**Gallegos, Maguire tied going into weekend in the DR**

PUERTO PLATA, Dominican Republic— Through 36 holes of the Puerto Plata DR Open, Argentina’s Andres Gallegos has played bogey-free golf. Thirty-six holes up and 36 holes down, with nothing but birdies and eagles. Play like that tends to put you near the top of the leaderboard, and that’s exactly where the 22-year-old native of Lobos finds himself, at 12-under and tied with MJ Maguire, who has one bogey on his card but one additional birdie. The duo is two strokes ahead of American Jake McBride as the seventh tournament of the PGA TOUR Latinoamerica season moves to the weekend. Three players—American Jordan Rodgers, Uruguay’s Juan Alvarez and Chile’s Benjamin Alvarado—are tied for fourth, at 8-under.

Gallegos has been spotless since his final round at last week’s Costa Rica Classic. At the event where he tied for 25th, Gallegos shot a final-round 66 and played his last 10 holes in 7-under. Included in that run were six consecutive birdies to finish the tournament. Friday at Playa Dorada Golf Course, Gallegos began his second round similarly to how he played his first. In the opening 18, Gallegos made four consecutive pars before reeling off birdies on Nos. 5 and 6. In the second round, he made five consecutive pars before back-to-back birdies, on Nos. 15 and 16. He continued to roll on the par-5 first hole—his 10th of the day—with an eagle there, adding two more birdies to conclude the day.

Maguire followed his first-round 64 with a 5-under 66, three birdies on the front and three on the back, with his lone bogey at the par-4 11th.

**Did you know**

MJ Maguire is the older brother of Web.com Tour member Jack Maguire? MJ—short for Michael James—is 625 days older that Jack, or one year, eight months and 17 days.

**Key Information**

The cut came at 1-under, with 56 players making it to the weekend. Only seven strokes separate the players who made the cut on the number and the leaders.

Nicolas Echavarria had a nice recovery after a poor first round that saw him shoot a 4-over 75 Thursday. In his second tour around Playa Dorada Golf Course, the Colombian opened with a birdie on No. 1 and made four more birdies and no bogeys for a 66 to make the cut on the number. Conversely, it was a disappointing second round for American Mark Silvers, who opened with a 5-under 66 but faltered to a 76 on the second day, missing the cut.

The top player from the Dominican Republic through two rounds is Julio Santos. He is at 7-under (69-66) and is tied for seventh, two strokes ahead of his countryman Willy Pumarol, who followed his opening 66 with a 71.

MJ Maguire put his drive on No. 6 (his 15th hole) into the rough and the trees. From there he hit, as he called it, “a low squirter” to five feet from the pin on the par-4, setting up a birdie. He then made two additional birdies to complete his round, at Nos. 8 and 9.

Tournament winners to make the cut were Ben Polland (3-under, tied for 25th) and Tyson Alexander (2-under, tied for 35th). Austin Smotherman, Thomas Baik and Cristobal Del Solar missed the cut, and Michael Buttacavoli did not play this week.

**Quotable**

“t’s been nice. The last three tournaments have been good in the Caribbean, on grass that I’m familiar with growing up in Florida. There’s been a little home feel, being close to the water.” –**MJ Maguire**

“The conditions were a little harder today. We had more wind. It was kind of swirling a little bit on the back nine. So it was tough to pick a club.” –**MJ Maguire**

“The conditions were a little harder today. We had more wind. It was kind of swirling a little bit on the back nine. So it was tough to pick a club.” – **MJ Maguire**

“At the beginning of the year, I was struggling a little bit. I think I was putting too much pressure on myself and trying too hard. I just started to enjoy it, seeing all these cool places that I wouldn’t get to see otherwise. I think that’s really helped me be patient instead of going out and grinding on the golf course. That’s all I’m trying to do.” –**Jake McBride**

“I’m just getting started with the pro stuff, trying to feel everything out. It’s all a learning experience for me. I’m trying to learn and grow.” –**Jake McBride**

“It was nice to get a low one in today, and I hope to keep it going for the rest of the week.” –**MJ Maguire**

“It was good fortune to go out early to take advantage of the little wind of the first nine holes. From the start, I hit the ball well and took every opportunity I had to birdie or in the case of the one, eagle.” –**Andres Gallegos**

**Tournament Fast Fact**

The Web.com Tour played two official tournaments in the Dominican Republic, in 2016 and 2017. In its final year of existence, the Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship crowned Nate Lashley champion. A year earlier, Dominic Bozzelli won the inaugural tournament. In 2018, the club began hosting a PGA TOUR event, with Brice Garnett taking the title.

**Second-Round Weather Report**

Partly cloudy, humid and warm, with a high of 83. Wind variable at 8-15 mph.