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Second-Round Leaderboard

The Players Cup

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Alex Chiarella (U.S.)	65-66—131 (-13)
T2	George Cunningham (U.S.)	67-65—132 (-12)
T2	Daniel Stringfellow (U.S.)	66-66—132 (-12)
T2	David Pastore (U.S.)	65-67—132 (-12)
T2	Michael Gligic (Canada)	67-65—132 (-12)
T2	Ian Holt (U.S.)	69-63—132 (-12)
T2	Zach Wright (U.S.)	69-63—132 (-12)
T2	Cody Blick (U.S.)	63-69—132 (-12)
T9	Blake Olson (U.S.)	67-66—133 (-11)
T9	James Love (Canada)	66-67—133 (-11)

[Full leaderboard](#)

Chiarella a surprise leader at The Players Cup

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Canada—Alex Chiarella is still a relative unknown on the Mackenzie Tour. He began the year with conditional status and appeared in only two events prior to this week. Even as he first climbed his way to the top of the field Thursday at The Players Cup, course leaderboards left a blank space where his name should have been.

Tournament officials ensured his name cards would be there Friday. Good thing, too. The 24-year-old continued his surprising start with a 6-under 66, moving to 13 under overall. He will take a one-shot lead over seven players into Saturday's third round.

“My game has felt good recently,” Chiarella said. “I just haven’t been able to put good scores together. But things clicked the last couple days and I’m looking forward to the weekend.”

The University of San Diego product has carded just one bogey over his first 36 holes, which came Friday on the par-4 10th. But he quickly rebounded with a birdie on No. 11, an eagle on No. 13, and two more birdies on Nos. 14 and 18. The eagle, his second of the week, came on the par-5 No. 13. He hit driver down the left side, followed with a 5-iron from 215 yards out, then connected on a putt from 12 feet.

“You can hit a lot of drivers out here, so I’m just trying to bomb driver and give myself the best angle to the pin on each green and it’s worked out,” the third-year pro said. “I’ve hit my driver well this week and hopefully it continues.”

George Cunningham, Daniel Stringfellow, David Pastore, Ian Holt, Zach Wright, Cody Blick and Canadian Michael Gligic are all tied for second at 12 under. Blake Olson and Canadian James Love are two shots back at 11 under.

“Every week has been like this, so I’ve come to expect it,” he said. “Incredible talent out here, it blows my mind. With everyone I play with, we always talk about how we can’t believe how low the scores are.

“It’s just a really solid group of guys and anyone out here can win. Hopefully I (can) be that anyone.”

Key Information

- The cut came at 6-under 138, with 71 players making it to the weekend. It matches the lowest cut this year on the Mackenzie Tour, which also occurred at the Windsor Championship.
- The top Canadian at the halfway point is Michael Gligic. Rounds of 67-65 leave him tied for second with six others, just one shot behind leader Alex Chiarella. The 28-year-old finished T2 at The Players Cup in 2016, when the event was held Niakwa Country Club.
- Other Canadians to make the cut include James Love (tied for ninth), Aaron Crawford (tied for 33rd) and Jared du Toit (tied for 33rd). Riley Wheeldon, the leading Canadian on the Order of Merit, needed birdie on the final hole to make it on the number before carding a bogey.
- Josh Hart’s hole-in-one on the par-3 11th Friday was the ninth 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), James Love (Osprey Valley Open), Scott Secord and Dawson Armstrong (Syncrude Oil Country Championship), and Corey Pereira (ATB Financial Classic).
- The only players in the top 10 on the Order of Merit who didn’t make the cut were No. 4 Sam Fidone (5-under) and No. 9 Lee Hodges (5-under).
- Ian Holt and Zach Wright each recorded a 9-under 63, the low round of the day. Holt’s performance included six birdies over his last eight holes and equals the best score of his professional career, set Aug. 5 at the Syncrude Oil Country Championship. Wright, No. 2 on the Order of Merit, now has eight rounds of 63 or lower this year.

- George Cunningham has three eagles through two rounds, the second time he's accomplished that feat this season. He previously did it at the Windsor Championship, where he finished T4. He has eagles on the par-5 No. 13 in each round, and an additional eagle on the par-5 No. 5 on Thursday.
- Aaron Crawford (7-under) and Eric Hallberg (6-under) were the only Monday qualifiers to make the cut, tied for the second fewest of the season. J.D. Tomlinson was the only Monday qualifier to make the cut at the Bayview Place DCBank Open, while Jake Scott and Ty Herriott accomplished the feat at the Windsor Championship.
- The par-5 fifth hole played the easiest hole for the second day in a row, with 16 eagles, 99 birdies and a stroke average of 4.175.
- The National Hockey League's Mark Scheifele, in the field on a sponsor's exemption, recorded a pair of birdies on Nos. 3 and 5 Friday. The Winnipeg Jets star finished at 29 over for the week.

Quotable

“We have enough events where, in theory, Tyler (McCumber) could be tops if he keeps playing the way he's playing, I don't think anyone could catch him. But obviously that's the ultimate goal throughout the year. I'm in a position where if I play well in the next two events I could get that.” – **George Cunningham on the Order of Merit**

“You practice and play all year and summer, so that's the goal, to be up there and believe in yourself. I belong up there, it just takes a little time sometimes to get up there. I've hit some really good rounds earlier this season, so it's been there, it's just been kind of up and down. But I talked to my coach the other day and he told me to hit a lot of shots, fades, draws and not worry about mechanics. It's been working out pretty good.” – **Daniel Stringfellow**

“I figured the cut was going to be 6 or 7 (under), so you can't come out here playing defensively. You try to make as many birdies as you can and see what happens.” – **Ian Holt**

“I enjoy a challenge, but I mean, you've just got to have a lot of offense, really. You've got to make a lot of birdies and you can't make bogeys. That's what everybody else is doing out here. Obviously I'm in a good spot for this weekend, and I can work from here.” – **Zach Wright**

“It was pretty good. The front nine could have been a lot better, too. I just couldn't get anything going, really. I had it in there close a few times, missed probably a 3- and 6-footer for birdie and just didn't have any momentum going. I made the turn, made a putt on 10 and on the back nine I was kind of making them from everywhere.” – **Michael Gligic**

“The tee was up so it was 195 (yards) today. It was a perfect 6-iron to land right in between the front bunker and the pin. It just landed about three or four feet short right of the pin and trickled right in. I got to see it disappear. It was awesome. It's my first one in a tournament round, (but) I've had four other ones.” – **Josh Hart on his hole-in-one, on the par-3 11th hole**

“I feel like I squeezed some shots out of today. It felt like it was representative of how I played. Yesterday was a little bit of a different story, (when) I gave a few shots back and just didn't feel

as comfortable putting. But today I felt a little bit better and capitalized on the par-5s. I hit it in every fairway with good drives. I didn't have any eagles, but I birdied all of them. So that was good." – **Tyler McCumber**

"I've said it a few times in interviews this year that the level of play is just getting better. But I think it's getting better everywhere, though. The (PGA) TOUR is getting better, the Web.com (Tour), everywhere is just going to the next level. Guys are coming out of college now and they're not scared. They're not scared to go low. They're not playing in the middle of the green. They're firing at pins, and if they're on, they shoot 64. And if they're not, they have really good short games and they shoot 69." – **Tyler McCumber**

"For 6-under to be the cutline, it's pretty amazing. It just shows how good these guys are. It makes you think, to keep climbing, the guys that are on the TOUR, Tiger Woods and the (Brooks) Koepkas of the world, how good they must be. It's pretty cool to see these guys at this young stage doing that, and I'm excited to follow them into the future." – **Mark Scheifele**

You Should Know

David Pastore shot a 5-under 67 Friday to move to 12 under overall, good for a tie for second. He is currently projected to move up 73 spots to No. 43 in the Order of Merit. The top 60 players at the end of the year will retain exempt status for the following season and play their way into the season-ending Freedom 55 Financial Championship. Entering this week, Pastore sat at No. 116.

Second-Round Weather: Sunny. High of 26. Wind S at 10 kph.