



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Nelson Ledesma	64-71 (-5)
2	Curtis Luck	68-68 (-4)
3	Eric Axley	66-71 (-3)
	Edward Loar	67-70 (-3)

Nelson Ledesma claims solo lead before play is suspended at Panama Championship

PANAMA CITY, Panama – Second-round play in the Panama Championship was suspended at 6:34 p.m. on Friday due to darkness, with three groups on the course still to complete their rounds. Play is set to resume Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m., with third-round tee times set to begin at approximately 9:30 a.m. Sitting at 5-under 135, Argentinian Nelson Ledesma remains atop the leaderboard, one stroke ahead of former U.S. Amateur Champion Curtis Luck.

Ledesma, who took a share of the lead after an opening-round 6-under 64, battled windy conditions at Club de Golf de Panamá to eke out a 1-over-par 71 during the second round. The 27-year-old opened with a bogey on No. 1 but bounced back with two birdies to close out his front-nine with a 1-under 34. As the wind picked up, the former PGA TOUR Latinoamérica winner began to battle with the course, picking up a bogey on the par-5 14th and on the par-5 closing hole.

“The finish was tough for me,” Ledesma recanted. “The wind picked up on the back nine. The greens were firm and the pins were difficult as well.”

Ledesma admits that nerves played a part in his performance Friday, as there is a lot on the line for the first-time Web.com Tour competitor. With the first reshuffle of the season taking place after the Club Colombia Championship next week, being able to play the weekend and improve his status was on the forefront of Ledesma’s mind as he neared the closing hole.

“I was very anxious about the cutline,” he said. “To see myself at the top, now I feel more comfortable. Now I have a new goal.”

Australian Curtis Luck carded the second-lowest round of the day to move within a stroke of the lead heading into the weekend. The 21-year-old was able to tally four birdies en-route to a second-round 2-under 68. Having grown up in Perth, Australia, Luck is no stranger to playing firm courses in warm, windy conditions.

“We played a lot of events down there (on the east coast of Australia) as amateurs, which is good preparation for weeks like this,” Luck stated. “I don’t think anyone feels comfortable playing in these conditions, but I feel like I’ve had some good practice.”

Luck quickly rose to acclaim after defeating University of Oklahoma standout Brad Dalke at the 2016 U.S. Amateur Championship. The win earned Luck a spot in the 2017 Masters Tournament, where he finished the week T46. He turned professional two weeks later and went on to make 10 more PGA TOUR starts, including a T5 at the Quicken Loans National. After making the cut in two of the four Web.com Tour Finals events, Luck entered the Qualifying

Tournament, where he finished T3 to guarantee a start in the first 12 events on Tour in 2018. The Aussie made the cut in both of the Bahamas events, finishing T13 and T56.

FRIDAY NOTES:

- * Friday weather: Partly cloudy, High: 90, Winds: NW/NE 15-20 mph.
- * This week's purse is \$625,000, with \$112,500 going to the champion.
- * University of Alabama alum Robby Shelton carded the round of the day. His 4-under 66 moved Shelton into a tie for 32nd, two inside of the cutline.
- * At 100 years old, Club de Golf de Panama has a storied history, with several notable professionals picking up victories on its grounds, including Arnold Palmer and Sam Snead. The club has been at its current location for the past 40 years.
- * Only once in tournament history has the cut been under-par (2010, 1-under). The highest cut in tournament history came a year before that, in 2009, when the cut was set at 5-over. When play was suspended, the cutline was projected at 4-over.
- * The Panama Championship has never seen a wire-to-wire win.
- * NEXT WEEK: The Web.com Tour travels to Bogota Country Club in Bogota, Colombia, for the Club Colombia Championship. The eighth-year event will be followed by two off-weeks.

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