



2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
(The 21st of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Puntacana Resort & Club (Corales Course)

March 22-25, 2018
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,670

Purse: \$3,000,000

Second-Round Notes – Friday, March 23, 2018

Weather: *Partly cloudy, with a high of 84. Wind E 8-14 mph.*

36-hole cut: 81 professionals at 1-under 143 from a field of 130 professionals and two amateurs.

Second-Round Leaderboard

Brice Garnett	63-68—131 (-13)
Steve Wheatcroft	66-66—132 (-12)
Keith Mitchell	66-66—132 (-12)
Xinjun Zhang	66-68—134 (-10)
Seungsu Han	67-67—134 (-10)

Brice Garnett

Following an opening-round 9-under 63, good for a 1-stroke lead, Brice Garnett posted a bogey-free, 4-under 68 in round two to maintain a 1-stroke edge. Garnett and Steve Wheatcroft are the only players in the field to remain bogey-free.

After making birdie on four of his first seven holes, Garnett finished his round with 11 straight pars.

Prior to this week, Garnett's only lead after any round on the PGA TOUR was following round two of the Fort Worth Invitational. He finished T30.

Garnett, a Gallatin, Missouri native, missed the cut at last year's Web.com Tour event played at Corales Puntacana after rounds of 73-67.

In 12 previous starts this season, Garnett has claimed two top-25 finishes (T17/Safeway Open, T25/OHL Classic at Mayakoba). He comes into the week at No. 110 in the FedExCup standings.

Two Web.com Tour wins last season (Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz) contributed to Garnett's No. 2 position in the final priority-ranking order. He secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2017-18 season with a first-place finish on the 2017 Web.com Tour Regular Season money list.

Garnett is seeking his first PGA TOUR victory in his 88th career start. He is in search of his fifth top-10 finish and first since the 2015 OHL Classic at Mayakoba (7th).

Second-Round Lead Notes

Through 19 events this season, four second-round leaders/co-leaders have held on for the win, but not since Austin Cook at The RSM Classic last November.

In the 2016 and 2017 Web.com Tour events contested at Corales Puntacana , 16-under 128 and 14-under 130 were the 36-hole leads, respectively.

Steve Wheatcroft

On the heels of seven-consecutive missed cuts, Steve Wheatcroft birdied his last hole of the day, No. 18, to post a second-consecutive 6-under 66 and move to 12-under 132.

For the second round in a row, Wheatcroft found 13 of 14 fairways.

In 160 career starts on the PGA TOUR, this week's total of 12-under-par ties his best 36-hole score to start an event since the 2015 CareerBuilder Challenge (T2).

Wheatcroft secured his TOUR card for the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season by virtue of a 21st-place finish on the Web.com Tour Finals money list (excluding the 25). He made 17 starts on the PGA TOUR last season, with his lone top-10 showing being a T10 at the FedEx St. Jude Classic.

Dating to his first TOUR start in 2001, Wheatcroft's best finish is a T2 at the 2015 CareerBuilder Challenge.

Keith Mitchell

Former University of Georgia golfer Keith Mitchell followed a 6-under 66 in round one with another in Friday's second round.

Mitchell is making his 11th start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, his rookie campaign. His best showing is a T25 at the Sony Open in Hawaii. In his only other start on TOUR, he finished T11 at the 2017 Valspar Championship, where he Monday qualified.

Mitchell earned his TOUR card for the season after notching six top-10s on last year's Web.com Tour and finishing 21st on that Tour's priority list.

Mitchell made 15 starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica in 2015, where he collected five top-10 finishes.

In round three, Mitchell will be paired with Steve Wheatcroft and 36-hole leader Brice Garnett. The last time Mitchell and Garnett were paired together was in the final round of last year's WinCo Foods Portland Open which, incidentally, was won by Garnett.

Xinjun Zhang

PGA TOUR rookie Xinjun Zhang followed a 6-under 66 in round one with a 4-under 68 in round two to get to 10-under 134.

Through 36 holes, Xinjun Zhang has made 11 birdies and just one bogey.

Zhang, who is coming off three straight missed cuts, remains in search of his first top-10 finish of the season. His best so far is a T20 at the OHL Classic at Mayakoba.

Zhang earned his 2017-18 PGA TOUR card by finishing 20th on the Web.com Tour Regular Season money list. In addition to two wins on PGA TOUR China, he has collected six runner-up finishes, making him that Tour's all-time leading money-winner.

Zhang joined Zecheng Dou as the first players from China to earn a PGA TOUR card.

Seungsu Han

In just his third career start on the PGA TOUR, Seungsu Han posted a second-straight 5-under 67 to get to 10-under 134. Han's scorecard this week is a tale of two nines. He is 10-under-par on the front nine and even-par on the inward nine holes.

In 2017, Han won the Casio World Open on the Japan Golf Tour, one of seven top-five finishes that helped vault him to No. 4 on the Japan Golf Tour money list.

Currently No. 85 in the Official World Golf Ranking, the 31-year-old, former UNLV golfer was born in South Korea but is a United States citizen.

Additional Player Notes

In search of his seventh career PGA TOUR title and first since the 2014 THE NORTHERN TRUST, Hunter Mahan made seven birdies and no bogeys, good for a second-round 65. Coupled with an opening-round score of even-par 72, Mahan will head into round three six strokes back. Mahan's 65 is his lowest score to par since a third-round 64 (-7) in round three of the 2015 Dell Technologies Championship (T4).

Shawn Stefani aced the 17th hole from 171 yards with a 7-iron. Stefani opened with scores of 68-72—140 (-4) and will begin the third round nine strokes back.

A few hours after Shawn Stefani's ace, Harris English also used a 7-iron to ace No. 17. It marked his first ace on the PGA TOUR. At 4-under 140 through 36 holes, English will head into Saturday's third round nine strokes back.

Harris English became the third player to make an ace this week. The last TOUR event to feature three aces was the 2017 Dell Technologies Championship.

Emiliano Grillo, a Puntacana Resort ambassador and the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 75 in the Official World Golf Ranking, posted scores of 72-68—140 (-4). This week marks his 10th consecutive made cut, tying the current best on TOUR with Adam Hadwin and James Hahn. Hadwin and Hahn are both competing in this week's World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play.

Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and current NFL on CBS analyst Tony Romo posted scores of 77-82—159 (+15) to miss the cut.

Five players from the Dominican Republic are in the field this week; Julio Santos (-2/T58), Rhadames Pena (+9/MC), Willy Pumarol (+7/MC), George Riley (+6/MC) and Hiram Silfa (+3/MC).

Julio Santos, 45, the only player from the Dominican Republic to make the cut, made history in Dominican golf by participating in the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open in 2010 (MC). He won the right to represent the Dominican Republic on the PGA TOUR, after qualifying in the elimination tournament held by the Dominican Golf Federation (Fedogolf), at the end of December 2009 in La Estancia Golf Course in La Romana. He's posted one top-10 in 31 career starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica.

Miscellaneous Notes

Scoring Averages:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	34.742	36.583	71.326	--
R2	34.758	36.538	71.295	71.311

The par-3 second hole ranked as the hardest hole in round two with an average of 3.288. The easiest was the par-5 seventh, with played to an average of 4.356.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1 – Brice Garnett (63), Brendon de Jonge (66), Paul Dunne (67), Martin Flores (68), Michael Kim (68), Kelly Kraft (68), Julio Santos (70), Steve Wheatcroft (66), Xinjun Zhang (66).

R2 – Hunter Mahan (65), Steve Wheatcroft (66), Keith Mitchell (66), Trey Mullinax (66), Abraham Ancer (67), Matt Jones (67), K.J. Choi (68), Brice Garnett (68), Denny McCarthy (69), Ethan Tracy (69), Tim Herron (70), Tyler McCumber (70).