



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Scott Pinckney	67-64—131 (-9)
2	Sebastian Cappelen	65-68—133 (-7)
3	Ben Kohles	65-69—134 (-6)
	Chris Thompson	70-64—134 (-6)

Scott Pinckney takes two-stroke lead into weekend at Wichita Open

WICHITA, Kan. – Scott Pinckney’s journey to the top of the Wichita Open Supporting Wichita’s Youth leaderboard has been filled with obstacles. Pinckney, 29, has been dealing with a back injury that sidelined him for a year. The Web.com Tour veteran’s game has rounded into form and he is just 36 holes away from earning his first Tour victory after a second-round 64. At 9-under-par, Pinckney is two-strokes ahead of 2014 Wichita Open champions Sebastian Cappelen. Ben Kohles and Kansas native Chris Thompson are three behind heading into the weekend.

“I couldn’t repeat anything,” said Pinckney. “My back was different week-in and week-out and I couldn’t repeat anything. About a month and a half ago, two months ago it kind of clicked where my speed kind of came back and I was able to repeat and hit shots.”

“I was able to get my control back and hit shots,” he continued. “It’s been progressing, my game has been building which I’m excited about. I’ve been hitting it awesome the last few weeks and made nothing so it’s nice to see the ball go in the hole.”

Pinckney, who is from Orem, Utah, has made some swing changes since discovering he had a dehydrated disc in his L5. The pain was so great it hurt to walk and make the proper posture needed to make a golf swing. There was no nerve impingement, but it took a lengthy amount of time to get the proper diagnosis. With some guidance from fellow Tour pro Vince India, Pinckney was treated by a doctor in Utah that helped India among other professional golfers with significant back problems.

“I got stem cell injections,” explained Pinckney. “I didn’t need surgery which was great. It took about eight months to figure out what it was, which was frustrating. It hurt to walk, let alone sleep. We went through a hard time for sure.”

Pinckney is feeling better now and matched his season-low score on Friday morning to take the first outright 36-hole lead of his career. The Arizona State University graduate only hit 10 greens in regulation but made six birdies. Relying heavily on his putter, Pinckney needed just 23 putts on the greens at Crestview Country Club.

“I haven’t made much the last few weeks but this week I’m rolling the ball good,” he said. “Ball striking isn’t as good as I liked but I’ve made some 10 to 20 footers for birdie to take the pressure off.”

Pinckney’s game is a work in progress. Under the tutelage of long-time coach Steve Johnson, the Scottsdale resident has engineered a swing that takes stress off his back while allowing him to compete once again. While his old swing incorporated more rotation, Pinckney’s new move involves more leverage to create speed.

“I wish it was sooner but I’m starting to get in a groove and I’m understanding my body a lot more,” said Pinckney, when asked how long it took to get used to the new swing. “I’m able to repeat it. I thought I could come back and figure it out earlier but that was not the case. I’ve been just keeping my head down, grinding and working as hard as I can. We are finally getting to a spot to where I can hit the ball the way I would like and the way I should.”

Pinckney’s mental and physical prowess have improved but he admits he’s still got a little way to go. The two-time Web.com Tour Finals graduate has come so far and Friday’s round was another step in the right direction.

“My confidence was hanging by a thread,” he said. “This is your engine. It’s not a wrist injury where your body is swinging the same every time. It took a while to get adjusted to that, but I’m starting to get confidence back now that I’m getting healthier, especially with my mental state. I’m still battling the back a little bit, but I have my routine that I do to keep it in check.”

Friday Notes:

- * Friday weather: Partly cloudy and breezy. High of 87. Winds were N/NE 6-12 mph.
- * This week’s purse is \$625,000, with \$112,500 going to the champion.
- * The cut came at 1-over 141, with 77 players advancing to the weekend.
- * The tournament course is playing to a par-70 this week. Officials are playing the sixth hole (495 yards) and the 18th hole (487 yards) as par-4s, but both normally are played further back and par-5s for the members.
- * 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 presented by SYNEX Corporation.
- * The Web.com Tour has produced 10 first-time winners this year. With 36 holes to play at Crestview CC, there are currently 10 players inside the top 10 looking for their first Tour title.
- * Kurt Kitayama received a sponsor exemption into this week’s Wichita Open after ending last season No. 101 on the money list. The 25-year-old from Chico, California entered the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz No. 99 on the money list and missed the cut to drop outside the top 100 and receive conditional status on Tour this season. Kitayama is 4-under for the tournament a T8 heading into the weekend.
- * Local favorite Chris Thompson carded a second-round 64 to pull within three of the lead. The Independence native is making his sixth appearance at the Wichita Open. In five previous starts, Thompson has made three cuts and has posted two top-10s (T7 – 2013, T7 – 2017). The Kansas Jayhawk alum is currently No. 60 on the Regular Season money list with two top-10s (T7 – Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by NACHER, 8 – United Leasing & Finance Championship).

Scoring Average for Crestview CC for the week:

	Front (35)	Back (35)	Total (70)
Round 1:	37.065	35.632	72.697
Round 2:	35.065	34.213	69.277

* **NEXT WEEK:** The Web.com Tour heads north to Springfield, Ill. for the third annual Lincoln Land Charity Championship contested at Panther Creek Country Club June 28 – July 1.

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

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