



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 8, 2018**

**Contact: Royce Thompson**  
**(321) 246-7687**

### **Second-Round Leaderboard**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Scores</b>
1	Maverick McNealy	68-64--132 (-12)
2	Kyle Jones	67-66--133 (-11)
3	Chase Wright	67-68—135 (-9)

### **Maverick McNealy cards 64, takes second-round lead at Rust-Oleum Championship**

**MUNDELEIN, Ill.** – It’s been a few months, but Maverick McNealy has found himself in a familiar position on the Web.com Tour. After a second-round 8-under 64, at Ivanhoe Club, the 22-year-old Tour rookie takes the lead into Saturday of the Rust-Oleum Championship. His 12-under 132 total places him one ahead of Kyle Jones after 36 holes.

On Friday, McNealy got off to a hot start with birdies at 10 and 11. He then played the back-to-back par-5s in 3-under, chipping in for eagle at the 14<sup>th</sup> and a routine up and in on 15. Through two rounds, McNealy is 7-under on the par-5s. A recent change in philosophy has helped create more opportunities for the Stanford, California native on the longer holes.

“We were playing to short and to the front of the green,” said McNealy, about his approach to the scoreable holes at the start of the year. “I was a little more aggressive, trying to get a balance between the front and back of the green. I think par-5 play has been a key for me and it comes from better strategy and picking good targets.”

In early May, McNealy took a break from the Web.com Tour and competed on the PGA TOUR in Dallas and Fort Worth. He made the cut both weeks and brought that momentum with him to Chicago. The Web.com Tour rookie continues to find comfort on Tour in pressure-packed situations.

“Confidence doesn’t come easily, for me it has to be earned,” he said. “It’s earned through preparation and ultimately through good results. I’m a lot more confident in this position because of what happened at Victoria National and I think I’m a lot more comfortable out here because of the PGA TOUR events I’ve played.”

McNealy took the 36 and 54-hole lead at the United Leasing & Finance Championship but ended the week T3 after a final-round 74. With the help of his caddie, Travis, the former national champion has adjusted his mindset in preparation for the next time he’s in contention.

“My caddie says if you love the process it will love you back,” said McNealy. “I can only control what I can control, and every week is a learning experience. At this point I’m tired of learning experiences. I want to finish and seal the deal.”

McNealy has enjoyed success at every level. In college, he won a total of 11 times and collected the Ben Hogan and Fred Haskins Award. The former No. 1 ranked amateur also took home the Nicklaus Award during his time in Northern California. McNealy believes the will to win comes from growing up with siblings.

“I’m incredibly competitive,” he said. “My three younger brothers will attest to that. If you’re not competitive in that household, you don’t really have a place.”

With 36 holes left to decide the outcome, plenty can happen over the next two days. There will be obstacles along the way and McNealy will have his share of frustration over the final two rounds. He understands it's just a part of the game.

"Golf's a four-letter word for a reason," said McNealy. "It's a frustrating game. It tries you and test you in a lot of different ways. I think I've done a pretty good job of it. I'm having fun, I'm learning a lot and I'm just trying to get better every week."

### **Friday Notes:**

\* Friday weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 73. Winds were E/SE 6-12.

The cut came at 3-under 141, with 70 players advancing to the weekend.

\* Through 36 holes of play, there are three international players inside the top 10 on the leaderboard. Thus far in 2018, the Web.com Tour has had winners from eight different countries claim titles in the first 13 events: Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Mexico, South Korea and the United States.

\* Three second-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win during the 2018 season, most recently Michael Arnaud at the BMW Charity Pro-Am last month.

\* The Web.com Tour has produced 10 first-time winners this year. With 36 holes to play at Ivanhoe, there are currently 11 players inside the top 10 looking for their first Tour title.

\* Dating back to the end of the 2017 season, the Web.com Tour has gone 14 events without a playoff.

\* Through 36 holes, 2003 Masters champion Mike Weir is T14 at 6-under 138. Weir's last top-10 in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event was a runner-up at the 2014 AT&T Byron Nelson. That finish represents his only top-10 in his last 129 starts on the PGA TOUR.

\* Through 36 holes at Ivanhoe, Chile's Mito Pereira is T9 at 6-under 66. In the 29-year history of the Web.com Tour, Benjamin Alvarado (2013 Brasil Classic) is the only Chilean-born player to win. Earlier this week, the PGA TOUR announced that fellow Chilean Joaquin Niemann was granted Special Temporary Membership status for the remainder of the 2017-18 season. At 19 years, 6 months, 28 days, Niemann is the youngest player since Sergio Garcia in 1999 (19 years, 4 months, 29 days) to accept Special Temporary Membership on the PGA TOUR.

\* Scoring Averages for the week:

	Front (36)	Back (36)	Total (72)
<b>R1</b>	36.083	35.705	71.788
<b>R2</b>	35.763	35.365	71.128

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

**For the latest information and updates on the Web.com Tour visit [www.pgatourmedia.com](http://www.pgatourmedia.com)**

**Scores available at [www.pgatour.com](http://www.pgatour.com) or on the Associated Press wire**

**Follow the Web.com Tour on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/webdotcomtour> on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/WebDotComTour](http://www.Facebook.com/WebDotComTour) and on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/webdotcomtour](http://www.instagram.com/webdotcomtour)**