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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Wade Binfield	68(-4)
2	Harry Higgs	70(-2)
	Max Rottluff	70(-2)
	Byron Meth	70(-2)
	Norman Xiong	70(-2)

**Only includes players that finished the first round*

Wade Binfield leads in the Bahamas as play is suspended

GREAT ABACO, Bahamas – Taking advantage of a sponsor’s exemption to The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, Wade Binfield opened with a 4-under 68 to hold the clubhouse lead as play was suspended due to darkness on Sunday evening. Play was delayed by an hour and 33 minutes due to weather in the middle of the first round. Strong wind was consistent throughout the day, with varied gusts up to 35 miles per hour. No groups finished in the afternoon wave, but Cody Blick led scoring of unfinished players at 4-under through nine holes.

“That’s one of the best rounds I’ve played,” said Binfield. “Certainly the best in a long time. The wind was just constant, and a lot of big gusts out there too. I just tried to stick to my game plan and how to get it in there with the wind. I chipped it and putted it beautifully today, and the chip-in on 15 definitely helped.”

Binfield, who worked as a substitute teacher from 2010-14, went out at even-par 36 with a bogey at the third and a birdie at the eighth, but back-to-back birdies at Nos. 10 and 11 jumpstarted his round. The chip-in birdie at the 15th and a closing birdie at the par-5 18th cemented his place atop the leaderboard.

“I really felt like I played halfway solid last week but hit a couple shots that turned holes into bogey or double-bogey holes,” said Binfield, who finished T68 last week. “I thought if I could find some fairways and some greens today and avoid the big number, I could be okay. Making some early par putts settled me down and then I really got going in the round.”

The wind continued to be a big factor throughout the day. Players referenced a lot more feel shots on distances compared to their normal numbers.

“You just have to trust that the wind is going to bring it back,” said Binfield. “There’s a couple of times where you’re aiming out close to the ocean and just have to know that the wind is going to stop the golf ball. I would chip a 4-iron from 170, and then turn around and hit a pitching wedge from 180, so you kind of have to throw distances out the window.”

Despite no groups finishing in the afternoon, several players were off to good starts before play was suspended. Brad Hopfinger (through 14 holes), Michael Arnaud (through 13) and Vince Covello (through 12) all sit at 3-under, one off the lead.



Harry Higgs, Max Rottluff, Byron Meth and Norman Xiong all finished at 2-under 70. Higgs went out in the first tee time of the day, but that provided no relief from the wind.

“We’re all used to wind in a sense, but we’re not used to seeing balls move this much in the air,” said Higgs, who finished by birdieing four out of his last five holes. “No. 18 feels like the longest hole in the world right now. I think I hit my 3-iron and it looked like I threw it off the tee. It had nothing on it. I hit a 7-iron from like 105 yards, so there’s a lot of guessing.”

The first round will continue starting at 7:30 a.m. ET on Monday morning.

SUNDAY NOTES:

* Sunday’s weather: Isolated showers and windy, high of 78, SW-NW at 15-20 miles per hour, with gusts up to 35 miles per hour. There was a weather delay from 1:23 p.m. ET to 2:56 p.m. ET (an hour and 33 minutes total) and play was suspended due to darkness at 5:37 p.m. ET.

* This week’s purse is \$600,000, with \$108,000 going to the champion.

* Forty-one former Web.com Tour champions are in the field, amounting to 56 victories, as well as nine PGA TOUR champions (equaling 21 victories).

* Each of the past two champions of the tournament have gone on to earn their PGA TOUR card for the following season (Andrew Landry, Adam Svensson). Svensson set the tournament record in 2018 at 17-under 271.

* Co-leader Cody Blick made national headlines in December after his clubs were stolen before the final round at Q-School. Blick shot a final-round 63 at Q-School to earn eight guaranteed starts with a collection of borrowed clubs. He later recovered the clubs, and is using the same putter this week that was stolen in December.

* Vince Covello set the 18-hole tournament record last year at 8-under 64 in the second round. Covello’s round on Sunday was suspended due to darkness, but the 36-year-old sits 3-under through 12 holes.

* A week after posting the first win of the year, Zecheng “Marty” Dou struggled early in the windy conditions Sunday morning. After opening with a birdie, Dou posted two bogeys on the front and three more on the back to finish at 4-over 76.

* The par-3 10th hole played as the toughest hole during the first round by scoring average at 3.517. Last year, it played as the sixth-toughest.

* The par-5 eighth hole (495 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Sunday. The hole played to an average of 4.414.

* The Abaco Club on Winding Bay Scoring Averages:

	Front (36)	Back (36)	Total (72)	Cumulative
R1	37.177	37.329	74.506	

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