

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 3, 2019 CONTACT: Sean Wildhack, <u>seanwildhack@pgatourhq.com</u>, 315-243-2751

Second-Round Leaderboard

| Pos. | Name | Scores |
|------|-------------------|------------------|
| T1 | Scottie Scheffler | 68-67 – 135 (-9) |
| T1 | Chase Seiffert | 68-67 – 135 (-9) |
| T1 | Ryan Brehm | 70-65 – 135 (-9) |
| T4 | Chris Baker | 69-67 – 136 (-8) |
| T4 | Mark Hubbard | 70-66 – 136 (-8) |

*Play suspended due to darkness

Three players tied for second-round lead at Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation

NASHVILLE, Tennessee – The nerves are back for Ryan Brehm.

For the first time in almost a year, the 33-year-old holds a lead on the Web.com Tour, matching a Friday-best 7-under 65 to pull into a three-way tie at the Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation. Scottie Scheffler and Chase Seiffert, who both posted 67s, join Brehm at 9-under 135 entering the weekend.

"Any time you can get in the mix it really helps," Brehm said. "You start to feel some nerves that I haven't felt in a long time. When you're out here you just try and build on what you're doing week to week. That's really my main focus, I try to take what I did well and work on the things I didn't do so well. You really never know until you're in the moment and feeling the nerves and competing."

Brehm, who last led after the first round of the 2018 Knoxville Open, pulled into a share of the lead with a birdie on the par-5 seventh. Starting on the back, the Michigan State product opened with birdies on Nos. 12, 13 and 15, added another on the par-3 17th, then carded a clean 32 on the front.

"There's such a long way to go, I've played enough golf to know that," said Brehm, who won the 2016 WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz. "It's so cliché, but realistically you're really just looking to give yourself a chance with nine to go. You're just trying to do your thing and hopefully the stars will align, and you can have a chance at the end."

To get that chance, Brehm will have to stave off Scheffler, Seiffert, and a host of others. Tied for fourth at 8-under 136 are Chris Baker and Mark Hubbard, who carded a hole-in-one on No. 14, part of a bogey-free 6-under 66. It was one of two aces on the day alongside Derek Ernst's hole-in-one on No. 6.



Scheffler jumped out to the early advantage with a 3-under 33 on the front nine, but it was a three-putt bogey on the par-4 12th that he believes was the springboard to his round. Fatigue had begun to set in for the 22-year-old after a second bogey in three holes, but he managed to rally with birdies on each of his next three holes. He went on to add a fourth and final back-nine birdie on the 18th to end his day tied for the lead.

"I think I might have just gotten a little lazy there in the middle of the round. I was pretty tired," said Scheffler, who is playing for the sixth time in seven weeks. "I got a little tired and it was a nice wakeup call for me on 12. I was able to focus again. It looked bad, but I think it helped me get into a good stretch in my round because it woke me up a little bit."

The University of Texas product enters the weekend with sights on his first professional victory, but also his fourth consecutive top-five finish. That includes a runner-up showing at the Savannah Golf Championship, where he also shared the lead after 36 holes.

"I feel like I'm peaking at a good time," said Scheffler, ranked No. 3 in The 25. "This is the busy part of our schedule, so I feel like my game has been building up and I'm improving on different things throughout each week. I wouldn't say that I'm due, but I feel like I'm in a good spot."

Seiffert shares similar opinions on his own game. He had a share of the first-round lead two weeks ago at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship and finished tied for second last week at the Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch. The 27-year-old, ranked No. 18 in The 25, has hopes that this is the week it all finally comes together.

"I started out well in Alabama, (but) didn't quite play like I wanted to on the weekend. Then rolled into last week with some good momentum," he said. "I was still hitting the ball good and was happy to get a T2. My game is definitely trending in the right direction. I'm getting a lot of confidence."

That confidence was on full display Friday, when for the second straight day he shot 5-under on the back nine at Nashville Golf and Athletic Club. He had a chance to take the outright lead when he made the turn to the front, but parred all nine holes to take a share of the lead into the weekend.

But the front nine wasn't without its share of highlights. On the par-4 first, he stuck his approach shot inside 10 feet with a 6-iron, then added a 6-foot par save on No. 3 after a poor wedge shot. He left feeling good about the score after avoiding trouble in a handful of spots.

"My game has been trending this way," he said. "I've been hitting the ball better and better every week. Coming to this course, the greens are really small and you've got to be precise. I'm just very comfortable right now with my distances. I'm hitting it where I'm looking and my numbers are good. I'm just trying to keep it rolling."



FRIDAY NOTES:

* Friday's weather: Mostly cloudy, passing showers, winds W/SW 7-13 mph. Second-round play was suspended due to darkness at 7:41 p.m. CST.

* Round two will resume on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. with players scheduled to begin round three at approximately 10 a.m.

* Players used preferred lies during the second round.

* The projected cut is currently at even-par.

* Ryan Brehm and Andy Zhang fired the low round of the day shooting 7-under 65s. It was a career-low for Zhang, who is tied for sixth.

* Brehm, Scheffler and Seiffert each look to join Vince Covello (Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS), Dan McCarthy (Savannah Golf Championship) and Xinjun Zhang (Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch) as second-round leaders/co-leaders that have gone on to win this season.

* Both Chase Seiffert and Scottie Scheffler are making their tournament debuts at the Nashville Golf Open, while Ryan Brehm is making his third start.

* Chase Seiffert is T1 in greens in regulation after hitting 29 of 36.

* Derek Ernst (No. 6, 9-iron) and Mark Hubbard (No. 14, 9-iron) both recorded aces during the second round. The last time two hole-in-ones were made in the same round on the Web.com Tour came at the 2017 Knoxville Open.

* Lanto Griffin, the career money leader at the Nashville Golf Open, is currently T14 after a second-round 69.

* Before his T9 last week at the Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch, Ryan Brehm was ranked No. 146 in The 25. He is now projected to move into the top-25 after arriving in Nashville ranked 90th.

* First-round leader Robby Shelton fired a 1-over 73 on Friday and is currently T6.

* MJ Daffue currently leads all Monday qualifiers at T11 after posting consecutive rounds of 69.

* Motin Yeung holed-out from the bunker for eagle on No. 18 to move inside the projected cut line.

* 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 (+0.273) - 13 birdies, 43 bogeys, 6 double bogeys

* Easiest Hole: Par-5 No. 13 (-0.597) - 6 eagles, 87 birdies, 7 bogeys

*Nashville Golf & Athletic Club Scoring Average:

| | Front | Back | Total | Cumulative |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| R1 | 37.406 | 35.529 | 72.935 | |
| R2* | 36.669 | 34.963 | 71.631 | 72.283 |

*Play suspended due to darkness



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