



Saturday, November 24, 2018
ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf

Team/Player Notes

Third-round leaderboard

1	BELGIUM	(Thomas Pieters Thomas Detry)	63-71-63 197 (-19)
T2	ITALY	(Andrea Pavan / Renato Paratore)	65-71-66 202 (-14)
	MEXICO	(Abraham Ancer / Roberto Diaz)	67-70-65 202 (-14)
	KOREA	(Byeong Hun An / Si Woo Kim)	62-72-68 202 (-14)

Belgium	Thomas Pieters	Thomas Detry
Official World Golf Ranking	70 th	140 th
International Victories	3	1
World Cup appearances	2nd	First
Belgium's Best World Cup Finish	T4 – 1955 – Arthur de Vulder / Flory Van Donck	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 36-hole co-leaders recorded their second 63 in the four-ball format, sparked by an eagle by Thomas Detry on the par-5 ninth hole as part of a 5-under stretch in four holes. • Added three birdies in a row from Nos. 14-16 to see their lead swell to five strokes and finish at 19-under for the tournament. • Belgium is looking to become the 17th different country to win the World Cup of Golf and the eighth European country to win in the last 10 editions of the event. 	
Korea	Byeong Hun An	Si Woo Kim
Official World Golf Ranking	50 th	57 th
International Victories	3	3
World Cup appearances	2	First
Korea's Best World Cup Finish	5 th – 1971 – Chang Sang Hahn / Seung Hak Kim; 1982 - Chang Sang Hahn / Sang Ho Choi	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After beginning the third round tied for the lead, Team Korea turned in a 4-under 68, which included an eagle by An on the par-4 16th, to sit in a three-way tie for second. • Byeong Hun An and Si Woo Kim combined for three bogeys in the four-ball format. • Korea is one of three teams that have both players ranked inside the top 60 in the world (Australia, England). 	
Italy	Andrea Pavan	Renato Paratore

Official World Golf Ranking	103 rd	227 th
International Victories	5	1
World Cup appearances	First	First
Italy's Best World Cup Finish	1 st – 2009 – Edoardo Molinari / Francesco Molinari	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Italy turned in a 5-under 31 on the front nine but faltered on the back nine with two bogeys and a double bogey at the par-5 14th to finish in a tie for second at 14-under. • Birdied all three par 5s on the front nine for the third consecutive round. • Pavan and Paratore each have one European Tour victory to their credit. 	
Mexico	Abraham Ancer	Roberto Diaz
Official World Golf Ranking	60 th	742 nd
International Victories	2	0
World Cup appearances	First	First
Mexico's Best World Cup Finish	7 th – 1965 – Al Escalante / Juan Neri	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parred the first three holes but birdied seven of their next 15 holes en route to a 7-under 65 during Saturday's four-ball. • Ancer was ranked 272nd after his first start in 2018 and has ascended to the top 100 in the world, making him the first player from Mexico to accomplish the feat. • Ancer won last week's Emirates Australian Open by five strokes. Team Mexico's foursomes round of 2-under 70 in cold, wet and windy conditions on Friday was the lowest in the field. 	

Belgium takes commanding five-stroke lead to Sunday's final round

Belgium's Thomas Pieters and Thomas Detry continued their impressive form at the ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf to hold a five-shot lead over Mexico, Korea and Italy at The Metropolitan Golf Club.

After being just one of four teams to break par in Friday's foursomes under difficult conditions, the Belgians followed it up with a 9-under 63 in the four-ball format, which stood as the low round of the day. After enduring an early charge by Team Australia, Belgium regained the lead after the partners Thomas picked up five shots over a four-hole span thanks to an eagle on the par-5 ninth hole by Detry and three birdies by Pieters.

"I kind of wish the season wasn't ending now because I'm actually playing really good right now," Pieters said. "Hopefully I can take that into next year. I can just feel my confidence growing the last four, five tournaments."

Former teammates at the University of Illinois, Pieters and Detry are looking to bring home Belgium's first team title in the World Cup of Golf. Its previous best finish is a T4 in the event's third edition in 1955.

"I think it means a lot. Walking up that first tee, when you see the trophy, it's just unbelievable," Detry said. "You see all those names on there, you see pretty much all the countries and all the players that won this tournament. It's pretty amazing. Having our name on the board and on the trophy and bringing it back to Belgium..."

Team Italy emerged as Belgium's top challenger after rattling off four birdies in a row from hole Nos. 7-10 but faltered down the stretch with a double-bogey on the par-5 14th and a bogey on the finishing hole to finish with a 6-under 66. But Andrea Pavan and Renato Paratore see plenty of positives returning to the foursomes format for the final round.

"I feel like the golf course sets up nicely," Pavan said. "I don't have to hit many tee shots tomorrow and I can just rely on my iron game and he can have a lot of -- hopefully I can give him a lot of birdie looks. Yeah, we'll just look forward to that."

Co-leaders after 36 holes with Belgium, Koreans Byeong Hun An and Si Woo Kim settled for a 4-under 68 in four-ball after carding three bogeys on the round. An unlikely eagle by An on the 16th and Kim birdie on the 18th aided a late charge and kept the Team Korea in the hunt heading to the final round.

"We struggled all day today," An said. "There were not many birdies and we weren't making any putts. Making [eagle on 16] definitely was my only highlight of the day and that really helps. Bogey on 17 kind of hurts a little bit but [Si Woo] birdieing 18 definitely keeps the momentum going."

Mexico is the final team tied for second that faces an uphill climb in order to catch the formidable Belgians. After making par on the first three holes, Abraham Ancer and Roberto Diaz rallied to birdie seven of their last 15 holes to finish tied for second after three rounds. Team Mexico will look to mount another charge up the leaderboard during the foursomes format after its 2-under 70 on Friday stood as the low round of the day.

"I think that our trust in each other is pretty high, so I trust his game, he trusts mine," Diaz said. "The way this format works tomorrow, it sets up for us because I hit a bunch of drivers and he's a great iron player, so the key tomorrow will be having a bunch of birdie looks. So yeah, I think we're right in there and excited for tomorrow."

It's not an impossible task with Germany achieving the feat at the 2006 World Cup of Golf in Barbados. The German team of Bernard Langer and Marcel Siem made up five shots on leaders Sweden to grab the title in a playoff against Scotland, while the Swedes finished a shot further back in third.

ISPS HANDA Disabled Golf Cup

Twelve of the world's leading golfers with a disability from seven different countries competed in the ISPS HANDA Disabled Golf Cup following second- and third-round play of the ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf.

The ISPS HANDA Disabled Golf Cup showcases golf's inclusive design with players sharing the same test as the very best of professional golfers participating in the World Cup. The ISPS HANDA Disabled Golf Cup mirrored the World Cup format on the same tees and same course conditions.

The 36-hole invitational competition is golf's opportunity to showcase the world's leading players with a disability (R4GD). The R4GD is a pan disability ranking system shared by 28 countries including Golf Australia.

Day 2 Results - Internationals def. Australia 3.5-2.5

Match 1. Ashley Harris / Timo Klischan (Internationals) halved with Geoff Nicholas / Shane Luke (AUS)

Match 2. Stephen Prior / Mike Rolls (AUS) def. Manuel De Los Santos / Adem Wahbi (Internationals) 1 Up

Match 3. Juan Postigo Arce / Brendan Lawlor (Internationals) def. Cameron Pollard / Tony Coates 5&4

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