



PGA TOUR Contact:

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Second-Round Leaderboard

Syncrude Oil Country Championship

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	George Cunningham (U.S.)	67-64—131 (-11)
T2	Matt Marshall (U.S.)	68-65—133 (-9)
T2	Brinson Paolini (U.S.)	68-65—133 (-9)
T4	Yannik Paul (Germany)	70-64—134 (-8)
T4	Brett Coletta (Australia)	67-67—134 (-8)
T6	Chris Williams (U.S.)	66-69—135 (-7)
T6	Tyler McCumber (U.S.)	67-68—135 (-7)
T8	Jake Kevorkian (U.S.)	65-71—136 (-6)
T8	Jesse Smith (U.S.)	68-68—136 (-6)
T8	Alexander Matlari (Germany)	69-67—136 (-6)
T8	Ben Griffin (U.S.)	68-68—136 (-6)
T8	Cole Miller (U.S.)	71-65—136 (-6)
T8	Corey Pereira (U.S.)	67-69—136 (-6)
T8	Ian Davis (U.S.)	67-69—136 (-6)

[Full leaderboard](#)

Strong back nine gives Cunningham halfway lead in Edmonton

EDMONTON, Alberta, Canada—George Cunningham awoke Friday morning to what he expected: rain, wind and unseasonably cool temperatures at Edmonton Petroleum Golf and Country Club. Cunningham dressed accordingly for the second round of the Syncrude Oil Country Championship presented by AECON.

“I was coming out today prepared for the weather we had, and I would have been happy with 1- or 2-under par. I felt like that was what the course was kind of going to give me,” Cunningham explained.

The thing was, Cunningham vastly underestimated what he was going to give the course. The recent University of Arizona graduate fired a 7-under 64, even with a double bogey on the scorecard, and that moved him to 11-under overall, earning him a two-stroke lead over Matt Marshall and Brinson Paolini heading to the weekend of the eighth tournament of the 12-tournament Mackenzie Tour season. Germany’s Yannik Paul and Australia’s Brett Coletta are tied for fourth, at 8-under, three strokes back of Cunningham.

Even the double bogey at No. 16, Cunningham’s seventh hole of the afternoon, didn’t seem to faze him, nor did the hard lipout on his eight-foot birdie putt on the next hole. To rally back from that mishap, he made three birdies in a row, starting at his ninth hole, and it was a birdie fest after that, with only pars on Nos. 3, 4 and 8 slowing him. His final birdie of the day came at the par-5 ninth hole, an eight-foot putt after he just missed the green in two.

“I hit my wedges really well today,” Cunningham said. “I had multiple wedges that I hit inside three, four feet. A couple of them gave me the opportunity where I didn’t have to try much for birdie.”

Key Information

- The cut came at 1-under 141, with 63 players making it to the weekend.
- George Cunningham’s only real mistake in his first two rounds came at his seventh hole, No. 16. After hitting a 2-iron off the tee, he hit 2-iron second shot and admitted he should have gone with the 3-iron. His approach shot into the par-4 was thin, the ball landing in the trees. After pitching out into the bunker and blasting onto the green, he watched his bogey putt—a six-footer—lip out.
- Edmonton Petroleum Golf and Country Club has three par-5s, and George Cunningham is 4-under on those through two rounds. Where he’s really done his damage is on the par-4s. He’s 7-under on those holes so far this week.
- In his last five Mackenzie Tour starts, 36-hole leader George Cunningham has a win and two top-10s. He entered this week third on the Order of Merit and trails No. 2 Sam Fidone by \$1,645 and No. 1 Zach Wright by \$13,413. Fidone is tied for 35th after two rounds, while Wright is tied for 15th.
- Scott Secord’s hole-in-one on the par-3 15th Friday was the sixth ace of the Mackenzie Tour season. The other aces have come from Joseph Harrison and George Cunningham (GolfBC Championship), Ashton Van Horne (Lethbridge Paradise Canyon Open), Tyler Collier (Staal Foundation Open) and James Love (Osprey Valley Open). Secord missed the cut after shooting scores of 70-74.
- On June 9, 2017, Jake Kevorkian made the cut at the 2017 Bayview Place Open. Since then, he missed the cut in his final nine tournaments of 2017 and didn’t get to the weekend in his first six appearances this season. That streak came to an end Friday after

420 days when Kevorkian, with rounds of 65-71, easily made the cut. He's tied for eighth heading into—yes—the weekend.

- Jake Kevorkian is not the only player near the top of the leaderboard who has had a difficult time making cuts this year. Alexander Matlari of Germany, who played collegiate golf at Duke University, made only his second cut of the season in this his eighth start. His only other previous made cut came at the Lethbridge Paradise Canyon Open, a tie for 49th. Matlari is tied with Kevorkian, in eighth place.
- Mark Anguiano and Tyler McCumber are the only 36-hole leaders to turn their halfway advantages into victories this season. Anguiano won the Windsor Championship after taking a one-shot lead to the weekend, while McCumber was five ahead through 36 holes and ended up winning by a shot at the Osprey Valley Open.
- Another former Duke University golfer is in solid position with 36 holes to play. Brinson Paolini is tied for second at 9-under after following his opening 68 with a 65 Friday. In seven Mackenzie Tour starts in 2018, the European Tour veteran has made four cuts with his tie for ninth at the Bayview Place DCBank Open his best outing. He finished his round birdie-birdie and will play the third round in the second-to-last group.
- The top Canadian at the halfway point is Max Gilbert. Rounds of 69-69 leave him tied for 20th with 10 others, seven shots behind leader George Cunningham. Other Canadians to make the cut include Michael Gligic (tied for 30th), Aaron Crawford and Taylor Pendrith (tied for 35th) and Wil Bateman (tied for 47th).
- The only players in the top 10 on the Order of Merit who didn't make the cut were No. 7 Cody Blick (3-over) and No. 9 T.T. Crouch (even-par). No. 8 Jordan Niebrugge did not play this week.
- Through eight holes in his first round, Michael Gellerman was 3-over. He played his final 28 holes in 5-under to easily make the cut. He's at 2-under and tied for 35th.

Quotable

“The double (bogey) on the 16th hole kind of felt like it killed the momentum. But I told myself [that kind of score] was out there today. It was raining and windy. That's going to happen.” –
George Cunningham

“I finished fourth in Lethbridge this year. There must be something about Alberta that I enjoy.” –
Matt Marshall

“I did really well in Kelowna, handling nerves and seeing leaderboards when I felt like people were catching me. I'm going to use that experience I had there going into the weekend.” –
George Cunningham on how winning earlier this year has helped him

“Deep down, for me, I just love playing the game. I knew I could still play it at a high level. As everybody knows, working every day at a normal job—it's OK, it's nice and consistent—but I didn't want any regrets when I got older. I wanted to give it a go and see what happens. –**Matt Marshall on his two-year hiatus from professional golf and his return this season**

“It definitely makes me feel like the old guy out here. It seems every week I'm playing with someone who is 21, 22. It's good, though. It shows you the game is doing well, that there is a lot

of good, young talent out there. I'd just like to think I'm a little wiser, that I can still teach them a few things." – **Matt Marshall, 33, on the age difference he has with some of his competitors**

"I've definitely played better than I kind of expected to. The scores have been really low, and I wasn't a person to go really low in college. I've had multiple rounds of 64, 65 and one 62. In that aspect, I've played a little better than I expected." – **George Cunningham on his transition from college golf to playing professionally**

"It was a tough day. From the start, it was raining on the first hole. By the fifth or sixth hole, all your grips are soaking wet and you're just trying to hold on." – **Jake Kevorkian**

"It feels good. I shouldn't get greedy. I'm thinking about winning now that I've made the cut. But, yeah, it's nice, finally, to get a paycheck." – **Jake Kevorkian**

"Pretty much from start to finish, it was rainy, windy and cold. I felt like I grinded it out and hung in there." – **Patrick Fishburn**

You Should Know

Matt Marshall played in the 2016 U.S. Open, his third PGA TOUR appearance. After missing the cut at the 2011 and 2012 Frys.com Opens, Marshall shot scores of 72-73 in the opening two rounds at Oakmont Country Club to make his first TOUR cut. He followed that with a 75-76 finish to tie for 61st with Tim Wilkinson. Marshall earned \$23,938 that week.

Second-Round Weather: Overcast and rainy for most of the day. The rain was intermittent— heavy at times—before finally stopping at 6:05 p.m. High of 16. Wind W at 13 kph, with gusts to 19 kph.