T4 – The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Winding Bay, 2 – United Leasing & Finance Championship, 3 – Knoxville Open) and is currently No. 8 on the money list.

### **Scoring Average Panther Creek Country Club for the week:**

	Front (35)	Back (36)	Total (71)
Round 1:	34.206	34.252	68.458
Round 2:	34.052	34.422	68.474
Round 3:	33.711	33.987	67.697

\* **NEXT WEEK:** The Web.com Tour heads north to western New York for the LECOM Health Challenge where Chesson Hadley edged out Beau Hossler by one shot for the win, his third career Web.com Tour victory.

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

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