



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Final-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Joey Garber	66-65-69-66-266 (-18)
2	Hank Lebioda	74-62-65-66-267 (-17)
	Scott Langley	68-67-66-66-267 (-17)
4	Brian Campbell	69-64-69-66-268 (-16)
	Michael Johnson	67-65-65-71-268 (-16)

Joey Garber makes final-round charge to claim first win at Web.com Tour's Rex Hospital Open

RALEIGH, N.C. – Being in the final grouping of the final round on the Web.com Tour can be a daunting task. Every shot seems magnified, and the crowds make it feel like you have eyes on your every step. It can seem even more nerve wracking when it's your first year on Tour – and your first time in contention. But the momentum wasn't too big for University of Georgia alum Joey Garber. After opening play at the Rex Hospital Open with rounds of 66-65-69, Garber entered Sunday T2, three strokes back of the lead. Playing in the final threesome for the first time in his career, he continued his stellar play, posting a final-round 5-under 66 to end the week at 18-under 266, enough to top fellow rookie Hank Lebioda and 2018 Panama Championship winner Scott Langley by one stroke to earn his first professional win.

"To get a win on this Tour," Garber reflected after his victory, "is definitely one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life and to come through today, this early in the season, in my first year out here, and in my first time in the final group, it means everything to me. It just proves what I believed in myself. I'm very excited with my game and where we're headed for the rest of the year."

Garber, who turned professional in 2014, had a stellar college career. A Petoskey, Michigan, native, he spent his first year playing for the University of Michigan, leading them to an NCAA Central Regional win and carding the third-best freshman season in school history before transferring to the University of Georgia. While in Athens, Garber continued to excel. He was named first-team Golfweek All-American (becoming just the fourth Bulldog to do so) and spent time as the No. 1-ranked college golfer.

The professional world proved to be a test for Garber, who struggled to earn permanent status on any tour. He spent 2015 on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, but six missed cuts in nine starts forced him to take the route of Monday qualifying on the PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour. The former "Mr. Michigan Golf" winner finally broke through at the 2017 Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament, where he finished T30 to earn guaranteed starts in the 2018 Web.com Tour Season.

"It means everything [to be here after Q-School in December]," he said. "I'd been close in the Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament a few times and ended up just a couple of shots short twice, so to get through this year was a huge jump for me. I did not want to be doing Monday qualifiers again this year. I've done enough of those, so hopefully I'm headed in the right direction. This is huge for me and I'm pumped."

Garber has made the most of his first season on Tour, entering the week in Raleigh with four top-25s in 12 starts already under his belt, including a pair of T8 finishes at the Country Club de Bogotá Championship and the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by NACHER.

The field in Raleigh did not make Garber's win easy for him, with the leaderboard becoming more and more stacked as the day went on. As the leaders neared the closing stretch, 13 players sat within three of Garber, who had brought a lead into his back nine after turning with a 4-under 32. The St. Simons Island, Georgia, resident had no clue what was going on around him, however, instead choosing to focus solely on his game.

"I never looked at one," he remarked when asked how leaderboard-watching affected him. "My caddie I'm sure was looking at one, so he knew where we stood. In the fairway of No. 18, I asked him what we needed, and he told me we needed a par so I tried to put it in the middle of the green. It came a little left but ended up in a perfect spot. It was bunched up so I'm glad I didn't see any leaderboards because I just played my own game, tried to make birdies, and be smart."

Garber's maiden victory comes with a \$117,000 paycheck, enough to move him from 50th to No. 6 on the Regular Season money list and push him one step closer to earning his first PGA TOUR card.

His title in the Tarheel State coincided with another major win for Garber – the announcement of a 2019 PGA TOUR event in his home state of Michigan.

"Hopefully it's just divine intervention," he laughed when asked about the timing. "I'm very fortunate to be from the state of Michigan. It's a great state for golf. While the season is short, I think it's the best golf courses in the country, so I'm glad it's back on the national showcase. I hope I'm there. That would be really special to me."

With the way his season is going, there's a good chance this time next year Garber could be competing on TOUR in his home state.

SUNDAY NOTES:

- * Sunday weather: Partly cloudy, High 87, Winds W/NW 7-14 mph.
- * This week's purse was \$650,000, with \$117,000 going to the champion.
- * Garber overcame a three-shot deficit in the final round to capture the title. The largest come-from-behind victory in tournament history still sits at five strokes, a feat which has happened three times in tournament history (1996, 2004, 2013).
- * After missing four of his last five cuts on Tour, Albin Choi flourished in his hometown of Raleigh, carding rounds of 68-64-69-68-269 (-15) to finish T6. The performance marks his first top-10 since the 2017 BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation (T5).
- * Duke University alum Adam Long picked up his sixth top-25 finish of the season (T14). That matches his previous single-season record.
- * With a T4 finish, Brian Campbell picked up his first top-10 finish in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since the 2016 Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth (T6).
- * Sungjae Im remains atop the Regular Season money list for a 13th-straight week. The South Korean now holds the record for most consecutive weeks atop the money list to begin the Regular Season (previously Skip Kendall, 11 weeks in 1994).
- * Through 13 events, the 18-hole leader has still only managed to capture the title once (Julian Etulain, Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by NACHER). Three 36-hole and five 54-hole leaders have managed to convert leads into victories.
- * Scott Langley posted a final-round 5-under 66 to end the week T2, picking up his fourth top-10 of the 2018 season. Prior to this year, Langley had never recorded more than one top-10 in a single season.
- * Duke University alum Wes Roach birdied his two final holes on Sunday to post a final-round 7-under 64 and move up the leaderboard to T6, picking up his second top-10 of the season.
- * Matt Fast recorded an ace on the par-3 second Sunday, marking his second hole-in-one of the week.

* TPC Wakefield Plantation Scoring averages:

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)	Cumulative
R1	35.301	34.494	69.795	
R2	35.058	34.903	69.961	69.878
R3	34.759	34.614	69.373	69.710
R4	34.976	34.422	69.398	69.398

* NEXT WEEK: The Web.com Tour travels to Ivanhoe, Illinois, for the Rust-Oleum Championship before taking a week off.

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

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