

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 21, 2019 CONTACT: Preston Smith, <u>PrestonSmith@pgatourhq.com</u>, 706-844-2100

## Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores	
1	Erik Compton	69-65-134(-10)	
2	Tyler McCumber	70-65–135(-9)	
3	Brad Hopfinger	67-70–137(-7)	
4	Four players tied at	138(-6)	

\*Rd. 3 Golf Channel Coverage: 2-5 p.m. ET.

## Erik Compton takes 36-hole lead in the Bahamas as play is suspended

**GREAT ABACO, Bahamas** – After only getting in the first 11 holes of his first round yesterday (and sitting at 1-under), Erik Compton returned on Monday to play 25 holes at 9-under to jump into the lead after the second round at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club. Compton played his second round at 7-under 65, tying Tyler McCumber for the round of the day. Play was suspended due to darkness at 5:50 p.m. ET.

"I think I've flighted the ball really well over the last couple of days," said Compton. "I've made some good putts and have been solid from 10-20 feet and the mindset has just been to make pars. Sometimes when that's your mindset you're a little bit more free out there."

Compton took advantage of changing wind directions, particularly at the par-4 fifth hole where he drove the green and made eagle.

"Shot of the day was probably the eagle on No. 5," said Compton. "I drove it to the middle of the green and made about a 15-footer. Yesterday I smashed a driver and still had 120 yards to the hole. Today I drove it onto the green. That just shows you the difference in playing it slightly downwind versus playing into the wind, 120 yards of difference."

Compton has competed on the Web.com Tour full-time each of the past two years after spending the 2016 season on the PGA TOUR. The 39-year-old may have drawn some inspiration from watching fellow journeyman Adam Long win the Desert Classic on Sunday night.

"In my opinion the guys who are playing well and earning their PGA TOUR card here on the Web.com Tour are as good as anybody in the world," said Compton. "The difference in the PGA TOUR and the Web.com Tour is very close. Guys are hungry when they come out...When you get on the TOUR you're ready."

After 12 birdies and an eagle through 36 holes, Compton is in prime position to top the third-place finish he had last year at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz. That finish was his highest since winning the 2011 El Bosque Mexico Championship by Innova.

"On this Tour there's a lot of focus on the young guys, but there's still a lot of older guys that can play," said Compton. "I think I'm in a good place right now...I'm coming into this year very strong. I'm driving the ball really well, I have all new equipment, I have new clothes...I have kind of a new lease on golf. So I'm looking forward to the year."



Tyler McCumber, who is playing his first full year on the Web.com Tour since 2015, sits solo second, just one shot back of Compton at 9-under 135. McCumber competed on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada in 2018, at one point earning three wins and a third-place finish over the course of four starts.

"I had a little bit of momentum to start the day this morning," said McCumber. "I hit kind of a dinky drive, but hit a really nice 3-iron to five feet and made it for birdie[at the first]. My ball-striking clicked when I needed it to today. Had some drives when I needed them on the tough driving holes. But it's great to start with some momentum. I holed out a wedge yesterday, and it really felt like that gave me the momentum I've had over the first two days."

McCumber sits one shot ahead of Brad Hopfinger, who claimed the 18-hole lead after wrapping up his first round on Monday morning with a 5-under 67. Hopfinger is two off the lead after a second-round 70.

Second-round tee times will continue on Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. ET.

## **MONDAY NOTES:**

\* Monday's weather: Mostly sunny, high of 69, winds N/NE at 10-16 miles per hour, with gusts up to 20 miles per hour. Second-round play was suspended due to darkness at 5:50 p.m. ET.

\* With the second round being suspended due to darkness, the cut will be made after all groups finish on Tuesday morning. The current projected cutline is at 2-over 146, which would be two strokes higher than last year. Second-round scoring average was almost two full strokes lower than the first round.

\* 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.

\* Finishing up on Monday morning, Brad Hopfinger capped off an opening-round 67 with three birdies in the last five holes to lead after the first round. Hopfinger did not lead after any round in the 2018 season despite playing in 26 events.

\* There was a significant change in wind speeds and directions on Monday compared to the first round. Winds began on Sunday morning at approximately 25 miles per hour facing south and southwest, before completely reversing and blowing at 10-15 miles per hour north and northeast on Monday. Leader Erik Compton estimated a difference of 120 yards off the tee on the par-4 fifth hole from Sunday to Monday.

\* Leader Erik Compton and Tyler McCumber, who sits second, gave the 18-hole tournament record a run on Monday. Each shot a 7-under 65, one stroke off the record set last year of 8-under 64 by Vince Covello. Covello sits T12 after going 68-72 to start the tournament.

\* A week after posting the first win of the year, Zecheng "Marty" Dou missed the cut at 5-over for the tournament.

\* The 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> hole tied as the toughest holes on the golf course during the second round, each playing approximately one-third of a shot over par (3.336 / 4.336, respectively). Last year, the 10<sup>th</sup> hole played as the sixth-toughest, while the 11<sup>th</sup> hole played as the toughest.



\* The par-4 fifth hole (342 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Sunday. The hole played to an average of 3.505.

\* The Abaco Club on Winding Bay Scoring Averages:

	Front (36)	Back (36)	Total (72)	Cumulative
R1	37.177	37.329	74.506	
R2	35.675	36.871	72.545	73.296

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