



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 26, 2019

CONTACT: Sean Wildhack, seanwildhack@pgatourhq.com, 315-243-2751

Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Xinjun Zhang	63-64 – 127 (-17)
2	Steven Alker	65-64 – 129 (-15)
3	Charlie Saxon	65-66 – 131 (-13)
T4	Kevin Dougherty	68-64 – 132 (-12)
T4	Lanto Griffin	67-65 – 132 (-12)
T4	Nelson Ledesma	65-67 – 132 (-12)

Xinjun Zhang holds two-shot lead at Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Xinjun Zhang continued his impressive play at the Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch to take a two-shot lead into the weekend. Zhang followed his opening-round 63 with an 8-under 64 on Friday.

The Shanxi, China native, picked up right where he left off, making birdies on each of his first three holes. He added an eagle on No. 5 and another birdie on No. 8 to post a front-nine 30. Zhang made three birdies on the back nine against one bogey and now leads by two at 17-under 127.

“The main thing was to stay patient and positive,” Zhang said. “The putter worked really well out there. I missed a couple of opportunities coming down the last few holes which all were pretty good looks. But the putter and the irons were really good today.”

Zhang, who is projected to take the top spot in The 25 after this week, previously earned his PGA TOUR card with a 20th-place finish on the 2017 Web.com Tour Regular Season money list. During his 2017 Web.com Tour campaign, Zhang recorded two runner-up finishes and added two additional top-10s to earn his PGA TOUR card.

In his rookie season on the PGA TOUR, Zhang recorded three top-25 finishes including a T5 at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship but admitted he struggled mentally. He failed to retain his PGA TOUR card after finishing No. 167 in the FedExCup but is back to playing some of his best golf this season.

“The biggest focus is the mental aspect of the game,” Zhang said. “On the PGA TOUR I was getting very anxious out on the course. Things were speeding up and I would be overly aggressive at times. Knowing when to play conservative and when to be aggressive has made a big difference for me.”

Alone in second place is 47-year-old Steven Alker who fired a second-round 64 to match the low round of the day at Briggs Ranch Golf Club. Alker, who began the day on the back nine, started his round with a barrage of birdies on Nos. 10-13 followed by an eagle on the par-4 14th. He added birdies on Nos. 2, 4 and 5 against a bogey on No. 6 to finish 8-under on the day and 15-under 129 for the tournament.



"I'm hitting some close irons and putting well; that's the difference," Alker said. "I'm staying patient and when I miss it, I miss it in the right places. The short game's been good, so you just have to go out there and go hard and make a lot of birdies."

Alker currently sits at No. 49 in The 25 standings and has two top-25 finishes this season including a T4 at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay. The Web.com Tour veteran is making his 262nd career start this week and has four career victories with his last coming at the 2014 Cleveland Open.

"I'm still loving the game and I think that's a good thing," Alker said. "I think once I lose that grind, that'll be it for me. But I'm still enjoying it and still trying to get better. I'm feeling pretty good and I'm as fit as I probably have been in a while."

The former PGA TOUR member last played on TOUR during the 2016-17 season after earning his card through the 2016 Web.com Tour Finals. With a good finish this week, Alker could make a push at another PGA TOUR card.

University of Oklahoma alum Charlie Saxon is in solo-third place and four off the lead after finishing at 13-under 131. Kevin Dougherty, Lanto Griffin and Nelson Ledesma are T4, five shots behind leader Xinjun Zhang.

FRIDAY NOTES:

- * Friday's weather: Sunny, high of 83, winds NE 7-14 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.
- * The cut came at 5-under with 74 players advancing to the weekend.
- * This week's purse is \$550,000, with \$99,000 going to the champion.
- * Xinjun Zhang leads the field with 18 birdies through his first 36 holes.
- * Zhang looks to become the third 36-hole leader/co-leader to go on and win this season. Vince Covello (Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS) and Dan McCarthy (Savannah Golf Championship) accomplished the feat earlier this year.
- * Xinjun Zhang made his eighth consecutive cut this week, good for the most on Tour. Jimmy Stanger (T22) and Erik Compton (T32) both made their seventh consecutive cut this week.
- * Kevin Dougherty, Xinjun Zhang and Steven Alker shared the low round of the day carding 8-under 64s.
- * Web.com Tour rookie Andy Zhang fired his career-low round with a 6-under 66 moving him from T119 to T46.
- * Five Monday Qualifiers made the cut led by Taylor Bibbs and Grant Hirschman at T22.
- * 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.
- * The third round will begin at approximately 7:10 a.m. with groups teeing off No. 1.
- * Forty-seven former Web.com Tour champions are in the field, combining for 71 total victories.
- * Hardest Hole: Par-3 No. 15 (+0.237) - 9 birdies, 33 bogeys, 3 double bogeys
- * Easiest Hole: Par-5 No. 5 (-0.618) - 8 eagles, 86 birdies, 8 bogeys



*Briggs Ranch Golf Club Scoring Average:

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	34.904	34.814	69.718	
R2	35.039	35.250	70.289	70.004

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

For the latest information and updates on the Web.com Tour visit www.pgatourmedia.com

Scores available at www.pgatour.com or on the Associated Press wire

Follow the Web.com Tour on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/webdotcomtour> on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/WebDotComTour and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/webdotcomtour