

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 1, 2019 CONTACT: Sean Wildhack, <u>seanwildhack@pgatourhq.com</u>, 315-243-2751

Pos.	Name	Scores			
1	Chris Baker	64-67 – 131 (-10) FC			
T2	Scottie Scheffler	63-69 – 132 (-9) FC			
T2	Ricardo Celia	63-69 – 132 (-9) FC			
T4	Matt Every	64-69 – 133 (-8) FC			
T4	Andrew Novak	71-62 – 133 (-8) PC			
T4	Mark Anderson	62-71 – 133 (-8) FC			

## Second-Round Leaderboard

\*FC – Fundadores Course, PC – Pacos y Fabios Course

## Chris Baker leads after round two at the Country Club de Bogotá Championship

**BOGOTÁ, Colombia** – The second round of the Web.com Tour's Country Club de Bogotá Championship continued Friday with players again playing both the Fundadores and the Pacos y Fabios courses. Chris Baker climbed to the top of the leaderboard using a 4-under 67 on the Fundadores Course. Baker, who started the day T5, had three birdies, an eagle and one bogey in his round.

After a slow start with four pars and a bogey, Baker played his next five holes at 5-under par. The 32-yearold caught fire with birdies on Nos. 6, 7, and 8 followed by an eagle on the par-5 10<sup>th</sup>, where he drained a 40-foot putt. Baker closed out the round with eight consecutive pars and will head into the weekend at 10-under.

"It was a front right pin on No. 10 and my drive landed pretty soft in the fairway." Baker said. "I had to draw a four-iron around a tree that bounced to about 40 feet and then the putt just went in. I wasn't really expecting it, so it was great."

Baker fired a 6-under 64 on the Pacos Course on Thursday and continued his strong play on the more difficult Fundadores Course in the second round. Baker, who has never missed the cut at the Country Club de Bogotá Championship, looks to stay patient heading into the weekend.

"It was a day of staying patient out there," said Baker. "I really enjoy this stretch of golf down here and both courses have their own difficulties. I just need to be patient and let the birdies come."

Sitting one shot behind Baker at 9-under is Web.com Tour rookie Scottie Scheffler and Colombian native Ricardo Celia. Both players shot two-under 69 on the Fundadores Course on Friday. Despite two early bogeys and a front nine 37, Scheffler rebounded with four birdies on the back including three in his final four holes.

"I got off to a pretty bad start today but just tried to stay patient," said Scheffler. I didn't have any good birdie looks until the back nine but got into a little bit of a rhythm on the back and figured out my swing and started making some putts."

Scheffler used birdies on Nos. 10, 15, 16 and 18 to finish the back nine with a 32. The University of Texas standout made headlines as an amateur winning the 2013 U.S. Junior Amateur and was named Phil Mickelson Freshman of the year in 2015. Scheffler is currently ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the Web.com Tour Official Points List and is continuing his strong play after finishing seventh at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club.



"I just have to keep doing what I've been doing," Scheffler said. "I feel like my game is in a good spot and I just need to keep playing confidently and I should be fine."

Scheffler earned guaranteed starts on the Web.com Tour this season with a T34 finish at the Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament and is playing in his first Country Club de Bogotá Championship, although, he doesn't seem to have much trouble adjusting to the elevation.

"The ball is going far this week, that's for sure," he said. "I feel like I got a pretty good feel for my numbers in the beginning of the week and haven't had too much trouble adjusting and hopefully I can keep hitting it solid."

Ricardo Celia also had a slow start to his day with six pars and one bogey in his first seven holes. Celia was able to birdie his eighth and ninth holes to get some momentum going and finished the day with four birdies and two bogeys.

"I had a good birdie on 17 and hit two great shots into 18," said Celia. "I had two birdies coming in late which is a great feeling going into tomorrow."

Celia, who plays mostly on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica was born in Barranquilla, Colombia and has the support of the crowd behind him.

"It's amazing out here," he said. "Playing a Web.com Tour tournament in your home country feels pretty awesome. When Sebastián Muñoz won three years ago, he got to the PGA TOUR so it's a great opportunity for me."

Matt Every, Andrew Novak and Mark Anderson are currently tied for fourth at 8-under par.

## FRIDAY NOTES:

\* Friday's weather: Partly Cloudy, High of 70, Winds E/SE 6-12 mph.

\* This week's purse is \$700,000, with \$126,000 going to the champion.

\* The third and final round will be played on the Country Club de Bogotá's Fundadores Course after first and second rounds being played on both the Fundadores and Pacos y Fabios courses.

\* Leader Chris Baker is making his fourth start in Bogotá, where his best finish was T21 in 2014.

\* Ricardo Celia and Sebastián Muñoz were the only Colombian players in the field to make the cut. Muñoz won the event in 2016.

\* Doug Ghim had the low round of the day with a 9-under 61 on the Pacos y Fabios Course. Four players tied for the low round on the Fundadores Course shooting 67.

\* Andrew Novak shot a 7-under 28 on the back nine of the Pacos y Fabios Couse, birdieing seven holes.

\* The cut came at even par with 80 players advancing to the weekend.

\* The par-5 12<sup>th</sup> hole ranked as the easiest hole on the Pacos y Fabios Course with a scoring average of 4.405. The par-3 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked as the most difficult with a scoring average of 3.446.

\* On the Fundadores Course, the par-5 8 and par-5 18<sup>th</sup> ranked as the easiest holes with both having scoring averages of 4.705. The par-4 13<sup>th</sup> proved to be the most difficult with a scoring average of 4.410. In 2018, the par-4 2<sup>nd</sup> hole ranked as the most difficult while the par-5 10<sup>th</sup> ranked as the easiest.

\* Through 36 holes of play, five former Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada players are inside the top 25, led by Chris Baker.



\* Between the Fundadores and Pacos courses, there were 31 eagles recorded through the first two rounds.

\*Country Club de Bogotá Scoring Averages:

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative			
Fundadores							
R1	35.934	36.539	72.474				
R2	35.744	36.372	72.115	72.295			
Pacos Y Fabios							
R1	34.692	34.064	68.756				
R2	34.405	34.108	68.515	68.635			

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