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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Robby Shelton	69-71-63—203 (-10)
	Xinjun Zhang	68-72-63—203 (-10)
	Steven Alker	70-68-65—203 (-10)
4	Michael Gligic	69-69-66—204 (-9)
	Vincent Whaley	68-68-68—204 (-9)

Robby Shelton, Xinjun Zhang and Steven Alker tied for the lead at Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois – Robby Shelton, Xinjun Zhang and Steven Alker sit tied for the lead after 54 holes at 10-under 203 at the Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS. Shelton and Zhang, two of the top-three players in the season-long Web.com Tour points standings, carded matching 8-under 63s on Saturday to reach 10-under, while Alker posted a 6-under 65 to gain entry into Sunday's final group.

An inclement weather delay of four hours and 50 minutes prior to the round caused third-round tee times to be pushed back to the afternoon. The delay was the longest delay before a round this season with rainfall at Panther Creek Country Club overnight and into the morning totaling more than 2.2 inches. The first two days saw a cumulative scoring average almost four strokes higher than last year's tournament, but with soft conditions the third round saw scores return closer to the course's traditional scoring average.

"We were excited to get out here and play today because we knew the course would be soft and not as windy," said Shelton, a former All-American at the University of Alabama. "It was a fun day out there, a lot easier than the first two days. I'm excited to finally put myself in this position again. I haven't been close in my two starts since Knoxville, and it's great to be back up there again."

Shelton, the top player in The 25 thus far, posted four birdies on each of the front and back nine for his bogey-free 63. With two wins already this year, Shelton is looking to achieve the rare "Battlefield Promotion" to the PGA TOUR. If a Web.com Tour player earns three wins in a single season, he earns immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR. Only 11 players in the Tour's history have accomplished the feat with Wesley Bryan as the most recent (2016).

Zhang posted a front-nine 30, nine strokes lower than his front nine on Friday, on the way to his own bogey-free 63. At No. 3 in The 25, Zhang is looking to earn his second victory of the season. Zhang led the season-long points standings earlier this season for a three-tournament stretch before Shelton passed him after his second win. The 32-year-old has already locked up his return to the PGA TOUR for the 2019-20 season.

"It was a big difference opportunity-wise today," said Zhang. "It wasn't nearly as windy out there and the course was much softer. The fairways and greens were soft; the first two days the ball ran out more and



we had to be really precise with tee shots in case the ball ran out of the fairway. It was just tough to judge with everything so firm. The guessing game was easier today.”

Alker, a 47-year-old New Zealand native, birdied four of his final seven holes to reach 10-under. Despite two T4 finishes already this season, this will mark the first time this season that Alker will play in the final group.

“It’s great to be in the leader group again,” said Alker. “The goal is always to put yourself in that position, whether you’re leading by 10 or a couple back. It’ll be exciting. The course played totally different the first two days than today, so I imagine I’ll have to go out and attack it tomorrow.”

Michael Gligic and rookie Vincent Whaley are one stroke off the lead at 9-under 204 with nine players tied at 8-under 205 behind them.

Final-round tee times will run from 8 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. off of the first and 10th tees on Sunday at Panther Creek Country Club.

SATURDAY NOTES:

* Saturday’s weather: Isolated showers, high of 80. Winds S/SW at 8-16 miles per hour and gusts up to 20 miles per hour. A delay of four hours and 50 minutes prior to the third round pushed tee times back to a 2 p.m. start. The delay marked the fourth tournament in a row, and sixth out of the last seven, with a weather delay.

* The 54-hole co-lead marks the first time Steven Alker has led a round this season, the seventh round Xinjun Zhang has led a round this season and the ninth round Robby Shelton has led this season (most on Tour).

* After high winds caused a cumulative scoring average of 72.160 over the first two days, Saturday’s scoring average plummeted to 67.864. Last year’s cumulative scoring average of 68.348 was the lowest on Tour.

* Vincent Whaley is looking to become the second rookie (after good friend Scottie Scheffler) to lock up his PGA TOUR card this season. Whaley would need a win or a runner-up finish to earn his card this week and join Scheffler.

* After earning special temporary membership last week, Davis Riley carded a 64 on Saturday to rise to T6.

* James Driscoll (T15) and Drew Weaver (T15) joined Shelton and Zhang with 8-under 63s on Saturday.

* Fourteen players are within two shots of the lead, including 2017 Haskins Award winner and former world No. 1 amateur Braden Thornberry. His previous top finish on the Web.com Tour is T22, and his top finish of the season thus far is T36.

* Each of the four iterations of the tournament have taken place at Panther Creek Country Club. Each of the three previous winners of the tournament have gone on to earn their PGA TOUR card in the Regular Season as a member of The 25. Last year’s champion, Anders Albertson, set a tournament record at 25-under 259.

* 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.



* Thirty-seven former Web.com Tour champions are competing in the field, amounting to 52 victories, as well as six PGA TOUR champions (equaling seven victories).

* The par-4 third hole (441 yards) ranked as the toughest hole on Saturday at Panther Creek with an average of 4.152.

* The par-5 16th hole (529 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Saturday at Panther Creek with an average of 4.197.

* Panther Creek Country Club Scoring Averages:

	Front (35)	Back (36)	Total (71)	Cumulative
R1	36.417	36.518	72.935	
R2	36.093	35.298	71.391	72.160
R3	34.197	33.667	67.864	70.728

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