**Walsh goes low in Tijuana, takes one-shot lead at 59th Mexican Open**

TIJUANA, Mexico—Sean Walsh began the 59th Mexican Open, facin with g a 15-foot birdie putt on the 10th hole at Club Campestre de Tijuana. Walsh calmly rolled that putt in, and there would be plenty more birdies to follow. Walsh made nine overall—including four in a row to finish his round—to complete his day with an 8-under 62 and a one-shot advantage over fellow American Michael McCabe. Americans Ryan Cole, Chris Williams, Michael McGowan and Colin Featherstone are tied for third, at 6-under, with Argentina’s Matias Simaski and England’s Charlie Bull at 5-under on the tightly bunched leaderboard after day one of Mexico’s national open. Other than a bogey on the par-3 sixth hole, Walsh was flawless in only his fourth PGA TOUR Latinoamerica tournament. It was such a good day that Walsh could even laugh about his eagle putt on No. 15 that did a full turn around the cup before staying out, giving him merely a tap-in birdie.

**Did You Know Sean Walsh**

played collegiate golf at Gonzaga University? As a proud alum of the school, he attended the NCAA Championship game between Gonzaga and North Carolina in Glendale, Arizona, a six-point Gonzaga loss.

**Key Information**

* In his PGA TOUR Latinoamerica debut, Sean Walsh opened 70-70-65 at the 2017 NEC Argentina Classic. He was five off the 54-hole lead set by Julián Etulain. A final-round 72 left Walsh tied for 16th.
* A week ago, at the season-opening Guatemala Stella Artois Open, Sean Walsh made 13 birdies during his 72 holes on his way to a 5-under, tie-for-44th finish. Thursday, Walsh made nine birdies in his first 18 holes.
* In 2017, Sean Walsh’s first season as a professional, he played in 12 Mackenize Tour – PGA TOUR Canada tournaments and finished 102nd on the Order of Merit. His best performance was a tie for 21st at the Staal Foundation Open in mid-July in Thunder Bay, Ontario.
* Michael McCabe played bogey-free golf in the opening round, with seven birdies, three on the front nine and four on the back. Others to deliver bogey-free rounds were Ryan Cole, MJ Maguire, Alberto Sanchez, Kelvin Day and Peter Creighton,
* Michael McGowan is tied for third through 18 holes, and although he only made four birdies—and none on his back nine—he did eagle No. 15 to get to 6-under.
* Chris Killmer had a wild back nine after opening 3-under over his first nine holes. On his 10th hole of the day, No. 1, he made double bogey followed by a par and a bogey. Killmer then righted things, making four birdies on his final six holes.
* Order of Merit leader and Guatemala Stella Artois Open winner Ben Polland opened with a 2-under 68 and is tied for 33rd.

**Quotable**

“The putter got hot today. It was really a good day for the putter.” –Sean Walsh

“I’ve been hitting it good for the last two weeks. In Guatemala I hit it really well. I just wasn’t able to hole any putts. I kept plugging along, kept trusting my process and kept thinking that at some point the putts were going to fall.” –Sean Walsh

“Luckily enough today we started off with me making a 15-footer. That kind of really helped me to get my round going as far as giving me some confidence with the putter, then it started heating up on the back nine. It just kept me going all the way through my round.” –Sean Walsh

**Tournament Fast Fact**

The Abierto Mexicano de Golf, or Mexican Open, made its debut in 1944, with Al Espinosa winning the tournament in Mexico City. Espinosa went on to win the first four tournaments. This is the 59th playing of this event.

**First-Round Weather Report**

Overcast and pleasant, with a high of 66. Wind WNW at 5-9 mph.