

**PGA TOUR Contact:**

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**Second-Round Leaderboard**

**Freedom 55 Financial Open**

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| **Pos.** | **Name** | **Scores** |
| T1 | Cody Blick (U.S.) | 66-66—132 (-12) |
| T1 | Chris Williams (U.S.) | 65-67—132 (-12) |
| 3 | Zach Wright (U.S.) | 70-63—133 (-11) |
| 4 | Jordan Niebrugge (U.S.) | 66-68—134 (-10) |
| 5 | Matthew NeSmith (U.S.) | 67-69—136 (-8) |
| T6 | Ruben Sondjaja (Australia) | 69-69—138 (-6) |
| T6 | Tyler Salsbury (U.S.) | 67-71—138 (-6) |
| T8 | Danny Walker (U.S.) | 68-71—139 (-5) |
| T8 | Greyson Sigg (U.S.) | 70-69—139 (-5) |
| T8 | Justin Hicks (U.S.) | 71-68—139 (-5) |
| T8 | Jeremy Paul (Germany) | 69-70—139 (-5) |
| T8 | Tyler McCumber (U.S.) | 71-68—139 (-5) |
| T8 | Jake Knapp (U.S.) | 71-68—139 (-5) |
| T8 | Riley Wheeldon (Canada) | 70-69—139 (-5) |
| T8 | John Oda (U.S.) | 69-70—139 (-5) |

[**Full leaderboard**](https://www.pgatour.com/canada/en_us/leaderboard.html)

**Blick and Williams atop leaderboard in Vancouver**

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—It’s unexplainable, even by his own account, but once again, Cody Blick has signed for a round in the 60s on the B.C. Golf Swing. On Friday it came in the form of seven birdies offset by a lone bogey for his second consecutive 66.

Blick’s 12-under total through two days of the Freedom 55 Financial Open at Point Grey Golf and Country Club is good enough for a share of the lead alongside Thursday’s overnight leader Chris Williams.

Carding red in Canada’s Western-most province is nothing new for the San Ramon, Calif., native. Looking back at the last nine tournaments Blick has played in British Columbia, Friday’s 66 actually hurt his scoring average, which now sits at 65.8

At a loss for words over how he has managed to sustain this level of play within B.C., the San Jose State University alum notes that a change in strategy he implemented this offseason has helped him the past few days.

“My first year up here, even last year, I was hitting a lot of irons off the tee,” said the 24-year-old. “These courses are tight, but if you just commit to a line and hammer driver, even if you hit it in the trees you can easily punch it up around the green and make par.”

Blick admired Rico Hoey, a 2017 member now on the Web.com Tour, for this trait when he played alongside him last season. The strategy seems to be working for Hoey, who tied for 15th at the Web.com Tour’s Nashville Golf Open last week.

“All he does is hit these little 10-yard fades and he just hammers it,” said Blick. “Then he goes and finds it and wedges it on.”

Starting on the back nine, Blick got off to a pedestrian start with the putter by his own accounts, making the turn in 35 before going on a run on the front nine—with birdies from holes 3-6 and another on No. 9 to polish off his 66.

Blick mentioned his distance tactic again when discussing Point Grey’s fourth hole, where he’s made birdie in each of the first two rounds.

“You can get right next to the green, and then it’s just up-and-down for birdie,” said Blick. “It’s just a more aggressive and more confident game plan.”

With four top-10 finishes in 2017, Blick is no stranger to the top of the leaderboard as he draws into the final pairing again Saturday.

Meanwhile, Williams once again managed a bogey free round, adding two back-nine birdies to his trio on the front for a 67.

The pair will meet on the first tee on Saturday afternoon at 1:05 p.m.

**Key Information**

* The cut was at even-par 144, with 72 players making it to the weekend.
* The round of the day belonged to 24-year-old Zach Wright. The Phoenix native made 10 birdies, including six over his final eight holes.
* Riley Wheeldon is the low Canadian through two rounds in Vancouver. Wheeldon started his day 3-under through his first two holes after an eagle at the par-5 12th. The Richmond, B.C., native is looking for his first Mackenzie Tour win since 2013.
* Thirty-six players are within 10 strokes of the lead going into the weekend
* Jordan Niebrugge shot a squeaky-clean 68 as a follow up to his Thursday 66. The 10-under total has him alone in fourth place.
* The 16th hole at Point Grey continues to make Mackenzie Tour players shake their heads. There were only four birdies recorded on the hole Friday, with the scoring average .39 strokes over par.
* Despite only hitting 61 percent of his greens in regulation this week, Chris Williams’ short game has been masterful as he is yet to make a bogey despite his varied success hitting greens.

**Quotable**

“There are definitely birdies out there, but this wind is making it pretty tricky. It’s off and on, and it’s swirling. Down in the trees, the ball doesn’t really get hit until it’s above the trees, and then it’s a bit of a crapshoot.” **– Cody Blick**

“I’m trying to keep focused on the next round, but I feel really comfortable out here. I was really close last year to breaking through, I had a couple leads, and I learned from them and I think that’s what these last two years have shown. It’s all experience.”

**– Cody Blick**

“(It was) just one of those days where I didn’t really get in trouble. Unlike [Thursday], where I got good breaks, today I just kept it in play all day, I made some good pars but never really got in trouble.” – **Chris Williams**

“There’s some tournaments where you’ve got to shoot 6-, 7-, 8-under just to maintain course; here it’s tough, it’s tight you can easily hit it in the trees and in some bad places, so just knowing you don’t have to fire at everything and go super low, it’s nice having that in the back of your mind.” – **Chris Williams**

“I played with a kid today (Rylee Reinertson). He just bombs it, hits every par-5 with an iron, and I’m struggling to reach it. So, it always feels more difficult, but my short game is good, and I know my game and know my strengths and can play off that and play into them.”

– **Chris Williams**

“It was just one of those days, it was just pretty easy, I hit a few in there really tight and just had to tap it in, and par-5s I got those today and didn’t get them yesterday. That was the difference, just a few here and there, and I putted well.” – **Zach Wright**

“(I had) a ouple good par saves coming in and played awesome today. Didn’t get as many putts to drop, but bogey free, 4-under is a good round. If I continue to play like I have these past two days, I’ll be right there.” **– Jordan Niebrugge**

**Second-Round Weather**: Overcast and cool, with afternoon scattered showers. High of 17. Wind variable at 5 kph.