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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Brian Richey	63 (-9)
T1	Xinjun Zhang	63 (-9)
3	Brady Schnell	64 (-8)
T4	Nine players tied	65 (-7)

Brian Richey and Xinjun Zhang share lead at Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Brian Richey and Xinjun Zhang tied the competitive course record with matching 9-under 63s in the first round of the Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch. Richey and Zhang sit one-stroke clear of Brady Schnell who carded an 8-under 64 on Thursday.

Richey began the day on the front nine with birdies on three of his first five holes. After pars on Nos. 6-10, Richey caught fire and birdied six of his final eight holes to close his round. He credited a hot putter as the key piece to his game on Thursday.

“Yeah, it was good putting today, I had a lot of looks,” Richey said. “I felt in the middle of the round I hit some good putts but didn’t read them correctly or didn’t have the speed right, but I stayed with it and gave myself more looks coming in which was nice. I started to dial the putter in at the end.”

Richey has made three cuts in eight starts this season on the Web.com Tour and is currently ranked 149th in The 25. Despite his best finish being a T53 this season, Richey noted that his game has been better than his scores have suggested.

“I’ve had some good signs of golf this year, like the first part of the year,” Richey said. “I’ve had some spots where I felt like I got it going but didn’t get much out of it. It’s just one of those things, you never know when your week is coming.”

At the start of this week, Richey was unsure if he would even be in the field as he was the first alternate on Monday morning. Upon arriving in Texas for the Monday Qualifier, Richey learned he was officially in the field and had a clear mind coming into Briggs Ranch Golf Club.

“I had a pretty good attitude coming into today because I didn’t know if I would be in the tournament to start the week,” Richey said. “I just tried to take it as an opportunity, and I think that helped reset my mind. I haven’t had that great of a start to the year so far, so this helped me start a new season this week.”

China’s Xinjun Zhang is tied atop the leaderboard after leading the field with 11 birdies during his opening round. Zhang began the day on the back nine and caught fire after a par on No. 10. He went on to birdie Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17 against bogeys on Nos. 15 and 18 to make the turn at 4-under. Zhang continued the momentum completing a bogey-free second nine with birdies on Nos. 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 to finish the day at 9-under.

"I was hitting my irons really well today," Zhang said. "Overall, I hit the ball really well and had really short birdie chances throughout the day. I hit a soft 7-iron on No. 8 and got it really close, which was my best shot of the day."

Zhang has become one of the most consistent players on the Web.com Tour this season and is currently 2nd in The 25 standings. He has four top-15 finishes in his last five starts including a solo-second, T3, T6 and T12.

"I've been going into tournaments with a positive attitude and outlook," Zhang said. "I try and play relatively conservative the first few days and just give myself good chances out there. My iron play and accuracy off the tee has been really good, which has helped."

After missing the first cut of the season, Zhang has rebounded making the cut in his last seven starts. Despite the consistency, Zhang is still in search of his first Web.com Tour title. Earlier this year, Zhang held the first-round lead at the Country Club de Bogotá Championship but struggled over the weekend to finish T34. Zhang draws on that experience as he looks for his first victory in San Antonio.

"I wasn't relaxed over the weekend in Colombia," Zhang said. "I wanted to win too much and wanted to really perform. The biggest thing for me this week is to relax and just go out there and play."

Brady Schnell sits alone in third place after firing a bogey-free 8-under 64 on Thursday. Nine players are currently T4 at 7-under.

THURSDAY NOTES:

- * Thursday's weather: Sunny, high of 87, winds NW 7-14 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.
- * This week's purse is \$550,000, with \$99,000 going to the champion.
- * Xinjun Zhang led the field with 11 birdies during his opening round.
- * Brian Richey and Xinjun Zhang tied the competitive course record originally set in 2017 with matching 9-under 63s.
- * The 9-under 63 is Richey's lowest round in relation to par of his Web.com Tour career.
- * Richey rebounded on Thursday after missing the cut by 16 shots at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship last week.
- * Maverick McNealy made a 13 on the par-5 13th hole but rallied to finish the day at 3-over.
- * Jonathan Randolph (T23, 67) has former Web.com Tour member John Peterson as his caddie this week.
- * Brett Stegmaier (65, T4) carded a 7-under 29 on the front nine Thursday morning.
- * Mickey DeMorat currently leads all Monday Qualifiers at T4 after posting an opening-round 65.
- * Michael Gligic is donating \$25 per birdie and \$50 per eagle to Els for Autism this week.
- * The Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch is the first Web.com Tour event in the state of Texas since the 2015 Greater Dallas Open.
- * Forty-seven former Web.com Tour champions are in the field, combining for 71 total victories.



* Hardest Hole: Par-4 No. 1 (+0.205) - 19 birdies, 31 bogeys, 3 double bogeys

* Easiest Hole: Par-5 No. 5 (-0.622) - 12 eagles, 83 birdies, 6 bogeys

*Briggs Ranch Golf Club Scoring Average:

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	34.904	34.814	69.718	

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