



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 23, 2018**

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### **Third-Round Leaderboard**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Scores</b>
1	Scott Pinckney	67-64-67—198 (-12)
2	Sebastian Cappelen	65-68-66—199 (-11)
3	Brady Schnell	72-64-64—200 (-10)
4	Cameron Champ	71-66-65—202 (-8)
	Wes Roach	70-67-65—202 (-8)

### **Scott Pinckney leads by one heading into final round of Wichita Open**

**WICHITA, Kan.** – After his round Saturday, Scott Pinckney was asked to recall the last time he held a 54-hole lead. The 29-year-old Arizona State University graduate had no answer because he hadn't accomplished that feat, yet. In his third trip around Crestview Country Club, Pinckney carded a 3-under 67 and posted 12-under-par 198 to grab the solo lead at the Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth. He holds a one-stroke advantage over 2014 champion Sebastian Cappelen. Brady Schnell carded his second consecutive 64 and is two back of Pinckney heading into Sunday.

"It was pretty smooth," said Pinckney, about his day. "I fed off of Sebastian, he got off to a good start. I left a few chances out there but there were a few putts I couldn't be aggressive with. Other than that, it was nice to finish the way I did."

Pinckney's finish included a birdie on the par-3 17<sup>th</sup>, where he was met with cheers. Fans were swarmed around that hole as the final group came through and the PGA TOUR veteran gave the crowd what they wanted. Pinckney was one of 19 players to record a two at the main attraction on the Robert Trent Jones design.

"That was great," said Pinckney, about the roar he received in the amphitheater. "I played TPC Scottsdale and it was definitely the same type of feel. It was awesome."

Pinckney played on the PGA TOUR for two full seasons before his injury and enjoyed some success. In 58 career starts, the Orem, Utah native posted nine top-25s including a T2 at the 2015 AT&T Byron Nelson. Sunday marks the first time Pinckney will enter the final round with the overnight lead and the seven-year-pro has been groomed for this moment.

"I was in the final group a few times on the PGA TOUR," said Pinckney. "I will rely on that experience. I played great in that. It's just another round of golf. I love the way I'm swinging. If I hole a few putts I like my chances."

The journey is almost complete for the two-time Web.com Tour Finals graduate. Pinckney is in contention for the first time since a back injury that placed him on the sideline for nearly a year. With one round to go, the Scottsdale resident is excited about the opportunity to earn his maiden Tour win.

"I love it," said Pinckney, about being back in contention. "It's nice to get the competitive juices going again. You practice for this. It's nice to see my hard work paying off."

Cappelen and Pinckney hadn't played together before the third round and the 54-hole leader was impressed with the aggressive strategy Cappelen employed at Crestview CC. Cappelen came out hot and birdied the first three holes. He added three more birdies on the back before dropping a shot on the home hole to lose his share of the lead.

"I think I executed a lot of the holes I knew I had to take chances on," said Cappelen. "A few more putts fall in today and it's a perfect round."

If Cappelen were to win on Sunday, he could stake a claim to the name "Mr. Wichita." In four previous appearances at the Wichita Open, the Odense, Denmark native has recorded three top-10s. Cappelen has \$432,777 in career earnings and made \$143,604 on Crestview CC.

"Here, it comes more naturally," said Cappelen, when asked why he continues to enjoy success at this tournament. "Other places might not fit your eye or you or don't feel right over certain shots. I feel like I've played this course a million times. I know the where I'm going on every hole and there is never a doubt."

The good vibes this week bring are much appreciated by Cappelen. In 14 starts this season, the former Arkansas Razorback has made five cuts and posted one top-10. Even though he entered the week No. 94 on the money list, Cappelen believes he is primed for a run as the Tour enters the final stretch of the Regular Season.

"I feel like I've been trending the right way the last couple of weeks," said Cappelen. "I've been working with Todd Anderson and we've got some good stuff going. I'm finding some consistency on the course. Overall my game is more fluent and I'm able to trust it more."

### **Saturday Notes:**

\* Saturday weather: Partly cloudy and breezy. High of 89. Winds were S/SW 5-10 mph.

\* This week's purse is \$625,000, with \$112,500 going to the champion.

\* In anticipation of inclement weather, Sunday's final round of the Wichita Open is slated to conclude around 2:30 p.m CT. Starting at 7:30 a.m., golfers will play in threesomes from tees 1 and 10, with the final group slated to start their round at 9:30 a.m.

\* 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.

\* 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 Crestview CC, there are currently 13 players inside the top 10 looking for their first Tour title.

\* Local favorite Chris Thompson carded a third-round 69 and enters the final round five behind Pinckney. 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
Round 3:	34.688	34.026	68.714

\* **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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