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### Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Ben Taylor	70-65 – 135 (-5)
T2	Steve Marino	68-68 – 136 (-4)
T2	Chris Baker	67-69 – 136 (-4)
T2	Nicolas Echavarria	68-68 – 136 (-4)
T2	Xinjun Zhang	66-70 – 136 (-4)
T6	Two players tied	137 (-3)

### Ben Taylor claims second-round lead in Panamá

**PANAMÁ CITY, Panamá** – Ben Taylor surged up the leaderboard on Friday to take a one-stroke lead after Round 2 at the Panamá Championship. Players again battled windy conditions as gusts reached up to 26 miles per hour.

Friday proved to be a difficult test at the Club de Golf de Panamá with the course scoring average finishing at 72.791. The par-70 track has traditionally been one of the toughest courses on the Web.com Tour.

Despite the difficult conditions on Friday, Ben Taylor had six birdies and one bogey in his second round. After beginning the day T33 at even-par, Taylor converted four birdies on his front nine to make the turn at 4-under. Two more birdies and a bogey capped off a 5-under 65, good for the low round of the day. Taylor noted that the tough conditions this week are a good fit for his game.

"It's the tougher golf courses that fit me and this one has obviously proven to play very hard," Taylor said. "I hope it continues to be a challenge over the weekend and I'm looking forward to playing some more golf. There's some golf to be played out there like we do in England."

Taylor is seeking his second Web.com Tour title after his first victory came at the 2018 Country Club de Bogotá Championship. After a disappointing finish last season left him 29<sup>th</sup> in The 25 standings, he is off a hot start in 2019, making all four cuts so far this season and has two top-25 finishes in his last three starts.

"I certainly have much higher expectations this year. I started off this season in a lot more control and it hasn't been up and down," said Taylor. "I think with this being the fourth event and with me being in a good position heading into the weekend, this is the direction my game has been trending. I'm playing some good golf and look to continue that in the next couple of days."

Steve Marino, Chris Baker, Nicolas Echavarria and Xinjun Zhang all sit one-stroke behind Taylor at 4-under par. Despite being sick this week and needing ambulance attention Friday morning, Echavarria shot his second consecutive 68 with five birdies during his second-round.

"I've been feeling really bad all week and had to go to the hospital Monday. I went and got an IV this morning before my round started," Echavarria said. "I haven't been feeling too good, but I've just been trying to keep my cool and trying not to get too emotional."

Echavarria was only able to play nine holes Monday and immediately went to the hospital after. He rested Tuesday and hit a few balls Wednesday but knew he had to give it a go on Thursday with guaranteed starts on the line.

"I didn't touch a club on Tuesday and hit a few balls on Wednesday," Echavarria said. "I got here at 11:30 this morning and went straight to the ambulance. If I didn't play well this week it would be my last tournament, so even if I was crawling out there, I was going to play and try to make the cut."

All groups finished play during Round 2. The cut came at 3-over par with 65 players advancing to the weekend.

#### **FRIDAY NOTES:**

- \* Friday's weather: Isolated showers, high of 91, winds N 12-16 miles per hour with gusts up to 26 miles per hour.
- \* This week's purse is \$625,000, with \$112,500 going to the champion.
- \* Forty-two Web.com Tour winners with 62 victories are in the field this week.
- \* Albin Choi recorded the second ace of the Web.com Tour season with a hole-in-one on the par-3 eighth.
- \* Ben Taylor had the low round of the day with a 5-under 65.
- \* In two previous starts at the Panamá Championship, Taylor has a 66<sup>th</sup> place finish in 2018 and a MC in 2017.
- \* The cut came at 3-over with 65 players advancing to the weekend.
- \* The par-4 11<sup>th</sup> ranked as the most difficult hole during the second-round with a scoring average of 4.381.
- \* The par-5 fourth was the easiest hole on Friday with players converting 62 birdies and two eagles.

\*Club de Golf de Panamá Scoring Averages:

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	35.915	35.831	71.746	
R2	36.094	36.698	72.791	72.265

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

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