



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Carlos Ortiz	71-71-68—210 (-6)
	Lee McCoy	-6 thru 12
	Brandon Matthews	-6 thru 12
	Sung Jae Im	-6 thru 12
	Mark Anderson	-6 thru 12

Carlos Ortiz seeks fourth Web.com Tour victory at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay

GREAT EXUMA, Bahamas – Among the five players tied for the third-round lead at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay, Carlos Ortiz is the only one that completed his third round. As darkness fell on Exuma, the 26-year-old from Guadalajara, Mexico put the finishing touches on a bogey-free 4-under-par 68. Ortiz is the leader in the clubhouse with a 6-under-par 210 total.

Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament medalist Lee McCoy, Brandon Matthews, Sung Jae Im and Mark Anderson are all on the course but are currently tied with Ortiz at the top.

Third-round play was suspended at 5:32 p.m. local time and will resume Tuesday morning at 7:15 a.m.

Ortiz is in search of his fourth Tour victory. In 2014, the former University of North Texas standout earned a three-win promotion on his way to being voted Web.com Tour Player of the Year. Ortiz struggled in his rookie season on the PGA TOUR and is starting his third season on Tour this week.

There have been a few bumps and bruises along the way on his quest to regain his PGA TOUR card, but Ortiz has learned from those experiences and has grown as a player.

“I think mentally I’m more patient,” said Ortiz, who is making his 48th career Tour start this week in the Bahamas. “I’ve learned to be more committed to the shots and let go of the bad ones. I’m just trying to enjoy this and be grateful I’m out here.”

That strategy has worked well this week as Ortiz has navigated the tough Greg Norman design better than any player who has completed 54 holes thus far. With the wind gusting to upwards of 30 miles per hour, precision and accuracy are key to turn in a good score at the Emerald Bay Golf Club, which played as the hardest course on Tour in 2017.

“It’s tough, you have to be committed to your shots,” said Ortiz, who finished tied for 21st place in the inaugural event. “You have to be confident in your lines and execute. It’s hard to put it in play but it’s the same for everybody. I’m happy today turned out good for me.”

The conditions are expected to be just as demanding on Tuesday, making for an exciting finish to the kickoff of the 29th Tour season. With three rounds under his belt, Ortiz is in position to earn his fourth win and get a leg up on the season-long money race.

“I’ve put myself in position for the final round,” said Ortiz. “It’s where you want to be every time you tee off on the weekend. I’ll try to enjoy it and do the best I can.”

McCoy is looking to become the first player to earn medalist honors at the Qualifying Tournament and then turn around and win the opening event of the season. The 23-year-old from Dunedin, Florida finished inside the top five on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada Order of Merit to earn his Tour card and secured fully exempt status this past December in Arizona. McCoy picked up his first professional win in Canada at the Freedom 55 Financial Open last June and hopes to add to his trophy case Tuesday afternoon.

MONDAY NOTES:

*Saturday weather: Mix of sun and clouds, high of 75, winds N/NE 10-20 with gust of 30 miles per hour.

* This week’s purse is \$600,000, with \$108,000 going to the winner.

* The cut came at even-par 144, with 68 players advancing to the weekend.

Sandals Emerald Bay GC	Front (36)	Back (36)	Total (72)
R1	35.659	35.114	71.773
R2	36.527	37.282	73.809

* **NEXT WEEK:** The Web.com Tour is in Abaco next week for The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club which is slated for a Wednesday finish on Golf Channel. Last year, Andrew Landry posted two eagles on the way in to come from behind for a three-shot victory over Jimmy Gunn to secure his second career Web.com Tour victory with a 16-under 272 total.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INTERVIEWS from today’s play are available via the following FTP site:

website: <https://moveit.pgatourhq.com> <<https://moveit.pgatourhq.com/>>

Username: webcom_Highlights

Password: pgatour13

* First click on “FOLDER” on the top left of the main page. From there, navigate to the following folders:
/Home/Highlights and then locate the event folder of your choice.

* All footage is HD and use is free.

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