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**Third Round**

**Qinhuangdao Championship**

**Full leaderboard:** <http://leaderboard.pgatourseries.com/>

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Pos.** | **Name** | **Scores** |
| 1 | Weihsuan Wang (Chinese Taipei) | 69-66-66—201 (-15) |
| T2 | Myles Creighton (Canada) | 66-71-65—202 (-14) |
| T2 | Matthew Negri (U.S.) | 71-64-67—202 (-14) |
| T4 | Justin Hicks (U.S.) | 70-68-67—205 (-11) |
| T4 | Suteepat Prateeptienchai (Thailand) | 71-66-68—205 (-11) |
| T4 | Luke Kwon (U.S.) | 67-67-71—205 (-11) |
| 7 | Jin Zhang (China) | 69-70-67—206 (-10) |
| T8 | John Young Kim (U.S.) | 72-66-69—207 (-9) |
| T8 | Stephen Lewton (England) | 69-67-71—207 (-9) |
| T10 | Kevin Techakanokboon (U.S.) | 69-71-68—208 (-8) |
| T10 | Christopher Wood (Australia) | 69-71-68—208 (-8) |
| T10 | Cheng Jin (China) | 71-69-68—208 (-8) |
| T10 | Lloyd Jefferson Go (Philippines) | 70-68-70—208 (-8) |

**Teenager Weihsuan Wang fires 10 birdies to take 54-hole lead in Qinhuangdao**

QINHUANGDAO, CHINA—Chinese Taipei’s Weihsuan Wang fired 10 birdies, including a stretch of six in a row, and overcame two double bogeys to shoot a 6-under 66 to secure a one-stroke lead heading into Sunday at the Qinhuangdao Championship, the fifth event of this year’s PGA TOUR Series-China.

Building on an opening 69, Wang fired back-to-back 66s at Qinhuangdao Golf Club to move to 15-under, one shot ahead of American Matthew Negri (67), and Canada’s Myles Creighton, who shot a 65, the low score of the day.

Still a teenager, the 19-year-old Wang turned pro in January and is playing in just his second event as a professional. He made his pro debut at last week’s Beijing Championship after he Monday-qualified into the event and went on to tie for 19th, which earned him direct entry into this week’s field.

Saturday, Wang opened with a birdie before firing a spectacular six consecutive birdies, starting at No. 4, to card a 7-under 29 on the front nine. Things quickly changed as Wang made back-to-back double bogeys on holes 10 and 11 but regrouped with birdies on 12, 15 and 18.

Wang started playing golf when he was seven and is leading a pro event for the first time. He admits he will have to hold back nerves as he looks to hold on for the win.

“[Sunday] will be my first time competing in a leading group since turning pro. I think I’m going to be nervous, but I’m going to try my best to prepare myself and not think about it too much,” said Wang. “If I can keep to the same strategy and play like I did the front nine again tomorrow, anything can happen, and I’m really looking forward to it.”

Justin Hicks, a former PGA TOUR player, carded a 67 to share fourth, at 11-under, along with compatriot and second round leader Luke Kwon (71) and Thailand’s Suteepat Prateeptienchai (68).

Leading the charge for China is Jin Zhang, who shot a 67 to lie in solo seventh, while Cheng Jin carded a 68 and is tied for 10th with three others.

**Did you know** that Weihsuan Wang reached a career-high amateur ranking of 504 on the World Amateur Golf Ranking and played in the 2018 Asian Games, where he finished 38th.

**Key Information**

* The course this week is a par-72 totaling 7,185 yards.
* A 2019 record 71 players made it to the weekend.
* Last week in Beijing, Matthew Negri was tied for second heading into the weekend before rounds of 72-76 dropped him into a tie for 36th. Saturday, Negri fired a 65 and is tied for second with 18 holes to play.
* In the three previous tournaments that have gone 72 holes, the 54-hole leader has won twice. Taihei Sato (Chongqing Championship) turned a one-shot, third-round lead into a playoff victory, while Richard Jung started the final round of the Beijing Championship tied for first before winning by two shots. Only China’s Zheng Ouyang couldn’t parlay his 54-hole lead into a win. David Kocher came from behind on the final day to win in a playoff.
* Weihsuan Wang is not a member of the Tour and is hoping to re-shuffle into exempt status based on his performance. The re-shuffle takes place after next week’s tournament.
* Myles Creighton was bogey-free Saturday and picked up seven birdies for his best score of the week.
* Last week in Beijing, Myles Creighton played in the second-to-last group Sunday and recorded his first top-10 on this Tour, tying for ninth.
* Weihsuan Wang, Myles Creighton and Matthew Negri will play together in the final group, which tees off at 10:10 a.m., off hole 1.
* Justin Hicks, a five-year PGA TOUR veteran, is currently tied for fourth.
* Australia’s Corey Hale won the Monday qualifier to gain entrance into the field. He made the cut and is tied for 31st after rounds of 69-71.
* Last year’s runner-up Steve Lewton is tied for eighth after rounds of 69-67-71. Coming into this week, Lewton’s first-round stroke average is 69.75. His second-round average is 68.5. His issues have been on the weekend, where he’s 72.25 in the third round and 72.33 on Sundays. Saturday, Lewton shot a 71, shaving more than a stroke off his season average.

**Quotable**

“This is my first time playing here, and I really like it. The coastal city of Qinhuangdao is very beautiful, and although I haven’t had the chance to walk to the seaside because of the competition, the streets and surrounding environment are very nice.” **– Weihsuan Wang**

“I putted really solid. I didn’t have too many long putts and all my birdie putts were within range. I didn’t miss anything I shouldn’t, so all day was solid.” **– Matthew Negri**

“After I made a double (bogey) on hole 9, No. 10 was playing pretty long, and I hit it in that front bunker and made a good up and down there to not fall farther into a hole. That really helped me a lot.” **– Matthew Negri**

“I played pretty smart today except for hole 9, but I just need to stick to the same plan [Sunday] and try to hit fairways. From there, I think my iron play and putting have been really good, so if I can keep it in the fairway, it will be a good day. Hopefully (I) can get the job done.” **– Matthew Negri**

“The first hole was a beast today, 225 yards and a 4-iron to start the day and I hammered it long left, which was not a good spot. But I hit a really good shot to four feet for par, which is much better than starting with a bogey. Everything after that was solid.” **– Myles Creighton**

“I was in the second-to last-group last Sunday in Beijing, two shots back, so it was nice to get that experience and learn from that because as a pro, I hadn’t been in contention before in a PGA-TOUR sanctioned event. I’ll take that into [Sunday] and hopefully that will help me.” **– Myles Creighton**

“I played good all the way around, and I drove it kind of poorly the last two days. I hit my driver really good today and got some stuff figured out on the range yesterday, which really helped.” **– Myles Creighton**

“Just play [Sunday] like I have nothing to lose and just chase and try to get to 20-under.” **– Myles Creighton**

**Tournament Fast Fact**

This is the second Qinhuangdao Championship. In 2018, New Zealand’s Nick Voke won the event at 12-under, after defeating England’s Steve Lewton in a playoff.

**Third-Round Weather Report**

Mostly cloudy. High of 70. Wind SSE at 9 mph.

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**About PGA TOUR Series-China**

PGA TOUR Series-China is a professional golf tour featuring open-competition to all nationalities. PGA TOUR Series-China attracts players, mainly from Asia and other Pacific Rim countries, although members have come from five continents. PGA TOUR Series-China is owned and operated by the PGA TOUR and sanctioned by the General Administration of Sport of China. It operates in partnership with the China Golf Association and Shankai Sports. The top-five money-winners from PGA TOUR Series-China earn Web.com Tour membership for the following season. PGA TOUR Series-China’s website is PGATOURSERIESCHINA.COM. Information on the Tour can also be found at PGATOUR.COM, the No. 1 site in golf.

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