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Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Chris Baker	67-60 – 127 (-15)
2	Sebastian Cappelen	Thru 17 (-12)
3	Luke Guthrie	69-62 – 131 (-11)
T4	Four players tied	133 (-9)

*\*Play suspended due to inclement weather at 5:59 p.m.*

### **Chris Baker shoots course record 60, takes clubhouse lead at REX Hospital Open**

**RALEIGH, North Carolina** – With 11 birdies on his first 15 holes, highlighted by seven-straight on Nos. 9-15, Jacksonville Beach, Florida resident Chris Baker took the clubhouse lead at the REX Hospital Open with a career-low 60.

In addition to his seven consecutive birdies, Baker added birdies at Nos. 3, 4, 6 and 7. He narrowly missed a 12-foot putt for birdie and 59 at the par-4 18<sup>th</sup> hole.

“I did everything I could,” Baker said. “It’s just exciting when you’re playing great and everything is going well. You almost just want to get out of your own way and let it go. It was a blast. I had a lot of fun today.”

Baker’s 127 total ties the low first-36-hole-score on the Web.com Tour this season with Xinjun Zhang, who was at 17-under 127 at the Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch.

Baker’s 11-under 60 ties the tournament record, posted by Jimmy Green at Raleigh Country Club in 1998. The REX Hospital Open, now in its 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, has been contested at The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation since 2001.

“My game has been awesome, but more important to me is that my mind has been awesome,” he said. “If I shoot a score I don’t like, I go to bed that night and don’t really stress about it. Last week, I had some issues where the first day was tough, but the second day I came out and shot a bogey-free 68. In previous years, maybe I shoot 2-over and then I’m frustrated and probably don’t make that cut. This year, there is belief and desire and I enjoy the moment. And, it works out.”

Baker, a Seymour, Indiana native, was looking to become the eighth player in Web.com Tour history to post a sub-60 score, a feat most recently achieved by Sam Saunders, who shot a 12-under 59 in round one of the 2017 Web.com Tour Championship.

At the Country Club de Bogota Championship in February, Baker led by a stroke after the second round before weekend scores of 70-80 resulted in a T51 finish. Making his 131<sup>st</sup> start on



the Web.com Tour dating to 2009, he is looking to improve on a career-best finish of a playoff loss at the 2017 Panama Championship.

Baker, who is making his fifth start in Raleigh, comes off a T10 finish in last year's REX Hospital Open.

"It's the second round and there is a lot of golf left," said Baker, whose caddie, Zak Smith, hails from nearby Cary, North Carolina. "But, if I just keep doing what I'm doing and stay to myself and be true, the week's going to work out the way we want it to work out."

Baker has now made 10 cuts in 13 starts this season and is currently ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in The 25.

Fellow Jacksonville Beach resident Sebastian Cappelen offset two bogeys with six birdies and an eagle to move to 12-under par before play was suspended for the day at 5:59 p.m. He still has the final hole to play.

In his last three starts, Cappelen combined for a 6-over total to miss the first two cuts. At last week's inaugural Evans Scholars Invitational, he posted four sub-par scores to finish T14 at 12-under 276.

A week removed from his T4 finish at the Evans Scholars Invitational, a third member of the Jacksonville Beach contingent, Luke Guthrie, birdied three of his last four holes to post a bogey-free 9-under 62 and move to 11-under 131. The 62 ties his Web.com Tour career-low round.

Round two will resume at 7:15 a.m. Saturday. The third round is scheduled to resume at approximately 9:30 a.m. with groups teeing off Nos. 1 & 10.

#### **FRIDAY NOTES:**

- \* Friday's weather: Partly cloudy, scattered thunderstorms, high of 91, winds 4-10 mph.
- \* This week's purse is \$650,000, with \$117,000 going to the champion.
- \* Fifty-four Web.com Tour winners are in the field this week, combining for 77 victories.
- \* Chris Baker became the 27<sup>th</sup> player in Web.com Tour history to shoot 60 and set the new course record at The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation.
- \* Baker's 11-under 60 was good for the lowest round of the season on the Web.com Tour. His previous career-low was a 7-under 63 at the 2014 Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae.
- \* With a victory this week, Baker would surpass the 830-point threshold estimated to secure players a PGA TOUR card next season.
- \* Joseph Bramlett, who held the first-round lead, sits T4 after a second-round 69.
- \* Davis Riley leads all Monday qualifiers at 6-under T23 with five holes remaining in his second round.
- \* Three-time REX Hospital Open winner Kyle Thompson sits T140 after a 1-over 72 on Friday.



- \* Scott Gutschewski (T84/-1) has his oldest son, Luke, on his bag this week. Luke won the Nebraska State High School Individual Golf Championship last week.
- \* Taylor Moore (T61/-3) is making his first Web.com Tour start since suffering a collapsed lung in early March.
- \* The current projected cut is 3-under 139.
- \* Hardest Hole: Par-4 No. 14 (+0.272) - 11 birdies, 39 bogeys, 5 double bogeys
- \* Easiest Hole: Par-5 No. 4 (-0.675) - 8 eagles, 90 birdies, 2 bogeys

\*The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation Scoring Average:

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	35.513	35.128	70.641	
R2*	34.934	34.732	69.666	70.153

\*Play suspended due to inclement weather

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

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