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### Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Robby Shelton	65-67-72-204 (-12)
2	Xinjun Zhang	69-71-65-205 (-11)
	Lanto Griffin	68-68-69-205 (-11)
4	Jonathan Randolph	68-70-68-206 (-10)

## Robby Shelton takes one-stroke lead at Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship

**PRATTVILLE, Alabama** – University of Alabama alum Robby Shelton overcame a rocky start to card an even-par 72 on Saturday and finish at 12-under 204 heading into Sunday’s final round at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship. Shelton, the co-leader after 18 holes and solo leader after 36, leads Xinjun Zhang and Lanto Griffin by one stroke at The Senator Course.

Shelton labored to the tune of five bogeys in his first 10 holes before going 3-under over his last five to get back to even on the day. The 23-year-old sunk a 12-foot birdie putt at the last to regain the solo lead heading into the final round.

“It was a grind all day, starting out with a three-putt on two and then a bad pitch shot on four for bogey,” said Shelton. “I just got off to a slow start. I knew I could fight back; I knew I had it in me. But being 2-over through nine wasn’t good and 3-over through 10 is never good...I knew if I could get it back to even then it would be a solid day and I could take some confidence into Sunday on that.”

After putting on a ball-striking display on Thursday (hitting 17/18 greens in regulation), Shelton only found 25 of his next 36 greens, having to rely on scrambling. On Friday, he got up and down on all five attempts, but on Saturday he was only able to convert two out of six tries. He felt off from the start, even through his pre-round routine.

“My warmup was shaky today,” said Shelton. “The grip didn’t feel good in my hands. I just felt a little off, and you never want that when you’re heading to the first tee. I was just hoping the putter would save me and it did today.”

Growing up in Mobile, Shelton played as a junior golfer across the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail and later starred as an All-American at the University of Alabama. He recalls winning several junior tournaments on The Senator Course growing up.

As a professional, Shelton’s last win came on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada in 2017 at the GolfBC Championship. Now in contention for the first time since last May, Shelton recognized that conditions will change the course on Sunday for the final round.

“It’s going to be a little warmer and not as much wind, so there will be a bunch of birdies I’m sure,” said Shelton. “I just have to play my game, hit a few more greens and a few more fairways than I did today, but the putts are falling so that’s a good thing.”



The third-round scoring average (71.66) was more than two strokes lower than the second round (73.79) with slightly less windy conditions and a rising temperature.

Xinjun Zhang, who entered the week seventh on the Web.com Tour points list, carded a tournament-low 7-under 65 to ascend the leaderboard and sit T2 after 54 holes. Zhang scattered seven birdies across his bogey-free round to jump into contention. The 33-year-old is looking for his third top-three finish of the season.

Lanto Griffin added a back-nine 4-under 32 to tie Zhang at 11-under 205. The Virginia Commonwealth University alum is tied for the lead with 45 greens in regulation through 54 holes (83%).

Final-round tee times will run from 7:44 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on Sunday morning.

#### **SATURDAY NOTES:**

\* Saturday's weather: Partly cloudy, high of 65, winds W/NW at 10-15 miles per hour with gusts up to 25 miles per hour. The second round continued beginning at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning. It was completed around 11 a.m. when the cut was made at even-par 144 (68 players).

\* Four Monday qualifiers made the cut: Davis Riley (7-under, T7), Garrett Osborn (4-under, T22), Hayden Buckley (2-under, T31) and Akshay Bhatia (1-over, T53). Riley and Osborn each have Alabama ties. Osborn is originally from Birmingham and played at UAB while Riley was an All-American at the University of Alabama. Riley gained entry into the field by chipping in from 30 feet for birdie to survive a 7-for-1 playoff on Monday.

\* Robby Shelton is looking to become the fifth player this year (in eight tournaments) to go on to win the tournament after leading/co-leading following the third round. Last year, 10 players who led/co-led after 54 holes went on to win the tournament.

\* In his Web.com Tour debut, Akshay Bhatia sits T53 after three rounds. The 17-year-old Monday qualified into the tournament after making his PGA TOUR debut last month at the Valspar Championship. Bhatia is currently the eighth-ranked amateur in the world and the only amateur in the field.

\* Will Zalatoris Monday qualified into the Savannah Golf Championship and finished T12 to earn his way into this week's tournament. His 6-under 66 on Saturday was the second-lowest round of the day and rose him to T7 entering the final round.

\* Tyler McCumber (7-under, T7), Brett Stegmaier (7-under, T7) and Scottie Scheffler (6-under, T15) are each seeking their fourth top-10 finish on the Web.com Tour this season. The trio currently lead all Web.com Tour players with three top-10 finishes thus far.

\* Despite posting a 10 during the first round (fifth hole), Charlie Saxon rallied to make the cut and added a 68 on Saturday to reach 5-under for the tournament (T18).

\* Norman Xiong, the 2018 Haskins Award and Nicklaus Award winner as the top male collegiate golfer, made his first cut of the year and sits T27 (3-under) after the third round. He holed out for eagle on the first hole of his third round.

\* This is the first Web.com Tour tournament in the state of Alabama since 2005. The Web.com Tour Championship was hosted at The Senator Course from 2001-2005. The LPGA had an event at The Senator Course from 2008-2016 and the Symetra Tour's Guardian Championship has been held at the course each of the past two years.



\* This week's purse is \$550,000, with \$99,000 going to the champion. The champion will also earn 500 points in the Web.com Tour points system.

\* Forty-seven former Web.com Tour champions are competing in the field, amounting to 68 victories, as well as 10 PGA TOUR champions (equaling 25 victories).

\* The par-4 15<sup>th</sup> hole (448 yards) ranked as the toughest hole on the course on Friday with a scoring average of 4.368.

\* The par-5 17<sup>th</sup> hole (559 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Friday. The hole played to an average of 4.441 and yielded 37 birdies and three eagles to the field.

\* The Senator Course Scoring Averages:

	<b>Front (36)</b>	<b>Back (36)</b>	<b>Total (72)</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>R1</b>	<b>35.596</b>	<b>35.897</b>	<b>71.494</b>	
<b>R2</b>	<b>36.435</b>	<b>37.354</b>	<b>73.789</b>	<b>72.612</b>
<b>R3</b>	<b>35.824</b>	<b>35.838</b>	<b>71.662</b>	<b>72.315</b>

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

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