



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Sebastian Munoz	65 (-7)
	Josh Teater	65 (-7)
	Lanto Griffin	65 (-7)
4	Conner Godsey	66 (-6)
	Chris Naegel	66 (-6)
	Rick Lamb	66 (-6)

Munoz, Teater and Griffin lead the way after first round of Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – With temperatures well into the 90s, the 3rd annual Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation got off to a hot start with Sebastian Munoz and Josh Teater posting matching 7-under 65s on Thursday to take the first-round lead in the 12th of 22 Web.com Tour Regular Season events. Defending champion Lanto Griffin entered the fray late with a back-nine 7-under 29 to tie Munoz and Teater after 18 holes. The trio take a one-stroke advantage over Conner Godsey, Chris Naegel and Rick Lamb into the second round. [Country music star Jake Owen opened with an 86 in his Tour debut.](#)

Munoz went off in the morning and started his round with back-to-back birdies. After a bogey on the 12th, his third, the 25-year-old from Bogota, Colombia recorded three more birdies for an outward nine of 32. Munoz added an eagle at the third and a birdie on nine for his lowest first-round score in three attempts at Nashville Golf & Athletic Club.

“I’m really pleased with the way I’ve played,” said Munoz. “I’ve made some changes last season and they are starting to pay off. I’m feeling more confident every week and my putting has been better and my driver has been better. I just need to keep grinding.”

Munoz currently sits No. 14 on the money list after posting three top-10s in 11 starts. The former standout at the University of North Texas has missed only two cuts and recorded two top-fives in four starts earlier this season.

Munoz made changes in his game earlier this year in an effort to become more consistent and have more performances like his T2 at the North Mississippi Classic and a T3 at the El Bosque Mexico Championship by Innova. It’s taken some time to adjust, but Thursday’s round might be just the boost his confidence needs. Before today, Munoz had never broken 70 on the Bruce Devlin design.

“The first couple of months were rough,” he said. “The putting has been a month and I’m starting to roll a lot better. This is my third time here. I like the course and I think it’s tricky. I know it, so I think it favors me.”

Munoz has been on a tear this season. Entering the week No. 3 in total birdies with 157 in 39 rounds, the Tour graduate added six more today to move past Ben Kohles on the list. With 78 players breaking par on Thursday, Munoz knows that as the weather heats up, so do the scores.

“Heading into the summer, you need a lot of birdies,” he said. “You just need to stay patient until the putter gets hot and you get a streak going.”

Teater had a few fireworks of his own, but none brighter than his ace on the par-3 14th hole. The 39-year-old from Danville, Kentucky used a short iron from 141 yards to record the ninth hole-in-one of his life.

“It was questionable whether I could just smoke a wedge and get it there,” he said. “I knew it would spin a bunch, so I choked down on a 9-iron. I was looking just to the right of the flag and it looked like it landed hole high and skipped forward. Then I saw it disappear in the shadow of the flag. I said ‘disappear’ and it was gone.”

Teater has struggled since the beginning of April. After posting four top-25s in five starts, the 17-year-pro has missed three of four cuts, with a T57 showing at the Knoxville Open. Teater has always been a great ball striker but the flat stick has held him back. This season, the Morehead State University graduate is ranked 124th in putting average, but managed just 26 on Thursday afternoon.

“I feel like my game has been pretty good, but the results haven’t shown since Savannah,” he said. “I had a good stretch heading into there and kind of fell off the map. It’s really been all putting. I got a little tip earlier this week that freed me up with the putter and I think that took pressure off the rest of my game.”

Griffin is back in Nashville and picked up where he left off in 2017, recording six threes in a row on his back nine. Griffin, a PGA TOUR rookie this season is now 23-under in his last four rounds at Nashville Golf & Athletic Club.

“The back nine was gettable,” said Griffin, who has posted 29s on that side twice in his last three rounds on the track. “You feel like you can get it going pretty good. You get it even par or a couple under on the front then you can get after it on the back.”

Griffin has played in 16 events this season on the PGA TOUR and posted one top-25. With a limited field competing in the Fort Worth Invitational this week, the 29-year-old Virginia Commonwealth University graduate opted to head back to the site of his maiden Web.com Tour win to keep his game sharp.

“I like to play,” he said. “The TOUR is two weeks on two weeks off sort of deal and last year I played 13 in a row out here. Anytime you can get some reps and get some confidence going into Memphis and US open sectionals, it’s gotta be good.”

Thursday Notes:

* Thursday weather: Partly cloudy and a high of 91 degrees with calm winds.

* Conner Godsey made just a single bogey as he cruised around Nashville Golf and Athletic Club en-route to a first round 66. The product of Rogersville, Alabama was playing steady golf until he seemed to catch fire at the mid-way point of the back-nine. Knowing he had two impending scoring opportunities with the 13th and 15th being par-5s, Godsey took full advantage, making four straight birdies from 13-16 and would finish at -6 and in a tie for third. Godsey’s best finish this season was a T-13 finish at the El Bosque Mexico Championship by Innova where he shot a second round 63, his best professional score.

* Chris Naegel made the turn with a pretty little scorecard going, making five birdies on the back-nine, his first nine of the day. It would get even prettier for the Anaheim, California native, holing out from the fairway on the second hole before another birdie at the par-5 third put him at -8 through his first 12 holes of the day. Two-bogeys on his way into the clubhouse would prevent him from besting his low career Web.com score (65 at the 2016 Air Capital Classic), but the 66 puts him just one off the lead after day one.

* There wasn’t a single square on the card for Alex Prugh on Thursday, making four birdies on his front-nine to go along with one bird on the back for a first round 67, putting him in a tie for fifth. The 33-year-old from Spokane Washington is currently 61 on the money list this season with his best finish coming as a T12 at the Knoxville Open a few weeks ago. Prugh is looking for his first Web.com win since 2009 when he won the Michael Hill New Zealand Open with a final round 64. That win helped Prugh get status on the PGA TOUR for the 2010 season, highlighted by a T2 finish at the Frys.com open.

* Wes Roach had momentum on his side on his front-nine of the day today, birdying five of his first six holes and making another at his eighth for a front-nine 30. -7 was as low as Roach would get, as the 32nd ranked player on the money-list would make two bogeys coming into the house to finish at -5 and in a tie for fifth. Roach is coming off a

T36 finish last week, including a first round 63, matching his third-round score from the Knoxville open from the week prior that helped him to a T4 finish, his best of the season thus far.

* Brad Hopfinger was much improved on the day after a missed cut last week at the BMW Charity Pro-Am. The Mission Viejo, California native got his round rolling with three-straight birdies from his 4-6 holes of the day, and added another at his eighth to finish to make the turn in 32.

* Scoring Averages for the week:

	Front (36)	Back (36)	Total (72)
R1	36.955	34.731	71.686

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