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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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**Photographs**

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**About PGA TOUR Series-China**

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