



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

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, March 25, 2018

Weather: *Cloudy, with scattered showers throughout the day. High of 82. Wind NE 15-20 mph, with gusts to 25 mph.*

Final-Round Leaderboard

Brice Garnett	63-68-69-70—270 (-18)
Keith Mitchell	66-66-75-67—274 (-14)
Kelly Kraft	68-69-71-67—275 (-13)

Brice Garnett

Following a career-low, 9-under 63 in round one that would set the pace, Brice Garnett followed with scores of 68-69-70—270 (-18) to win the inaugural Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship in wire-to-wire fashion. The last to lead outright after each round en route to victory on the PGA TOUR was Marc Leishman at the 2017 BMW Championship.

Garnett claims his first career PGA TOUR victory in his 88th start at the age of 34 years, 6 months, 19 days.

With the win, Garnett collects 300 FedExCup points and moves from 110th to No. 35 in the standings with 461 points. It took 365 points to qualify for the FedExCup Playoffs in 2017, 483 to qualify for Dell Technologies Championship, 689 for BMW Championship and 1,322 for the TOUR Championship.

Garnett's victory comes with a two-year exemption to the PGA TOUR, carrying him through the 2019-20 season.

With the win, Garnett earns 300 points towards making the 2019 U.S. Presidents Cup team.

Garnett's win earns him a spot into the following 2017-18 season events (in order of play): RBC Heritage, THE PLAYERS Championship, Fort Worth Invitational, the Memorial Tournament, The National, PGA Championship.

Garnett earns a spot into the following 2018-19 season events (in order of play): Sentry Tournament of Champions, CareerBuilder Challenge, Arnold Palmer Invitational and RBC Heritage.

With the win, Garnett becomes the fifth first-time winner of the 2017-18 season, joining Ryan Armour (Sanderson Farms Championship), Patrick Cantlay (Shriners Hospitals for Children Open), Patton Kizzire (OHL Classic at Mayakoba) and Austin Cook (The RSM Classic).

Prior to this week, Garnett's only lead after any round on the PGA TOUR was following round two of the 2014 Fort Worth Invitational. He finished T30.

Through 20 events this season, nine third-round leaders/co-leaders have now held on for the win. The last to do so before this week was Bubba Watson at the Genesis Open.

Garnett played the front nine this week in 14-under and the back nine in 5-under.

With the win, Garnett secures his fifth career top-10 result and first since the 2015 OHL Classic at Mayakoba (7th).

With 23, Garnett led the field with the most birdies this week.

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

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.

2017-18 starts-made cuts-top-10s-wins: 13-9-1-1

PGA TOUR career starts-made cuts-top-10s-wins: 88-48-5-1

Garnett's stats for the week:

R1 – 13 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens in regulation, 4/4 scrambling, 24 putts.

R2 – 11 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens in regulation, 5/5 scrambling, 27 putts.

R3 – 10 of 14 fairways, 10 of 18 greens in regulation, 4/7 scrambling, 26 putts.

R4 – 11 of 14 fairways, 11 of 18 greens in regulation, 5/7 scrambling, 25 putts.

About Brice Garnett

Height: 5-11

Weight: 175

Birthdate: September 6, 1983

Family: Single

Birthplace: Gallatin, Missouri

Residence: Gallatin, Missouri

Education: Missouri Western State University (2006)

Turned Pro: 2006

Joined TOUR: 2014

Web.com Tour Graduate: 2013, 2017

Keith Mitchell

Former University of Georgia golfer and PGA TOUR rookie Keith Mitchell birdied his 72nd hole, No. 18, to post a 5-under 67 and finish solo-second at 14-under 274. The par-4 18th ranked as the toughest hole of the week (4.247). Mitchell was one of just three players to birdie No. 18 in the final round (J.T. Poston, D.J. Trahan).

Mitchell's runner-up finish marked his first top-10 showing in 12 career starts on the PGA TOUR. His best finish on TOUR before this week was a T11 at the 2017 Valspar Championship in his first-ever TOUR start into which 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.

Kelly Kraft

With five birdies and no bogeys, Texas native Kelly Kraft posted a final-round 67 to finish alone in third place at 13-under 275.

Kraft was making his 13th start of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season. His third-place finish this week marks his second top-10 showing of the season (T8/The Honda Classic).

Kraft, who collected three top-10 finishes in the 2016-17 season to finish 72nd in the FedExCup standings, moves to No. 72 with this week's finish in the Dominican Republic.

Kraft was making his 73rd TOUR start this week, with a solo-second at the 2017 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am his best showing.

Additional Player Notes

In his second-consecutive PGA TOUR start, TOUR rookie Corey Connors found himself in the final group on Sunday and again unable to close with a sub-par score. At the Valspar Championship two weeks ago, he held a 1-stroke lead headed into the final round, before a 6-over 77 resulted in a T16 finish. This week, he trailed by two strokes, before a Sunday 4-over 76 resulted in a T13 showing.

In his PGA TOUR debut, former Florida Gator golfer Tyler McCumber posted scores of 67-70-67-75—279 (-9) to finish T19. He began the final round four strokes off the lead, solo-third and in the day's final pairing. McCumber is the son of 10-time PGA TOUR winner, Mark McCumber.

With their top-10 finishes, Paul Dunne (T5) and Seungsu Han (T5) earned spots into this week's Houston Open field as non-exempt players with Top-10 finishes. Denny McCarthy, who was on the alternate list in Houston, also earned a spot in the field with his solo-fourth-place finish.

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 72-68-73-72—285 (-3) to finish T50.

Julio Santos, 45, the only player from the Dominican Republic to make the 36-hole cut, posted scores of 70-72-74-76—292 (+4) to finish T73.

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
R3	35.333	36.938	72.272	71.536
R4	35.000	36.329	71.329	71.555

The par-4 18th hole ranked as the hardest hole this week with an average of 4.247. The easiest was the par-5 seventh, which played to an average of 4.437.

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).

R3 – Harris English (67), Tyler McCumber (67).

R4 – K.J. Choi (66), Abraham Ancer (67), Joel Dahmen (67), Kelly Kraft (67), J.T. Poston (67), Shawn Stefani (68), Rory Sabbatini (69), Tommy Gainey (70).