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### First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Motin Yeung	65 (-7)
2	Steve Wheatcroft	67 (-5)
	Steve Marino	67 (-5)
4	Matt Harmon	68 (-4)
5	Three players tied	69 (-3)

### Motin Yeung claims first-round lead at KC Golf Classic

**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI** – Web.com Tour rookie Motin Yeung carded an opening-round 7-under 65 to take a two-stroke lead in chilly conditions at the KC Golf Classic. Thursday at Blue Hills Country Club marked the first time the 25-year-old has led a round in his Web.com Tour career.

Starting on No. 10, Yeung went birdie-birdie-birdie-eagle to reach 5-under through four holes before coasting to a 65.

"I was laughing after my start; I thought I was tripping," said Yeung. "Especially on the fourth hole, I holed out from 130 yards out and couldn't believe it. I was 5-under through four holes. I'm still blacking out to be honest. I felt like I got lucky. My game wasn't feeling 100 percent today on the range, but somehow I managed three birdies and an eagle to start off the round and the momentum started."

The 65 is just one off the course record, a 64 set by current PGA TOUR player (and former Kansas Jayhawk) Chris Thompson in 2017.

Despite seeming comfortable at the Web.com Tour level, Yeung almost didn't play on Tour this season. A T100 finish at the Final Stage of the 2018 Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament left Yeung with conditional status to start the season. It took until the LECOM Suncoast Classic for Yeung to Monday qualify into a tournament and make his debut on Tour. He turned that start into a T7 finish, earning another start and an improved spot in the reshuffle.

"My plan was to play Monday qualifiers until PGA TOUR China started," said Yeung. "I think Sarasota was the last Monday before PGA TOUR China's season, so I'm glad it worked out. If I hadn't Monday qualified into that event and made the cut to get reshuffled in, I would be playing in China right now."

The impressive start was made more intriguing by the fact that Yeung considers himself a poor cold-weather player. Winds up to 25 miles per hour accompanied temperatures that struggled to break 50 degrees.

"I don't like playing in the cold," said Yeung, a Duke University alum. "All of my teammates and coaches know from college that I have a hard time playing in the cold. I didn't bring enough clothes to be honest."

Yeung followed up his blistering 5-under start with birdies at Nos. 17, 1, 2 and 5, offset by bogeys on Nos. 3 and 4. He hit 12 of 14 fairways (T3) and was one of five players with an eagle during the round.



Steve Wheatcroft and Steve Marino sit two shots back at 5-under 67. Teeing off in the second group of the day, Wheatcroft scattered five birdies across a bogey-free round, the only bogey-free round on Thursday. Wheatcroft has missed his previous five cuts entering the week.

Marino got off to a scorching start, birdieing five of his first six holes before settling for a 67. The 39-year-old has split time between the PGA TOUR and the Web.com Tour this season, with three made cuts in six starts on the Web.com Tour. All three made cuts resulted in top-20 finishes.

Second-round tee times will run in two waves from 6:55 a.m. to 2:16 p.m. on Friday.

#### **THURSDAY NOTES:**

\* Thursday's weather: Cloudy, high of 53, winds N/NW at 8-16 miles per hour with gusts up to 25 miles per hour. Players played lift, clean and place during the first round in wet conditions.

\* Blue Hills has a rich history with legends of the game. Most notably, the Club hosted Tom Watson's Children's Mercy Hospital Golf Classic for 25 years through 2005. Along with Watson, a local resident, other legends to compete included Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Lee Trevino. The event raised more than \$12 million over the years for the hospital and was one of the largest grossing charity events of its kind.

\* Yeung is looking to become the first rookie of the 2019 season to win on the Web.com Tour. The last rookie to win on Tour was Kramer Hickok during the 2018 Web.com Tour Finals (DAP Championship).

\* Steve Wheatcroft (5-under 67, T2) switched putters on Tuesday evening after liking the feel of his backup better, a Scotty Cameron square-back putter. He noted the putter as his main catalyst for his struggles over the last few weeks.

\* Coming off a T56 finish in Nashville, Luke Guthrie got into the field as an alternate on Monday morning after he had already driven to Illinois to visit his in-laws. He carded an opening-round 69 to sit T5.

\* John Peterson, who made waves by retiring from professional golf after failing to keep his PGA TOUR card at the end of last year, returned to professional golf after being inspired by Tiger's win at the 2019 Masters. He made his 2019 debut last week in Nashville (MC) and opened with a 1-under 71 to sit T11

\* Blake Trimble and Chris Naegel (each 1-under 71, T11) paced the 12 Monday qualifiers in the field. Naegel Monday qualified into the LECOM Suncoast Classic in February and finished T25 to earn a spot into the following week's tournament.

\* This year marks the first year the KC Golf Classic is hosted at Blue Hills Country Club. The previous nine years of the tournament were held at Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate.

\* This week's purse is \$675,000, with \$121,500 going to the champion. The champion will also earn 500 points in the Web.com Tour points system.

\* Forty-seven former Web.com Tour champions are competing in the field, amounting to 65 victories, as well as eight PGA TOUR champions (equaling 18 victories).

\* The par-4 16<sup>th</sup> hole (456 yards) ranked as the toughest hole on the course on Thursday with a scoring average of 4.370.

\* The par-5 13<sup>th</sup> hole (560 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Thursday. The hole played to an average of 4.909 and yielded two eagles and 34 birdies to the 156-player field.



\* Blue Hills Country Club Scoring Averages:

	Front (36)	Back (36)	Total (72)	Cumulative
R1	36.851	36.740	73.591	

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

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