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### **Third-Round Leaderboard**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Scores</b>
1	Sungjae Im	65-66-68-199 (-14)
2	Derek Ernst	61-67-73-201 (-12)
3	Roland Thatcher	68-69-65-202 (-11)
4	Jimmy Stanger	68-67-68-203 (-10)
	Kevin Dougherty	67-67-69-203 (-10)

### **Sungjae Im grabs 54-hole lead heading into Sunday at Web.com Tour's WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz**

NORTH PLAINS, Oregon – After picking up his first Web.com Tour victory in the season-opening The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Bay, Sungjae Im looks to become the second repeat-winner of the year at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz. The Regular Season money list leader takes a two-shot lead into the final round, where 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded after completion of play.

Im started the third round three shots back but quickly raced up the leaderboard, making three birdies in his first seven holes. After making the turn in 2-under 34, the South Korean carded a bogey-free 1-under 34 in his back nine to finish at 3-under 68. He holds a two-shot lead at 14-under 199 heading into the final round.

“I won the first tournament of the season and I’m currently leading after the third round of the final event,” said Im. “I don’t want to give up this opportunity. I’ll be trying my best to earn that victory tomorrow.”

The Web.com Tour rookie has had an impressive debut season, recording seven top-10s in 21 starts. Im finished runner-up three times and has only missed five cuts along the way. The Jeju Island native has already secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2018-19 season and has set his sights set on becoming this season’s combined money list leader, becoming the first Asian player to achieve the feat.

“The fact that I’ll be exempt for all PGA TOUR tournaments, excluding the majors, without a re-shuffle is huge,” Im commented. “That’s my main reason for wanting to finish No. 1.”

Im has already played in two major championships this season, competing in the U.S. Open and the PGA Championship. After missing the cut at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, the 20-year-old finished T42 last week in the season’s last major. He produced the best result out of any Korean in the field, as 2017 THE PLAYERS champion Si Woo Kim and 2009 PGA Championship winner Y.E. Yang both failed to make the cut at Bellerive Country Club.

“I feel great about my ball striking and my feel on the greens have been great as well,” said the money list leader. “Last week, I chipped-in twice at the PGA Championship and I saw that it made the top-5 best shots list. It was a fun week for me.”

Im has yet to relinquish the No. 1 spot since his victory at the first event of the season. The 20-year-old has clinched the wire-to-wire Regular Season money title, becoming the first player to do so since the introduction of the Web.com Tour Finals. Im is just two weeks shy of beating Michael Sims’s record of 24 consecutive weeks atop the money list.

Derek Ernst held the 36-hole lead by three shots after opening 61-67 in his first two rounds but struggled on day three, recording five bogeys with a double bogey en-route to his 2-over 73. He starts Sunday's final round two shots back of solo-leader Im.

"Today was a brutal day," said the 28-year-old. "It was a stronger wind today and it's already all over the place. To top it off, I just had a couple of bad breaks that didn't go my way."

Ernst, who entered the week No. 76 on the Regular Season money list, has a chance to break into the top 25 with a win at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club's Witch Hollow course. The California native has had previous success on the PGA TOUR, winning the 2013 Wells Fargo Championship in a playoff against David Lynn. He was unable to follow up his victory, however, and ultimately lost his PGA TOUR card after the 2016 season.

"I think it's different for someone that's trying to go back to the PGA TOUR versus someone that's trying to go for the first time," Ernst said. "Knowing that I belong there, I've been there, I've won on the PGA TOUR. I feel like I should be back there. I know I have to win this week to do it, so I'm going to give it my all tomorrow."

### **SATURDAY NOTES:**

- \* Saturday weather: Sunny, High of 87, Winds N/NE 5-10 mph.
- \* This week's purse is \$800,000, with \$144,000 going to the champion.
- \* This week's event is the final event of 23 regular season events on the 2018 schedule. The top-25 money winners following this week's finale will earn PGA TOUR cards for the 2018-19 season. A second set of 25 cards will be on the line during the four-event Web.com Tour Finals, which begin next week and conclude at the end of September.
- \* In the tournament's four-year history, every 54-hole leader/co-leader has been able to convert his lead into a tournament title. Six third-round leaders have converted their leads into 72-hole victories, with the most recent being Trevor Cone at last week's Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae.
- \* The Web.com Tour has produced 19 first-time winners this year. With 18 holes to play at Pumpkin Ridge, there are currently eight players T10 or better seeking their first Tour title.
- \* Sungjae Im, winner of this year's season-opening The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay, enters the final round in the lead. The last player to win both the first and final event of the season was Mike Springer, who accomplished the feat in 1990 (Bakersfield Open and El Paso Open).
- \* Only one player has started and ended the season atop the money list (Jimmy Walker, 2004). Walker was unable to go wire-to-wire with his money list lead, however, losing it at various points throughout the season. Im looks to become the first player to go wire-to-wire atop the money list.
- \* Roland Thatcher enters Sunday T2. Thatcher carded a hole-in-one during play on Thursday. The last player to card an ace during tournament play and then go on to win the event was Tom Scherrer who won the 2007 Price Cutter Charity Championship and picked up an ace during the second round on No. 13.
- \* Tour rookie Jimmy Stanger seeks his second top-10 of the season as he enters Sunday in Portland T4. With his current position, Stanger is projected to finish 67 on the Regular Season money list, earning him a Web.com Tour Finals berth and exempt status on the Web.com Tour for the 2019 season.
- \* Through 54 holes of play, there are two 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:

<b>Entered the Week</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Projected \$ List</b>
21	Brady Schnell	70-68-71-209 (-4)	T38	21
22	Julian Etulain	66-71-69-206 (-7)	T12	16
23	Roberto Castro	69-70-71-210 (-3)	T44	24

24	Hank Lebioda	69-66-72-207 (-6)	T20	25
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	68-72-72-212 (-1)	T59	28
27	Joseph Bramlett	70-70-72-212 (-1)	T59	30
28	Henrik Norlander	68-70-68-206 (-7)	T12	26
29	Nelson Ledesma	66-77-143	CUT	34
30	Sepp Straka	65-73-69-207 (-6)	T20	31

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

Entered the Week	Player	Score	Position	Projected \$ List
71	Rico Hoey	69-68-73-210 (-3)	T44	73
72	Gonzalo Fdez-Castano	65-73-73-211 (-2)	T52	77
73	Jamie Arnold	77-71-148 (+6)	CUT	80
74	Jim Knous	70-67-68-205 (-8)	T9	59
75	Matt Harmon	69-70-68-207 (-6)	T20	71

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

Entered the Week	Player	Score	Position	Projected \$ List
76	Derek Ernst	61-67-73-201 (-12)	2	32
77	Brandon Matthews	69-70-69-208 (-5)	T28	79
78	Lee McCoy	69-68-72-209 (-4)	T38	81
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
<b>R1</b>	36.308	34.494	70.801	
<b>R2</b>	36.187	34.839	71.026	70.914
<b>R3</b>	36.246	34.638	70.884	70.904

\* NEXT WEEK: The Web.com Tour travels to Columbus, Ohio, for the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, the first of four events in the Web.com Tour Finals.

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

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