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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Robby Shelton	64 (-8)
2	Brandon Matthews	65 (-7)
3	Garrett Osborn	67 (-5)
T4	Chase Seiffert	68 (-4)
T4	Scottie Scheffler	68 (-4)

**Play suspended due to darkness*

Closing stretch delivers Shelton early lead at Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation

NASHVILLE, Tennessee – Robby Shelton birdied his final four holes, including an 8-footer at the last, to card an 8-under 64 and take the solo lead Thursday at the Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation. He leads Brandon Matthews by a stroke, who shot 7-under 65 in his first bogey-free round in nearly a calendar year. Garrett Osborn is third at 5-under.

Officials suspended play due to darkness at 7:48 p.m. CST with 33 players yet to complete their round. The first round will resume at 7:30 a.m. with the second round delayed by one hour. Play was also suspended earlier in the afternoon for an hour and 40 minutes due to lightning.

“That last one tried to sneak out for me, but I knew coming down there stretch there were some birdie holes,” Shelton said. “The wind stopped and the cup looked like a basketball hoop to me so, that helped a lot and I got a few to fall.”

Shelton opened with a bogey on the par-3 10th but responded with birdies on Nos. 13 and 14. His momentum surged from there, as his approach shot on the par-5 15th settled inside five feet, leading to eagle. After the lightning delay sidelined him on the 18th green, the University of Alabama product responded with a front-nine 31 that began with a birdie on the par-5 third hole.

He closed with birdies on Nos. 6 through 9 to overtake Matthews, who shot into the early lead in the morning wave. It continued a recent trend for the 23-year-old, who is coming off consecutive top-five finishes, including a runner-up showing at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship. He is currently ranked No. 10 in The 25.

“You can see all the white paint in the hole and it just looks really big,” he said. “It looks like the ball has to go in and that’s what everybody wants, just to have that feeling. Especially to make four in a row coming down the stretch was nice. That 4-iron on No. 8 was probably the shot of



the day. That was as hard as I could have hit a 4-iron and it ended up 10-feet behind the hole. To get that one to fall was like a hole-in-one on that hole almost.”

Matthews, who entered on a streak of six consecutive missed cuts, tied his career-low on the Web.com Tour and leaves himself in position to make his first cut since early February. But more importantly, the performance confirms the corrections he has made to his game over the last several weeks, he said.

“As well as anybody knows out here, when you get things going in the wrong direction it honestly feels like you just never get a good break,” Matthews said. “That’s the way I was feeling for a little while. The last two tournaments I actually hit the ball pretty well, especially last week. The hard work is finally getting validated.”

Starting on the back nine, Matthews parred each of his first eight holes before beginning a torrid stretch that saw him card five consecutive birdies on Nos. 18-4. The former Temple University standout added two more birdies on Nos. 6 and 7 en route to a front-nine 30.

“Anytime you go bogey-free it’s great,” he said. “I don’t think I even had a stressful one all day. It’s fun. If I stick to the game plan, play smart and stay patient out there, I think it’s going to be a pretty good week.”

Matthews played the five par-5s at Nashville Golf and Athletic Club at 3-under, no coincidence given that he leads the Web.com Tour in driving distance at 334 yards.

It all culminated in his first bogey-free round since the first round of the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper last July. He carded one of his three career rounds of 65 that day, which he also accomplished at the 2018 KC Golf Classic and again Thursday in Nashville.

“In my shoes, I don’t think it’s been hard. I think it’s been exciting the last few weeks,” said Matthews, who sits at No. 147 in The 25. “I played some really, really poor golf in Savannah. My golf swing was not good. (But) we got everything figured out and it’s been a really fun last two weeks to see my game get back to where I know it can be on a daily basis.”

THURSDAY NOTES:

- * Thursday's weather: Partly cloudy, isolated thunderstorms, winds S/SW 7-14 mph with gusts up to 20 mph. First-round play was suspended at 3:05 p.m. due to lightning in the area. Play resumed at 4:45 p.m.
- * Play was suspended for the day at 7:48 p.m. due to darkness with 11 groups still on the course. Round one will resume on Friday at approximately 7:30 a.m. with second round scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m. as well.
- * Robby Shelton fired his sixth consecutive round under 70 on Thursday.



- * Shelton currently leads the field with 24 putts on 16 greens in regulation.
- * Brandon Matthews recorded his first bogey-free round since the 2018 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper. His 7-under 65 is his lowest round of the 2019 season.
- * Scottie Scheffler (T4, 68) is seeking his first Web.com Tour victory and fourth consecutive top-10 of the season.
- * Lanto Griffin, who has finished T2-win in his last two starts in Nashville, is currently T15 after an opening-round 70.
- * Emmanuel Kountakis (T138, 77) learned he was in the field five minutes before his tee time after a late WD Thursday morning.
- * Horacio León, making only his second start of the season, sits T6 after a first-round 3-under 69.
- * Chase Seiffert is currently tied for fourth after finishing T2 last week at the Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch.
- * Former Vanderbilt University star Theo Humphrey is currently T115 after an opening-round 75.
- * This week's purse is \$550,000, with \$99,000 going to the champion.
- * Forty-one Web.com Tour winners are in the field, combining for 58 victories.
- * Hardest Hole: Par-4 No. 1 (+0.442) - 13 birdies, 51 bogeys, 11 double bogeys
- * Easiest Hole: Par-5 No. 13 (-0.551) - 7 eagles, 82 birdies, 10 bogeys

*Nashville Golf & Athletic Club Scoring Average:

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1*	37.411	35.554	72.965	

**Play suspended due to darkness*

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