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### Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Justin Lower	68-63-64—195 (-18)
2	Ben Kohles	66-65-66—197 (-16)
	Vince Covello	63-67-67—197 (-16)
4	Xinjun Zhang	66-64-68—198 (-15)
5	Four tied at	199 (-14)

### Justin Lower takes 54-hole lead at Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS

**BROUSSARD, Louisiana** – Behind the strength of a bogey-free 7-under 64 on Saturday, Justin Lower moved to the top of the leaderboard heading into the final round at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS. With three birdies in his last four holes to reach 18-under 195, Lower will carry a two-stroke advantage into Sunday at Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club.

“This has been the calmest I’ve ever been in all of the tournament rounds I’ve played,” said Lower. “I know what stands in front of me tomorrow. It’s going to be one of the toughest rounds I’ve ever played. I’ve been in the last group on a Sunday before, but I was chasing. I didn’t have the lead. I know what’s in front of me, but the way I’m playing I feel pretty good about it.”

Lower is coming off easily his best season on the Web.com Tour in 2018, scattering seven top-25 finishes across 25 starts. Heartbreak occurred on his last hole of the year at the Web.com Tour Championship as he missed a seven-foot putt for birdie at the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. The putt would have moved him inside the top-25 finishers on the Finals money list and earned him his PGA TOUR card. Instead, the par left him 26<sup>th</sup> on the money list.

The 29-year-old is seeking his best finish on the Web.com Tour and looking to continue his success at Le Triomphe. His previous best was a solo-third finish at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open last year.

“I’m human, so of course I have doubts [about tomorrow],” said Lower. “I’m also a Cleveland sports fan, so I have a ton of doubts. It’s just human nature, especially with this game...But I’ve worked hard on my routine and making it second nature. Everything is working out right now and hopefully it continues for one more day.”

Earlier in the year, Lower might have foreshadowed his success this week while talking to a local legend.

“I love the golf course; it fits my eye really well,” said Lower. “Craig Perks, who is pretty big in this area, asked me in Abaco which tournament I was most looking forward to and it was this one.”

Perks, who still lives on the golf course at Le Triomphe, attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette before a career on the PGA TOUR – including capturing the 2002 PLAYERS Championship. He currently works as a commentator on Golf Channel.



Lower is near the top in several statistical categories. The Malone University alum is T3 in putts per round (27.0), T8 in greens in regulation (44/54) and T17 in fairways hit (24/39). He also leads the field in par-4 scoring average at 3.67.

Vince Covello and Ben Kohles sit tied for second at 16-under 195. Covello ranks first in greens in regulation over the week (49/54, 90.7%), while Kohles ranks second (48/54, 88.9%). Kohles eagled the first before tacking on five more birdies (against two bogeys) for a third-round 5-under 66. Covello made the turn at 4-under 32 and coasted to a 4-under 67 finish.

Lower, Covello and Xinjun Zhang (solo-fourth) are each seeking their first win on the Web.com Tour. Kohles won his first two starts on the Web.com Tour in 2012, but the University of Virginia product has gone 116 starts since without claiming a title. He is the only player in the Web.com Tour's 30-year history to win his first two starts.

#### **SATURDAY NOTES:**

\* Saturday's weather: Sunny, high of 75, winds S/SE at 8-14 miles per hour with gusts up to 20 miles per hour. A fog delay moved tee times from a one-tee start to a two-tee start off of Nos. 1 and 10 from 10:20 a.m. – 12:20 a.m.

\* Saturday's round sprung Justin Lower into a two-stroke lead, the first time he has led a tournament round on the Web.com Tour in his 60<sup>th</sup> career start.

\* Ben Taylor, an LSU alum, had a familiar face caddie for him on Friday after his normal caddie had to fly home for a family emergency. Colby Delahoussaye, the former kicker on LSU's football team, caddied for him during the second round. In the third round, Justin Caldwell, a golfer at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette took the bag. Caldwell is the younger brother of Taylor's former teammate at LSU, Blake Caldwell. Taylor is T23 after three rounds.

\* Zach Edmondson (T38, 7-under) and Jacob Bergeron (T67, 2-under) each continued play after making the cut in their Web.com Tour debuts. Bergeron, who competed at LSU last year as a freshman, turns 21 on Monday.

\* Michael Gellerman (T9) carded 10 birdies, more than any player in a single round this week, on the way to a 7-under 64. It was offset by a back-to-back double bogey and bogey on Nos. 13 and 14, the two toughest holes on the course (by scoring average).

\* At 50 years old, Ken Duke (T15, 11-under) is making his first Web.com Tour start of the year. He has competed once on the PGA TOUR and twice on PGA TOUR Champions this year.

\* Auburn alum Michael Johnson (T5) carded back-to-back 64s on Friday and Saturday to get into contention following a first-round even-par 71.

\* Three of the five champions in 2019 on the Web.com Tour have led or co-led after the third round. In 2018, 10 out of the 26 champions in 72-hole events led or co-led after the third round, including Julián Etulain who led or co-led after every round of the 2018 Chitimacha Louisiana Open.

\* This week's purse is \$550,000, with \$99,000 going to the champion. The champion will also earn 500 points in the Web.com Tour points system.

\* Forty-two former Web.com Tour champions are competing in the field, amounting to 56 victories, as well as 12 PGA TOUR champions (equaling 30 victories).



\* The par-4 13<sup>th</sup> hole (446 yards), nicknamed "Gator's Jaw," ranked as the toughest hole on the course on Saturday with a scoring average of 4.325. The hole ranked as the fourth-toughest hole on the Web.com Tour last year.

\* The par-5 seventh hole (548 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Saturday. The hole played to an average of 4.416.

\* Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club Scoring Averages:

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)	Cumulative
R1	34.826	35.528	70.354	
R2	34.903	34.792	69.694	70.024
R3	34.429	34.623	69.052	69.700

*For highlights from today's round, or any 2019 event visit <http://bit.ly/webcom2019video>*

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