



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Kyle Jones	67-66-68—201 (-15)
2	Christian Brand	70-67-65—202 (-14)
3	Justin Lower	69-68-66—203 (-13)
	Chase Wright	67-68-68—203 (-13)

Kyle Jones takes 54-hole lead at Rust-Oleum Championship

MUNDELEIN, Ill. – Kyle Jones carded a flawless 4-under 68 in the third round of the Rust-Oleum Championship to take the first 54-hole lead of his Web.com Tour career. The 24-year-old from Victorville, California is 15-under-par heading into Sunday, one ahead of Christian Brand and two clear of Justin Lower and Chase Wright.

There are 13 players within four strokes of Jones, including 36-hole leader Maverick McNealy, who carded a 1-over 73 on Saturday at Ivanhoe Club.

Playing in Saturday's final group was something new for Jones but he found comfort in being paired with McNealy. McNealy struggled on Saturday afternoon while Jones remained poised and moved to the top of the leaderboard.

"All the nerves I felt going into today I felt before the round.," he said. "Once I got on the course it was back to golf and trying to make birdies. It was nice playing with a guy that you know."

Jones made four birdies in the third round, but it was the par saves that kept the momentum positive. Each time the Baylor University graduate missed the green, he got up and down to remain blemish free. Jones left little doubt when left with a putt for par as each attempt hit the back of the cup and disappeared into the hole.

"That's how I putt," said Jones. "I don't see the lines where I die them in. I like to ram them in and if I miss I have a three or four-footer coming back. I'm putting good, so I feel comfortable over those."

Jones has posted one top-10 this season and is currently No. 67 on the money list. In 2017, the 24-year-old competed on mini tours before regaining his status at the Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament this past December. A win in Mundelein would move the three-year pro to No. 12 on the money list and one step closer to earning his PGA TOUR card.

"I'm excited," said Jones, about the challenge Sunday presents. "I'm going to try and not think about it too much because it can get in my head."

Brand made a significant move on Saturday, posting seven birdies and no bogeys. Last year, the Dick Nugent layout wasn't kind to the Charleston, West Virginia native as he carded 72-73 and missed the cut. Brand had no trouble on Saturday, hitting nine of 14 fairways and 17 of 18 greens in regulation en route to second lowest third-round score.

"Today was a great day," said Brand, who matched his personal best third-round score on Tour. "Ivanhoe played awesome for us. The course is in phenomenal shape and I hit a couple of good shots, so it worked out."

Brand entered the week No. 124 on the money list. In 13 starts, the 30-year-old Marshall University graduate has made five cuts with his best performance coming at the Savannah Golf Championship (T22). In just his second year on Tour, Brand has a chance to win his first Web.com Tour event and move closer to the top 25 on the money list.

“There’s still a long way to go,” said Brand. “Everyone knows how 18 holes can go. There’s a lot of golf shots to be hit. Great round today, I’ll enjoy it for now. Try to rest up and be ready.”

Saturday Notes:

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

* In anticipation of inclement weather, Sunday's final round of the Rust-Oleum Championship will conclude at 3 p.m., three hours early. Starting at 8 a.m., golfers will play in threesomes from tees 1 and 10.

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

* The Web.com Tour has produced 10 first-time winners this year. With 18 holes to play at Ivanhoe, there are currently 12 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.

* Ryan Yip carded the round of the day with his 8-under-par 64. Yip, 33, recorded one eagle, seven birdies and one bogey on Saturday. It was his lowest third-round score since the 2017 Knoxville Open. Entering the week, Yip has made seven cuts in 12 starts and posted two top-10s. He is currently No. 44 on the money list. Yip’s last win at a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event was on Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada (2009 – Roxul Jane Rogers Championship).

* Scoring Averages for the week:

	Front (36)	Back (36)	Total (72)
R1	36.083	35.705	71.788
R2	35.763	35.365	71.128
R3	35.400	34.929	70.329

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