



**2017 Safeway Open**  
*(1<sup>st</sup> of 45 events in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season)*

**Napa, Calif.**  
**Silverado Resort and Spa (North)**

**October 2-8, 2017**

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

**Final-Round Notes – Sunday, October 8, 2017**

*Weather: Sunny, with a high of 83. Wind NNE 15-25 mph, gusting to 30 mph.*

**Final-Round Leaderboard**

Brendan Steele	65-67-72-69—273 (-15)
Tony Finau	70-65-71-69—275 (-13)
Phil Mickelson	69-69-68-70—276 (-12)
Chesson Hadley	72-61-70-73—276 (-12)

**Brendan Steele**

Defending champion Brendan Steele became the first repeat winner of the Safeway Open with a 72-hole winning score of 15-under 273 at Silverado Resort & Spa. After entering the day T3 and trailing 54-hole leader Tyler Duncan (T5) by two strokes, Steele carded a 3-under 69 Sunday for a two-stroke win over Tony Finau.

Steele collects his third PGA TOUR victory (2011 Valero Texas Open, 2016 and 2017 Safeway Open) in his 178<sup>th</sup> start at the age of 34 years, six months and three days.

With the victory, Steele takes the early lead in the FedExCup with 500 points, with Tony Finau 200 points behind.

Steele wins for the second time in seven starts at the Safeway Open (T7-2011, MC-2012, MC-2013, T21-2014, T17-2015, 1-2016, 1-2017).

Both of Steele's victories at the Safeway Open have been in come-from-behind fashion. He was four behind Patton Kizzire in 2016 and subsequently established the largest come-from-behind victory at the Safeway Open. This season, he trailed Tyler Duncan by two strokes with 18 holes to play.

Here's a look at Steele's position through three rounds in his last three starts at the Safeway Open (1-2015/finished T17, T6-2016/won, T3-2017/won).

Since moving to the Silverado Resort and Spa in 2015, Steele is the most under par of any player at 50-under par.

Steele is the first player to successfully defend his title on the PGA TOUR since Jhonattan Vegas did so at the RBC Canadian Open (2016, 2017).

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 33<sup>rd</sup> in the FedExCup standings.

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

PGA TOUR career starts-made cuts-top-10s-wins: 178-125-23-3

**Steele's Statistics By Round:**

R1:	12/14 fairways, 18/18 greens, 32 putts, 0/0 scrambling
R2:	7/14 fairways, 16/18 greens, 30 putts, 2/2 scrambling
R3:	11/14 fairways, 11/18 greens, 31 putts, 5/7 scrambling
R4:	8/14 fairways, 12/18 greens, 28 putts, 4/6 scrambling

**Steele's Strokes Gained Summary (week):**

Off-the-Tee	+6.165 (1)
Tee-to-Green	+12.239 (1)
Approach-the-Green	+6.358 (1)

Around-the-Green	-0.283 (48)
Putting	+2.241 (29)
<b>Total</b>	<b>+14.480 (1)</b>

### **About Brendan Steele**

**Height/Weight:** 6-2, 175

**Birthday:** April 5, 1983

**Birthplace:** Idyllwild, Calif.

**Residence:** Irvine, Calif.

**Family:** Wife, Anastassia

**Turned professional:** 2005

**Joined TOUR:** 2011

**Web.com Tour graduate:** 2010

### **Third-Round Lead Notes**

The 54-hole leader has gone on to victory three times at the Safeway Open – Sangmoon Bae/2014, Rocco Mediate/2010 and Troy Matteson/2009.

Sangmoon Bae's four-stroke lead in 2014 is the largest 54-hole lead at the Safeway Open, while Brendan Steele's win from four strokes back in 2016 is the largest come-from-behind win in tournament history.

### **Additional Player Notes**

Despite a double bogey on the par-4 14<sup>th</sup> hole, 2016 Puerto Rico Open winner Tony Finau recorded a 3-under 69 to finish in second place and two strokes behind champion Brendan Steele. His first runner-up finish on the PGA TOUR comes in his fourth start at the Safeway Open (T12-2014, T32-2015, T26-2016, 2-2017). Finau is coming off a career-best No. 19 finish in the 2017 FedExCup, having finished No. 45 in 2016 and No. 43 in 2015.

With rounds of 69-69-68-70 (including a tournament-best 23 birdies along with Chesson Hadley), 42-time PGA TOUR winner Phil Mickelson finished T3 and three strokes behind Brendan Steele. It marks his second-consecutive top-10 finish at the Safeway Open, having finished T8 in 2016. Mickelson's last 12 rounds on the TOUR have been at par-or-better, with this week marking his 91<sup>st</sup> start since his last win at the 2013 Open Championship.

In a week highlighted by a course-record 11-under 61 (also matching the tournament record) during the second round, Chesson Hadley posted a 1-over 73 Sunday to finish T3. In addition to sharing third-place honors with Phil Mickelson, the two players also led the field this week with 23 birdies. 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 he finished first on the Web.com Tour priority list.

Making his fifth appearance at the Safeway Open, Canada's Graham DeLaet (T5) owns 16 of 18 rounds of par-or-better at this event (75/R2/2017, 77/R4/2016). Prior to this week's fifth-place effort, his previous-best result at the Safeway Open was 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.

In just his second PGA TOUR start (missed the cut at the 2015 U.S. Open), rookie Tyler Duncan posted a final-round 3-over 75 to finish T5, four strokes behind champion Brendan Steele. Duncan shared the first-round lead after an opening 7-under 65, held the outright lead after round two at 13-under 131 and entered the final round at 14-under 202, one stroke ahead of Chesson Hadley. Duncan, who is getting married to Maria Krempf on October 21 in Indiana, earned his PGA TOUR card this season by virtue of his 23<sup>rd</sup>-place finish on the Web.com Tour priority list.

Andrew Landry finished a career-best T7 for just his second top-10 finish in 20 PGA TOUR starts (T8-2016 John Deere Classic). Landry's week was highlighted by two eagles, which included a 39'7" eagle putt on the final hole Sunday en route to his third-consecutive round of 3-under 69 (after opening with a 1-under 71).

Bud Cauley, who had a third-place finish in his debut at the 2011 Safeway Open in 2011, finished T7 this week for his first top-10 finish since recording four consecutive top-10 finishes last season at the RBC Heritage (T9), Valero Texas Open (T10), Zurich Classic of New Orleans (T5) and AT&T Byron Nelson (T5). Overall last season, Cauley posted five top-10s, including a season-best T3 at the CareerBuilder Challenge, as he advanced through three FedExCup Playoffs events and finished No. 65 in the FedExCup.

2017 Barbasol Championship winner Grayson Murray turned in a final-round 3-under 69 to finish T9. He missed the cut in his Safeway Open debut in 2016 with rounds of 72-73.

Two of Tyrone Van Aswegen's four career top-10 finishes have come at the Safeway Open (T3-2015, T9-2017). He has made five starts at this event.

PGA TOUR rookie Brandon Harkins (T9) birdied his last two holes Sunday to cap off a 4-under 68, notching his first top-10 finish in just his second start (T59 at the 2016 U.S. Open).

After missing the cut in his first three starts at the Safeway Open (2014, 2015, 2016), Canadian Nick Taylor finished T9 this week for his first top-10 finish since recording the same result at the 2017 Greenbrier Classic.

Making his 50<sup>th</sup> start since his last top-10 finish on the PGA TOUR (T4 at the 2015 Dell Technologies Championship), Hunter Mahan (T13) missed cracking the top 10 by a single stroke following a final-round 2-under 70. Mahan closed his 2016-17 season with a T16 at the Wyndham Championship.

Xinjun Zhang finished T37, becoming the first-ever full PGA TOUR member from China to play all four rounds in a TOUR event.

Making his first professional start on the PGA TOUR, 2017 Stanford grad Maverick McNealy finished T52 with rounds of 68-71-73-74. 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.

John Daly finished 72<sup>nd</sup> this week at the Safeway Open, his 13<sup>th</sup> start since his last made cut on the PGA TOUR (2015 Puerto Rico/T10).

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

Of the 22 2017-18 PGA TOUR rookies in this week's field, here's the final result of the nine who made the cut: Tyler Duncan (T5), Brandon Harkins (T9), Corey Connors (T30), Stephen Jaeger (T30), Xinjun Zhang (T37), Tom Lovelady (T43), Ben Silverman (T43), Talor Gooch (T54), Beau Hossler (74).

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).

R4: None

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

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
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
R4:	37.400	36.293	73.693	71.757