



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Derek Ernst	61-67-128 (-14)
2	Taylor Moore	63-68-131 (-11)
	Sungjae Im	65-66-131 (-11)
4	Fernando Mechereffe	64-68-132 (-10)
5	Two tied at	134 (-8)

Derek Ernst cards 4-under 67 in second round to maintain lead at WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz

NORTH PLAINS, Oregon – Opening tournament play with a course record-tying 10-under 61 is not small feat. Following up such a lights-out round is arguably even more difficult. But for former PGA TOUR winner Derek Ernst, it’s just another week. After coming up just short of a sub-60 round during the first round of the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz, Ernst continued his momentum into Friday, posting a 4-under 67 carry his lead into the weekend. Taylor Moore sits three strokes back of Ernst, as he chases his first PGA TOUR win and a spot in The 25. Tied with Moore in second is money list leader Sungjae Im, who looks to become the second repeat winner of the 2018 Web.com Tour Season.

Beginning his second round on the back nine of Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club’s Witch Hollow course, Ernst opened with two birdies alongside six pars to make the turn at 2-under 33. The 28-year-old birdied his first hole after making the turn before running into trouble at the par-4 third.

“That bogey was just the speed,” Ernst said after his round, “on the same hole where I did the same thing yesterday, so I definitely will not be making that same mistake these next two days.”

The father-of-one didn’t let the bogey throw off his rhythm. Ernst stayed focus and patient, doing all he could to ensure that mistake was the only one of the day. That focus paid off, as Ernst picked up birdies on Nos. 6 and 7 to finish the day with a 4-under 67.

“I just stayed positive,” he remarked. “I knew that I messed up but if I got down on myself really bad then it could affect the next couple of shots, so I was just like, ‘I’m going to hit the next one down the middle and keep playing one hole at a time’.”

Ernst entered the week in Portland at No. 76 on the Regular Season money list, one spot outside of earning a Web.com Tour Finals berth and exempt status on Tour in 2019. With the largest purse of the Regular Season at stake this week in the Beaver State, a win would add \$144,000 to Ernst’s season earnings, enough to propel him to No. 11 and earn him a return to the PGA TOUR.

“I’m just in a good frame of mind right now,” Ernst commented. “Just enjoying it, taking it in... I’ve won a PGA TOUR event before, I’ve had the chance to win on the Web.com Tour a couple of times, so it’s time I take advantage of that this time I think.”

Moore will look to overtake Ernst on the leaderboard Saturday, with memories of last year’s tournament looming.

Moore, who was in his rookie season on Tour, entered Portland in 2017 at No. 38 on the money list. After opening with a 3-under 68, the University of Arkansas alum found himself T22, well within reach of a strong finish and a

PGA TOUR card. Moore struggled in the second and third rounds, posting an even-par 71 on Friday followed by a 3-over 74 to drop to T62. The former SEC freshman of the year tried to make a last-ditch run on Sunday, going on a run of eight straight birdies, but ultimately fell short, finishing the week T25 and the Regular Season 38th on the money list.

“I just gotta stay patient,” Moore said when asked what he learned from last season. “I can’t really force the issue. I’ve tended to try and do that in the past, so I’ve learned not to do that. I’m just going to take it one shot at a time. Stay calm, stay in the moment, not worried about what’s happened, and just play my game.”

After carding an opening-round 8-under 63 Thursday, Moore backed it up with a 3-under 68 in the second round to move to 11-under, tied for second, heading into the weekend.

The 25-year-old has notched four top-10s on Tour this season, including his first runner-up finish at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by NACHER. His performance in the first two rounds has him projected to finish 12th on the money list, a placement that would send him to the PGA TOUR next season for the first time in his career.

“A good weekend would be great,” Moore remarked, “but if not that’s alright, it’s golf, so I’m just going to go out there and like I said just take it one shot at a time. You know, we talked about it a little bit yesterday, but I’ve got five events to potentially lock up a card, so I’m just going to put all my focus in that.”

Tour rookie Im is also in the mix heading into Saturday, sitting tied with Moore at three strokes back of the lead. The 20-year-old finished the 2017 Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament in solo-second, making noise when he posted a 10-under 60 in the third round of play. Im continued to impress, picking up a win in his first Tour start at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay, followed by a solo-second the following week. The South Korea native’s early-season performance has kept him safely atop the money list since week one.

“I was able to secure my PGA TOUR card in the first two events of the season in the Bahamas,” Im said after his round Friday, “so rather than feeling pressure, my goal has changed to finishing No. 1 on the money list. It’s a different type of pressure, because I know other players are chasing up the money list. But for me, I find that to be a lot of fun.”

Im opened play in Portland with rounds of 65-66-131 (-11) to put himself in a strong position to pick up his eighth top-10 finish in 21 events this season. While playing almost every event, including last week’s PGA Championship, might cause fatigue in many rookies who haven’t experienced professional-level travel, Im believes it’s only helped him improve.

“I feel like my game is in great form,” he remarked, “and the third round, or moving day, is the most important. I want to be patient tomorrow and convert as many birdie opportunities as possible. I plan on using that strategy for the weekend.”

FRIDAY NOTES:

- * Friday weather: Sunny, High of 81, Winds N/NW 6-12 mph.
- * This week’s purse is \$800,000, with \$144,000 going to the champion.
- * The cut came at 2-under 140, with 69 players advancing to the weekend.
- * Of the 10 players leading the Regular Season money list heading into this week, only three players advanced to weekend play.
- * Derek Ernst set a new 36-hole tournament record with a 14-under 128. It is also a career-best for Ernst on the Web.com Tour, besting his previous low 36-hole score of 131, set in two previous occasions this season at the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation and the Knoxville Open.
- * Ernst matched the tournament’s largest 36-hole lead at 3 shots, previously set by Aaron Wise in 2017. This marks the second time Ernst has held the second-round lead on Tour. He opened with 68-63 to take the 36-hole lead at the Knoxville Open this season and went on to finish T4.
- * Carlos Ortiz is the only 36-hole leader to convert his lead into a tournament victory in Portland (2014). Five second round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win during the 2018 season, most recently Sepp Straka at the KC Golf Classic.

*The Web.com Tour has produced 19 first-time winners this year. With 36 holes to play at Pumpkin Ridge, there are currently ten players T10 or better seeking their first Tour title

* 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 seven different countries claim titles in the first 21 events: Argentina, Canada, England, Germany, Mexico, South Korea and the United States. Carlos Ortiz is the only international player to have won the WinCo Foods Portland Open (2014).

* Players just inside the top 25 (21-25) and where they stand:

Entered the Week	Player	Score	Position	Projected \$ List
21	Brady Schnell	70-68-138 (-4)	T27	23
22	Julian Etulain	66-71-137 (-5)	T17	21
23	Roberto Castro	69-70-139 (-3)	T42	26
24	Hank Lebioda	69-66-135 (-7)	T7	18
25	Ben Taylor	73-70-143 (+1)	CUT	29

* Players just outside the top 25 (26-30) and where they stand:

Entered the Week	Player	Score	Position	Projected \$ List
26	Wes Roach	68-72-140 (-2)	T55	28
27	Joseph Bramlett	70-70-140 (-2)	T55	30
28	Henrik Norlander	68-70-138 (-4)	T27	31
29	Nelson Ledesma	66-77-143 (+1)	CUT	36
30	Sepp Straka	65-73-138 (-4)	T27	34

* Players just inside the top 75 (71-75) and where they stand:

Entered the Week	Player	Score	Position	Projected \$ List
71	Rico Hoey	69-68-137 (-5)	T17	66
72	Gonzalo Fdez-Castano	65-73-138 (-4)	T27	70
73	Jamie Arnold	77-71-148 (+6)	CUT	81
74	Jim Knous	70-67-137 (-5)	T17	68
75	Matt Harmon	69-70-139 (-3)	T42	80

* Players just outside the top 75 (76-80) and where they stand:

Entered the Week	Player	Score	Position	Projected \$ List
76	Derek Ernst	61-67-128 (-14)	1	11
77	Brandon Matthews	69-70-139 (-3)	T42	82
78	Lee McCoy	69-68-137 (-5)	T17	72
79	Brian Richey	68-78-146 (+4)	CUT	85
80	Oscar Fraustro	78-72-150 (+8)	CUT	87

* Witch Hollow scoring average:

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)	Cumulative
R1	36.308	34.494	70.801	
R2	36.187	34.839	71.026	70.914

* NEXT WEEK: The Web.com Tour travels up the west coast to Oregon for the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz, the final event of the Regular Season.

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

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