



**Sunday, November 25, 2018**  
**ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf**

**Team/Player Notes**  
**Final-round leaderboard**

<b>1</b>	<b>BELGIUM</b>	(Thomas Pieters / Thomas Detry)	63-71-63-68 265 (-23)
<b>T2</b>	<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	(Marc Leishman / Cameron Smith)	62-76-65-65 268 (-20)
	<b>MEXICO</b>	(Abraham Ancer / Roberto Diaz)	67-70-65-66 268 (-20)
<b>T4</b>	<b>DENMARK</b>	(Thorbjorn Olesen / Soren Kjeldsen)	63-77-66-65 271 (-17)
	<b>CANADA</b>	(Adam Hadwin / Nick Taylor)	68-73-64-66 271 (-17)

<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Thomas Pieters</b>	<b>Thomas Detry</b>
Official World Golf Ranking	70 <sup>th</sup>	140 <sup>th</sup>
International Victories	3	1
World Cup appearances	2nd	First
Belgium's Previous Best World Cup Finish	T4 – 1955 – Arthur de Vulder / Flory Van Donck	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belgium's Thomas Pieters and Thomas Detry lifted their nation's first ever title at the ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf with a closing 4-under 68 in the final day foursomes session.</li> <li>• Becomes the 17<sup>th</sup> different country to win the World Cup of Golf and eighth European country to win in the last 10 editions of the event.</li> <li>• After holding the lead or a share of the lead since the second round, Pieters and Detry bogeyed the second hole before bouncing back with an eagle on No. 4 and birdies on Nos. 7 and 9, both par 5s, to turn in 33 and maintain their overnight five-shot lead.</li> <li>• On the back nine, their lead was trimmed to two by Australia's Marc Leishman and Cameron Smith but the Belgians hung on with three more birdies against three bogeys on their inward nine for the win.</li> <li>• Pieters and Detry shared the winners' cheque of US\$2.24 million.</li> <li>• Belgium's success at The Metropolitan Golf Club was built upon their solid four-ball scores in rounds one and three where they returned matching 9-under 63s.</li> </ul>	
<b>Mexico</b>	<b>Abraham Ancer</b>	<b>Roberto Diaz</b>
Official World Golf Ranking	60 <sup>th</sup>	742 <sup>nd</sup>

International Victories	2	0
World Cup appearances	First	First
Mexico's Best World Cup Finish	7 <sup>th</sup> – 1965 – Al Escalante / Juan Neri	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starting the final round five shots back, Mexico's Abraham Ancer and Roberto Diaz produced a closing 6-under 66 to guide their nation to a best-ever finish at T2 in the World Cup of Golf.</li> <li>The Mexicans produced matching 33s which featured seven birdies and one bogey to finish two behind winners Belgium.</li> <li>Ancer, ranked 272<sup>nd</sup> at the start of 2018 but now ranked 60<sup>th</sup>, was bidding for a second straight title after winning last week's Emirates Australian Open by five shots.</li> <li>Ancer and Diaz had earlier combined for a 70 in the second round's foursomes on Friday, which was the lowest of the day.</li> </ul>	

<b>Australia</b>	<b>Marc Leishman</b>	<b>Cameron Smith</b>
Official World Golf Ranking	21 <sup>st</sup>	33 <sup>rd</sup>
International Victories	10	2
World Cup appearances	2	First
Australia Best World Cup Finish	1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 times – Most Recent – 2013 – Jason Day / Adam Scott	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marc Leishman and Cameron Smith produced a 7-under 65 in the foursomes to finish T2 alongside Mexico's Abraham Ancer and Roberto Diaz.</li> <li>The Australian duo combined for a bogey-free card and sank seven birdies on the round and had the deficit reduced to two strokes on the 14<sup>th</sup> hole when Smith holed out a bunker shot for birdie.</li> <li>This is Leishman's best finish in the World Cup of Golf after finishing T9 with Adam Scott in 2016, which was played at Kingston Heath. Leishman won his fourth PGA TOUR victory at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia last month. Smith was making his debut this week.</li> </ul>	

### **Belgium makes history at ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf**

Thomas Pieters and Thomas Detry played their way into the history books as Belgium savored a historic first victory at the ISPS HANDA Melbourne World Cup of Golf at The Metropolitan Golf Club on Sunday.

Holding a five-shot lead into the final day's foursomes session, the former teammates at the University of Illinois held off the fast-charging Australian pair of Marc Leishman and Cameron Smith with their closing 4-under 68 which featured one eagle, six birdies and three bogeys.

“Being able to put our name down the list when you see the amount of good players and all the big names that were actually on the cup, it feels pretty special,” Detry said.

Leishman and Smith, partnering for the first time in the World Cup of Golf, raised local hopes when they narrowed the lead to two strokes on the 14<sup>th</sup> hole when Smith brilliantly holed out a bunker shot for their seventh birdie of the day. The home heroes could only par home to sign for the day’s joint best of 65 as the Belgians hung on for a memorable triumph in their nation’s golf history.

“Belgium was clearly the best team all week,” Leishman said. “When you come up against someone like that, we did what we had to do today to put the pressure on and they were just too good. When you get beat by someone who’s playing that well, there’s not much you can do.”

Mexico’s Abraham Ancer, who won the Emirates Australian Open last week, and Roberto Diaz closed with a 66 to share second place with the host nation, as they delivered their country’s best showing in the World Cup of Golf, improving from the previous high of seventh position achieved in 1965.

“I’ve been playing some really solid golf coming in to Australia and I just like the vibe,” Ancer said. “Everybody was super nice, had a great time. It was easy to keep playing some good golf here, I just loved it.”

Defending champions Denmark, represented by Thorbjorn Olesen and Soren Kjeldesen, put up a commendable showing, shooting a 65 to share fourth position with Canada’s Adam Hadwin and Nick Taylor at 17-under 271.

Pieters and Detry, who ended the week on 23-under-par 265, were delighted with their historic triumph. They started nervously with a bogey on two but a wonderful eagle conversion by Detry from 25 feet on the fourth hole restored their overnight five-shot advantage.

As Australia put up a title charge, the Belgians did enough on the back nine to emerge victorious.

“I think we’ll take a lot of confidence out of this,” Pieters said. “Like I said, it’s a shame the season’s over for me now. I felt like I played really good today and both of us we played really good. Sometimes we felt the guys coming, Australia coming right behind us and we answered it with a birdie, so I think we handled the situation very well.”

Cheered on by large crowds, Leishman and Smith produced a superb fightback as they enjoyed a birdie binge. But after Smith brilliantly delivered the home team’s seventh birdie from the greenside bunker, they failed to find another birdie despite some close attempts, including a short miss by Leishman on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole.

“We were seven or eight back at one stage,” Smith said. “You know, we’ve just played really solid golf the last four or five holes from Friday onwards. I don’t think we could have really asked for too much more. It was pretty solid.”

Mexico nearly raised its flag in Australia for a second time in as many weeks, with the pair of Ancer and Diaz turning in six birdies over their last 13 holes after an even-par start through five holes.

“I think we ham-and-egged it pretty well during the week,” Diaz said. “We played great. I drove it well, he did irons unbelievable the whole week. We happened to be good at the right moments.”

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