

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2019 CONTACT: Preston Smith, <u>PrestonSmith@pgatourhq.com</u>, 706-844-2100

Second-Round Leaderboard					
Name	Scores				
John Oda	63-68–131(-13)				
Zecheng Dou	67-66–133(-11)				
Willy Wilcox	66-69–135(-9)				
Austin Smotherman	67-68–135(-9)				
	John Oda Zecheng Dou Willy Wilcox				

Second-Round Leaderboard

*Play was suspended due to darkness

John Oda leads by two as play is suspended in the Bahamas

GREAT EXUMA, Bahamas – After returning early on Monday morning to complete a sparkling first-round 9-under 63, John Oda added a second-round 4-under 68 to lead the field at 13-under after 36 holes at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay. Oda completed the final three holes of his first round beginning at 7:15 a.m. with a par-birdie-par finish. Play was suspended due to darkness during the second round with three groups left on the golf course.

Oda posted six birdies against one double bogey on Monday to reach 68 and pace the field by two strokes. The Las Vegas native is playing in his first Regular Season event on the Web.com Tour after competing in the 2018 Web.com Tour finals.

"Just staying calm and staying positive all day really helped me today," said Oda. "Yesterday was a slower round, but I stayed patient and it worked well for me. I think keeping the ball in play is tough, there are some tough shots out here on both nines. But I was just getting some putts to drop and that was the key.

The 22-year-old might have been helped by strong competition in his group. Austin Smotherman (T3) and Matthew NeSmith (T9) played with Oda for the first two rounds, which reminded Smotherman of his college days.

"Playing with John and Matt, we all know each other from college and fed off of each other," said Smotherman. "Obviously John's playing incredibly right now and he's done this a lot on a lot of different Tours and events. The last time we played together was at Stanford, I think my junior year and his sophomore year of college, and now here we are."

Through 36 holes, Smotherman (9-under) has enjoyed a strong start in his Web.com Tour debut this week. There are 17 players in all playing in their first Web.com Tour tournament this week.

Starting on the back, Zecheng Dou birdied four in a row on a stretch of oceanfront holes (Nos. 14-17) to ascend the leaderboard and sit in second. Dou leads the field with 15 total birdies.

"I started off pretty well today, a lot more relaxed than my start yesterday," said Dou. "Two years ago I played about 25 events on the Web.com Tour and only made about half of the cuts. So anything can happen out here. If you're not playing well you can miss eight cuts in a row. If I do that here starting this season, I have nowhere to go after four starts. So that is definitely in the back of my mind, thinking about where I want to be the rest of the year. That's where the pressure comes in."



The three remaining groups will continue their second round at 8 a.m. ET.

SUNDAY NOTES:

* Monday's weather: Sunny, High of 78, Winds N/NW 4-8 mph.

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

* The projected cutline is at even-par 144, which would match last year's projected cutline.

* After battling wind and rain over the last two years, the first two rounds have had optimal conditions. In 2017, the tournament's inaugural year, weather conditions led to the highest cut in Web.com Tour history at 11-over.

* Last year's champion, Sungjae Im, is the most recent player to win in his Web.com Tour debut. Im went on to win Web.com Tour Rookie of the Year in 2018 and became the first player to lead the money list wire-to-wire in the Tour's history.

* Willy Wilcox is T3 after going 66-69 over the first two rounds. The Birmingham, Alabama, native is seeking his second Web.com Tour victory.

* The par-4 fifth (499 yards) played as the toughest hole on the course during the second round by scoring average (4.538). The hole tallied 56 bogeys or worse and yielded only two birdies on Monday. The course overall ranked as the third toughest on the Web.com Tour in 2018.

* The par-5 first hole (532 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Sunday. The hole played to an average of 4.326 and relinquished eight eagles and 78 birdies.

* Sandals Emerald Bay Golf Course is a Greg Norman design on the ocean at Sandals resort. Norman played in the Pro-Am on Saturday and hit a ceremonial tee shot to open the tournament on Sunday.

* Sandals Emerald Bay Golf Course Scoring Averages:

	Front (36)	Back (36)	Total (72)	Cumulative
R1	36.292	36.570	72.862	
R2	35.626	36.191	71.817	72.337

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