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| **Second-Round Leaderboard** |  |
| **Changsha Championship** |  |
| **Pos.** | **Name** | **Scores** |
| 1 | Kurt Kitayama (U.S.) | 69-65—134 (-10) |
| 2 | Daxing Jin (China) | 70-67—137 (-7) |
| T3 | Hongfu Wu (China) | 68-70—138 (-6) |
| T3 | Charlie Saxon (U.S.) | 70-68—138 (-6) |
| T5 | Chiehpo Lee (Chinese Taipei) | 69-70—139 (-5) |
| T5 | Beonyeong Lee (Canada) | 68-71—139 (-5) |
| T5 | a-Bi Liu (China) | 68-71—139 (-5) |
| T5 | Ryann Ree (U.S.) | 68-71—139 (-5) |

**Kitayama shoots 65 to take halfway lead at Changsha Championship**

CHANGSHA, CHINA—Making his PGA TOUR Series-China debut, American Kurt Kitayama carded a tournament-low 7-under 65 Friday to move to 10-under and open up a three-stroke lead at the halfway stage of the RMB 1.5 million Changsha Championship, the third event of the season.

Kitayama is in his first season on the Tour after securing membership at Q-School as he tries to find a way back onto the Web.com Tour, where he played in 2016 and 2017.

The 25-year-old Kitayama sank several long putts at Hunan Dragon Lake International Golf Club on his way to firing eight birdies, including three in a row beginning at No. 7. He dropped his only shot of the day on the par-3 16th to pull ahead of China’s Daxing Jin, who is in second. American Charlie Saxon (68), a two-time PGA TOUR Series-China winner in 2016, and China’s Hongfu Wu (70), fresh from a tie for 37th in the European Tour’s Volvo China Open last week, are both at 6-under and tied for third.

“I tried to just hit as many greens as possible, and today I just made a few longer putts over 20 feet, so I made a couple of those,” said Kitayama. “That was the main difference today. I just made way more putts.”

Kitayama opened his day with a birdie on No. 1 and birdied No. 5 before his three-in-a-row streak bega. He made the turn at 5-under 31.

Chinese amateur and Monday qualifier Bi Liu shot 71 Friday to share fifth with Canada’s Beonyeong Lee American Ryann Ree and Chinese Taipei’s Chiehpo “Max” Lee, who tied for third at the Chongqing Championship in March.

Leading after an opening 66, Jeffrey Kang, who won the season-opening Chengdu Championship, slipped to ninth, at 4-under, after a 74, while Chongqing Championship winner Yi Cao (73-77) of China missed the cut by two. The cut came at 4-over, with 62 players playing on the weekend.

Jin, who teed off on 10, also racked up eight birdies but was let down by a triple bogey on No. 3, a tricky 359-yard par-4.

“It took time to forget the triple bogey. I was thinking about it for the next two or three holes, so I'm happy I did well after that,” said Jin, who managed birdies at Nos. 4 and 7.

Like Kitayama, Saxon played on the Web.com Tour in 2017, having finished second on the 2016 PGA TOUR Series-China Order of Merit. The American teed off on No. 10 and reached 6-under for the day before finishing with back-to-back bogeys.

“I was just a little sharper all around with my ball striking. I didn’t miss a green today. It makes things pretty easy when you’re hitting it on the greens,” said Saxon. “I know that my game is in good shape. I just need to keep knocking on the door, and fortunately I’ve got myself in a good position through 36 holes, and hopefully there will be 36 more good ones.”