

At last year's Safeway Open, Patton Kizzire held the 54-hole lead by one stroke over Scott Piercy and Johnson Wagner at 15-under 201. In 2015, Brendan Steele led by one stroke through three rounds at 14-under over Andrew Loupe and Kevin Na.

The 54-hole record at the Safeway Open belongs to Troy Matteson (194 in 2009).

The 54-hole leader has gone on to victory three times at the Safeway Open – Sangmoon Bae/2015, Rocco Mediate/2010 and Troy Matteson/2009.

Sangmoon Bae's four-stroke lead in 2015 is the largest 54-hole lead at the Safeway Open, while Brendan Steele's win from four strokes back last year is the largest come-from-behind win in tournament history.

Chesson Hadley

A day after posting the course-record 11-under 61 (also matching the tournament record), Chesson Hadley mixed six birdies with four bogeys for a 2-under 70 in the third round to sit in second. He will head into the final round trailing Tyler Duncan by one stroke.

Hadley split his time between the PGA TOUR (eight starts) and Web.com Tour (19 starts) last season. On the Web.com Tour, he claimed two wins (LECOM Health Challenge, Albertsons Boise Open) and had two playoff losses (Rex Hospital Open, DAP Championship). As a result, he finished first on the Web.com Tour priority list. Hadley has claimed one win on the PGA TOUR, the 2014 Puerto Rico Open.

Last week, Hadley and his wife Amanda, along with Scott and Allison Brown, announced that they would be donating an undisclosed amount of money for every birdie and eagle made at this week's Safeway Open to aid in the Puerto Rico recovery efforts following Hurricane Maria. Brown won the 2013 Puerto Rico Open.

Bud Cauley

Former University of Alabama standout Bud Cauley hit 15 of 18 greens for the third consecutive day but required just 27 putts for a bogey-free 6-under 66 to sit T3 with Brendan Steele. After recording three bogeys in his first eight holes of the tournament, Cauley has not posted a bogey in his last 46 consecutive holes.

Cauley is seeking to improve on the third-place finish he recorded in his debut at the Safeway Open in 2011. He's never finished better than T50 in three additional starts in this event. The third-place finish matches one of three top-three results in 122 career starts on the PGA TOUR (T3/2017 CareerBuilder Challenge, 3rd/2012 Wyndham Championship, 3rd/2011 Safeway Open).

Last season, Cauley posted five top-10s, including a season-best T3 at the CareerBuilder Challenge. He advanced through three FedExCup Playoffs events and finished No. 65 in the FedExCup.

Brendan Steele

Defending champion Brendan Steele made two birdies and two bogeys, including a dropped shot at the 54th hole, to post an even-par 72 to sit T3 with Bud Cauley.

The Safeway Open has never produced a repeat winner.

Since moving to the Silverado Resort and Spa in 2015, Steele is the most under par of any player at 47-under par. He leads Kevin Na (-39), Martin Laird (-37) and Tony Finau, who is 36-under-par.

After hitting 34 of 36 greens in regulation through the first two rounds, Steele hit just 11 in round three.

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

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.

Miscellaneous Notes

Argentina's Emiliano Grillo is enjoying a return to the site of his maiden PGA TOUR win the week after representing the International Team at the Presidents Cup at Liberty National Golf Club in New Jersey. Grillo, who defeated Kevin Na in a playoff for the Safeway Open title in 2015, sits T5 after rounds of 67-70-68. He finished T26 while attempting to defend his title last year and has now recorded all 11 rounds at Silverado under par.

Making his fifth appearance at the Safeway Open, Canada's Graham DeLaet (T5) owns 15 of 17 rounds of par-or-better at this event (75/R2/2017, 77/R4/2016). His best result in four previous starts here is T6 in his debut in 2010.

The highlight for Delaet last season was a T7 at the PGA Championship, his first top-10 result in eight career major championship appearances. It was one of six top-10s last season for DeLaet, who finished No. 76 in the FedExCup.

For the third straight day, 42-time PGA TOUR winner Phil Mickelson posted a round on the 60s (69-69-68) to get to 10-under 206 and sit T7. He opened last year's Safeway Open with three-consecutive 69s en route to a T8 finish. Ten of Mickelson's last 11 rounds on the TOUR have been in the 60s (1-under 70/R4/2017 BMW Championship).

Making his first professional start on the PGA TOUR, 2017 Stanford grad Maverick McNealy (68-71-73) sits T46 through 54 holes. The 21-year-old made eight starts as an amateur before this week, with a T44 at the 2017 John Deere Classic his best showing.

Of all 22 2017-18 PGA TOUR rookies in this week's field, nine advanced to the third round with Tyler Duncan leading the tournament at 14-under. Other rookies to advance to the weekend include; Tom Lovelady (T55), Corey Connors (T21), Stephen Jaeger (T63), Talor Gooch (T46), Ben Silverman (T46), Xinjun Zhang (T46), Brandon Harkins (T41), Beau Hossler (72nd).

Starting from the 10th tee, Ted Potter, Jr. jumped from the 36-hole cutline (1-under 143) to T17 after a bogey-free third-round 7-under 65, the low round of the day.

Bogey-free rounds:

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

R2: Bill Haas (65), Tony Finau (65), Zac Blair (66), Andrew Putnam (66), Rick Lamb (67), Sung Kang (68), Bud Cauley (69), Corey Connors (69), Luke List (70).

R3: Bud Cauley (66), Martin Laird (69), Chris Kirk (68), Bronson Burgoon (69), Ted Potter, Jr. (65).

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

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	36.236	35.729	71.965	---
R2:	35.761	35.275	71.035	71.500
R3:	35.387	35.400	70.787	71.355

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