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**Second Round**

**Suzhou Open**

**For the complete leaderboard, click**[**here**](http://leaderboard.pgatourseries.com/)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pos.** | **Name** | **Scores** | **Current OOM\*\*** |
| 1 | Matt Gilchrest (U.S.)\* | 67-66—133 (-11) | 14 |
| 2 | Kenta Endo (Japan)\* | 63-71—134 (-10) | 29 |
| T3 | Cyril Bouniol (France) | 69-66—135 (-9) | 34 |
| T3 | Niall Turner (Ireland) | 70-65—135 (-9) | 81 |
| 5 | Charlie Netzel (U.S.) | 68-68—136 (-8) | 30 |
| T6 | Myles Creighton (Canada) | 67-70—137 (-7) | 11 |
| T6 | John Young Kim (U.S.) | 70-67—137 (-7) | 19 |
| T6 | Samuel Del Val (Spain)\* | 70-67—137 (-7) | 15 |
| T9 | Shotaro Ban (U.S.) | 69-69—138 (-6) | 58 |
| T9 | Stephen Lewton (England) | 70-68—138 (-6) | 7 |

\* Began on No. 10

\*\* As of June 14

**U.S.A.’s Gilchrest takes 36-hole lead in Suzhou**

SUZHOU, China—America’s Matt Gilchrest carded a 6-under 66 to move to 11-under and take a one-shot lead at the halfway stage of this week’s Suzhou Open, the seventh event of the PGA TOUR Series-China.

Gilchrest, 24, managed to improve on an opening 67 by going bogey-free and carding six birdies at Jinji Lake International Golf Club. After starting on hole 10, Gilchrest made the turn at 2-under, with birdies on holes 12 and 14 before starting and closing his back nine with birdies.

Japan’s Kenta Endo held a four-stroke lead at the start of the day, the largest 18-hole lead in the history of the Tour, but he dropped into solo second after a second-round 71. Europeans Niall Turner (65) of Ireland and Cyril Bouniol (66) of France lie in a tie for third, at 9-under.

Gilchrest turned pro after graduating from the University of Auburn in 2017 and went on to play on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada (2017) before switching to the PGA TOUR Latinoamerica in 2018, where he finished eighth on the Order of Merit. Through week five of the 2018 season, he led the Order of Merit.

Gilchrest is now looking to find his path to the Web.com Tour via China, and he has already come close to winning, recording a joint runner-up finish in Sanya earlier in the year. He is hoping to do one better this week but will need the putts to keep dropping if he wants to get his first PGA TOUR-affiliated victory.

“Putting has definitely been the best part of my game. Yesterday I made some nice long putts, and today the hole looked nice and big again,” said Gilchrest, who admits he isn’t looking too far ahead. “Hopefully I keep putting well, but my mindset won’t change this weekend. Now I’m just thinking about the cheeseburger at room service for dinner and am going to watch some “Breaking Bad” and call my girlfriend. That’s what I always do.”

Gilchrest has played in five of the six events this season, missing the Tour’s last event in Nantong to serve as the minister at his best friend’s wedding.

“I performed my best friend’s wedding, which was very cool. I’ve never skipped an event before, so it feels great to play well in the first event back,” said Gilchrest. “The wedding was very cool. It was my best friend from childhood, and he ended up marrying my girlfriend’s sister so that was pretty cool.”

American Charlie Netzel shot a 68 to lie in solo fifth, at 8-under, one stroke ahead of compatriot John Young Kim (67), Canada’s Myles Creighton (70), and Spain’s Samuel Del Val (67).

**Did you know** that Matt Gilchrest has never won a PGA TOUR-affiliated Tour event but he has come close. He tied for second in Sanya earlier this year and had a pair of runner-up finishes on the PGA TOUR Latinoamerica in 2018. He tied for second behind winner Ben Polland at the Guatemala Stella Artois Open, lost in a playoff to Thomas Baik at the weather-shortened Molino Canuelas Championship and finished two shots behind winner Horacio Leon at the Quito Open in Ecuador.

**Key Information**

* The course this week is a par-72 totaling 7,326 yards.
* The cut line was at even-par, with 63 players—61 professionals and two amateurs--advancing to the weekend.
* Matt Gilchrest had a pair of runner-up finishes to go with a third-place showing on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica in 2018. Of his 52 official rounds from a year ago, Gilchrest’s lowest score was a 9-under 63 at La Reunion Resort, site of the Guatemala Stella Artois Open. He also had a 7-under 65 in his last round of the season—at the Latinoamerica Tour Championship in Miami.
* Matt Gilchrest was born in Greenwich, Connecticut, but graduated from Carroll Senior High School in the Dallas suburb of Southlake. Gilchrest still resides in Dallas.
* Matt Gilchrest holds a degree in Finance from Auburn University.
* Niall Turner won the 2014 Jakarta Classic on the Asian Development Tour.
* Cyril Bouniol played a full season on the European Tour in 2015.
* The highest-ranked amateur is China’s Guxin Chen. He lies in a tie for 11th.
* This week, amateur Guxin Chen of China is playing his 11th career PGA TOUR Series-China tournament. He played five events last year, his best finish a tie for 45th at the Haikou Championship. This is his second made cut this year. He previously tied for 53rd at the Qinhuangdao Championship. Through 36 holes, Chen is at 5-under, tied for 11th.

**Quotable**

“I have goals for the weekend, but I’m just focusing on one thing at a time. If you start focusing on things that’s out into the future, you trip over the things that are right in front of you.” **– Matt Gilchrest**

“I think the key to par-5s on this course is picking your spots well. The back ones (Nos. 2 and 9) are reachable, but the front ones aren’t (Nos. 12 and 14). I laid up and on hole 9 and I wanted to go for it, but I had the courage to lay up which I don’t normally have so I was proud of myself for that.” **– Matt Gilchrest**

“I hit it pretty well but nothing special. I putted really well on the front nine and made about three 30-footers on the front nine and turned 5-under. I was also bogey-free.” **– Niall Turner**

“I didn’t drive the ball particularly well but hit a nice amount of controlled iron shots and had my distances under control, so I had a lot of looks, even on the back nine where I was just 2-under.” **– Niall Turner**

I made a nice 10-footer on the first hole which got me off on the right foot which was definitely the key for the round for me.” **– Niall Turner**

“It was a great improvement from [Thursday], so it’s a great position to be in going into the weekend. I think it’s been coming for a while, and I’ve been threatening some good scores. I just haven’t put it all together; so really looking forward to the weekend.” **– Niall Turner**

“It was just one of those days where everything was going my way. I started nicely with four birdies in my first five holes and that jump-started things. Then some crazy things happened, like that 85-footer which I made for eagle on hole 9 and then chipping in on 11.” **– Cyril Bouniol**

“I got it to 9-under through 14 and unfortunately had a bit of a rough finish, but I’m still really pleased with a 66 out there. It’s a course where you have to put the ball in the right spot. The front nine is a little bit more forgiving, but then the back nine can be trouble.” **– Cyril Bouniol**

“You’re not thinking when that happens. Obviously I was just really tuned in to putting the right speed on the putt and was just trying to get it close. For it to go in with the perfect speed like it did was nice, but you need a little bit of luck on some of those shots. The greens were pure in the morning, and I was in one of the first groups out so I just took advantage of that.” **– Cyril Bouniol on his 85-foot eagle putt on hole 9**

“On the chip in on hole 11. I was actually thinking about chipping in because that was the first green that I missed today, so I thought wouldn’t that be nice if I chipped in here. Then I did it, so that was good to see the shots happening. That was really fun.” **– Cyril Bouniol on his chip in on hole 11.**

**Tournament Fast Fact**

This is the second Suzhou Open. In 2018, six of the top eight finishers at the Suzhou Open are currently playing on the Web.com Tour.

**Second-Round Weather Report**

Mostly sunny. High of 92. Wind ENE at 5 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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