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### Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Robby Shelton	67-65-66—198 (-15)
2	Ben Taylor	68-68-64—200 (-13)
	Mark Hubbard	65-65-70—200 (-13)
	Billy Kennerly	65-66-69—200 (-13)
5	Three players tied	201 (-12)

### Robby Shelton cards 66 to claim third-round lead at Knoxville Open

**KNOXVILLE, Tennessee** – With the first 54 holes down at the Knoxville Open, Robby Shelton is in a familiar spot atop the leaderboard. Shelton carded a 5-under 66 to post a three-day total of 15-under 198 and lead by two strokes at Fox Den Country Club. The third-round lead is his third in his past five tournaments.

Shelton has been remarkably consistent over the last two months. The 23-year-old has led or co-led after seven of his past 19 rounds on the Web.com Tour, including his first career victory two weeks ago at the Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation. He has gone 94-under over his past eight tournaments (including this week), while his last four finishes have resulted in a win, runner-up, T4 and missed cut.

“I’ve never had a month like this, honestly,” said Shelton. “I had a good run in college, my freshman year especially. And in Canada, I played well up there too, but nothing like this. Playing under par is pretty easy to me right now.”

Despite mixed results last year in his first season on the Web.com Tour, Shelton is no stranger to playing at an elite level. He was the No. 1 junior in the world coming out of high school and was named the Phil Mickelson Award winner as the nation’s top freshman in 2014 at the University of Alabama, joining Justin Thomas (2012) as the only Alabama players to win the award. He went on to be a three-time All-American with the Crimson Tide before winning on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada in 2017 to reach the Web.com Tour.

Shelton overcame a bogey on his opening hole with birdies at the third and fourth to make the turn at 1-under. He added birdies at the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> coming in for a bogey-free back nine and a 5-under 66 total.

“The putter comes and goes, but I usually hit it pretty well,” said Shelton. “I hit fairways and greens, but right now my irons are really good. It’s putting me inside 20 feet and then the putter feels really good. It’s either a make or right there on the edge every time. I can’t be mad about that.”

Though he has become a mainstay atop the leaderboard over the last month, Shelton is especially excited to contend in front of his parents tomorrow. His parents attended the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship when he lost in a playoff but missed his victory in Nashville.



"It means everything to me to have my parents here," said Shelton. "They came up to Prattville as well but they made the drive yesterday morning. My girlfriend is here too, and her parents are driving up tomorrow as well, so I'm looking forward to that."

With his win in Nashville, along with his runner-up in Alabama, Shelton has already locked up his PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season and sits second on the Web.com Tour points list. But a win tomorrow would allow him to compete for the "Battlefield Promotion" for the remainder of the season. When a player wins three times on the Web.com Tour in a season, they earn immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR for the remainder of the season. The last player to accomplish the feat was Wesley Bryan in 2016. The achievement has only occurred 11 times in the Web.com Tour's history.

Shelton sits two strokes clear of Ben Taylor, Mark Hubbard and Billy Kennerly, each at 13-under 200. Hubbard will also be aiming for his second win of the year (and a PGA TOUR card), while Kennerly and Taylor will each be seeking their first. Taylor won last year at the Country Club de Bogota Championship but failed to earn his PGA TOUR card through the Regular Season.

Final-round tee times will run from 6:54 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. on Sunday off of the first tee.

#### **SATURDAY NOTES:**

- \* Saturday's weather: Mostly sunny, high of 88, winds SW at 7-14 miles per hour.
- \* Robby Shelton holds his fourth career 54-hole lead/co-lead in his 36th start on the Web.com Tour. He has converted one of the last three instances into a victory, beating Scottie Scheffler on the first playoff hole at the 2019 Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation.
- \* Shelton has finished inside the top five in three of his last four starts (P2/Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship, T4/Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch, Win/Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation).
- \* Ben Taylor (T2/-13) carded a bogey-free 7-under 64 and was perfect in scrambling, getting up-and-down 4 of 4 times in the third round. The Louisiana State University alum only needed 25 putts on Saturday. With a win, Taylor would secure his PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season.
- \* 36-hole leader Mark Hubbard (T2/-13) entered the week No. 9 on the Regular Season points list and is projected to need a finish of a three-way tie for second or better to lock up his TOUR card. He birdied the opening hole before 17 consecutive pars.
- \* Hubbard and Thomas Bass (T10) are the only two players in the field without a bogey through 54 holes.
- \* Tyson Alexander (T5/-12) and Taylor shared the low round of the day, carding 7-under 64s on Saturday. In just his eighth career start on the Web.com Tour, Alexander mixed nine birdies with two bogeys to climb 24 spots up the leaderboard.
- \* Among the five Monday Qualifiers that made the cut, Grant Hirschman leads the group, sitting T25 through 54 holes. A top-25 finish will earn him a start at next week's Evans Scholars Invitational.
- \* This week's purse is \$550,000, with \$99,000 going to the winner. The champion will also earn 500 points in the Web.com Tour points system.



\* Entering its 30th year, the Knoxville Open is one of four original tournaments from 1990 that are still on the Web.com Tour schedule. The Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth, the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper and the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco round out the original tournaments from 1990.

\* The par-3 16<sup>th</sup> hole (214 yards) and the par-4 17<sup>th</sup> hole (458 yards) tied as the toughest holes on the course on Saturday with scoring averages of 3.178 and 4.178, respectively.

\* The par-5 10<sup>th</sup> hole (561 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Saturday. The hole played to an average of 4.397 and yielded three eagles and 41 birdies.

\* Fox Den Country Club Scoring Averages:

	<b>Front (35)</b>	<b>Back (36)</b>	<b>Total (71)</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>R1</b>	<b>35.192</b>	<b>35.628</b>	<b>70.821</b>	
<b>R2</b>	<b>34.458</b>	<b>34.889</b>	<b>69.346</b>	<b>70.083</b>
<b>R3</b>	<b>35.137</b>	<b>35.096</b>	<b>70.233</b>	<b>70.133</b>

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

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