



2017 Safeway Open
(1st of 43 events in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season)

Napa, Calif. October 2-8, 2017
Silverado Resort and Spa (North)

Purse: \$6,000,000
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,166

First-Round Notes – Thursday, October 5, 2017

Weather: Sunny, with a high of 84. Wind SW 5-10 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Brendan Steele	65 (-7)
Tyler Duncan	65 (-7)
Tom Hoge	65 (-7)

Brendan Steele

Defending Safeway Open champion Brendan Steele made six birdies, an eagle-three at No. 5 and one bogey (No. 6) en route to a 7-under 65.

For the second straight round at Silverado, dating to last year's final round, Steele birdied Nos. 16-18 en route to a 7-under 65.

Steele hit 12 of 14 fairways in regulation and was a perfect 18-for-18 into the greens.

In 2015, Steele began the final round of the Safeway Open with a one-stroke lead, before a 4-over 76 resulted in a T17. Last year, he began the final round four strokes back, before his 7-under 65 Sunday resulted in his one-stroke win over Patton Kizzire.

Last year's win at the Safeway Open was Steele's second on the PGA TOUR (2011 Valero Texas Open).

Dating to its 2007 inception, the Safeway Open has never produced a repeat winner.

Steele is coming off a 2016-17 PGA TOUR Season defined by four top-10 finishes in 25 starts. He advanced to the third of four FedExCup Playoffs events, the BMW Championship, before ending his season ranked 33rd in the FedExCup standings.

Tyler Duncan

In just his second-ever PGA TOUR start, TOUR rookie Tyler Duncan birdied his last three holes, Nos. 16-18, en route to a 7-under 65. He also holed out for an eagle-2 at No. 10 from 119 yards. His lone bogey of the day came at the par-5 ninth hole.

On the Web.com Tour last season, the 28-year-old Duncan recorded four top-10 finishes, highlighted by second- and third-place showings in back-to-back starts.

Since 2014, Duncan has split his time between the Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR Latinoamerica.

Duncan, a 2012 Purdue University grad, earned his PGA TOUR card this season by virtue of his 23rd-place finish on the Web.com Tour priority list.

In his only other start on the PGA TOUR, Duncan missed the cut at the 2015 U.S. Open.

Tom Hoge

With seven birdies and no bogeys, Tom Hoge opened with a 65 to claim a share of the 18-hole lead with PGA TOUR rookie Tyler Duncan and defending Safeway Open champion Brendan Steele.

This marks the fourth time Hoge has held a lead/co-lead after 18 holes. Of the previous three, he has not finished better than 34th.

Hoge's 65 is his lowest score in relation to par on the PGA TOUR since posting the same number in round two of the Puerto Rico Open earlier this year in March (T10).

In two previous starts at the Safeway Open, Hoge missed the cut in 2015 and 2016.

Hoge's career-best finish on the PGA TOUR, T4, came at the Barracuda Championship this past August under the Modified Stableford scoring format.

Miscellaneous Notes

In his first start on the PGA TOUR since his mandatory two years of military service in his native South Korea, 2014 Safeway Open winner Sangmoon Bae opened with a 1-over 73. Bae is playing under a Mandatory Obligation Extension, which goes in the same category as Major Medical for purposes of priority ranking. He has 27 events to earn 365.252 FedExCup points to reach the top 125 from last season's FedExCup points list.

Despite hitting just two of 14 fairways in regulation, World Golf Hall of Fame Member Phil Mickelson made five birdies and two bogeys, good for a 3-under 69. He opened last year's Safeway Open with three-consecutive 69s en route to a T8 finish.

Making his first professional start on the PGA TOUR, 2017 Stanford grad Maverick McNealy opened with a 4-under 68. The 21-year-old has made eight starts as an amateur before this week, with a T44 at the John Deere Classic his best showing.

Making his first start in the Safeway Open, Zach Johnson made five birdies against just one bogey (par-3 second hole) to open with a 68. He missed only three fairways and two greens in regulation.

All 22 of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR rookies are in this week's field. The lowest score of them was a 7-under 65, posted by Tyler Duncan.

This week's Safeway Open marks the 32nd PGA TOUR or PGA TOUR Champions event hosted by Silverado Resort and Spa; 1968-1976 Kaiser International Open Invitational, 1977-1980 Anheuser-Busch Golf Classic, 1989-2002 The Transamerica on PGA TOUR Champions and 2014-17 Safeway Open.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Tom Hoge (65), Emiliano Grillo (67), Ryan Moore (68), Zac Blair (69), Brian Davis (70), Harris English (70).

Scoring Averages at the par-72 Silverado Resort and Spa (North):

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	36.236	35.729	71.965	---

Morning Scoring Average: 71.99

Afternoon Scoring Average: 71.94