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**Third Round**

**Suzhou Open**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pos.** | **Name** | **Scores** | **Current OOM\*\*** |
| 1 | Cyril Bouniol (France) | 69-66-66—201 (-15) | 34 |
| 2 | Matt Gilchrest (U.S.) | 67-66-69—202 (-14) | 14 |
| T3 | Daewon Kim (South Korea) | 72-69-63—204 (-12) | 117 |
| T3 | Samuel Del Val (Spain) | 70-67-67—204 (-12) | 15 |
| T3 | Niall Turner (Ireland) | 70-65-69—204 (-12) | 81 |
| T3 | Myles Creighton (Canada) | 67-70-67—204 (-12) | 11 |
| T3 | Kenta Endo (Japan) | 63-71-70—204 (-12) | 29 |
| 8 | Charlie Netzel (U.S.) | 68-68-69—205 (-11) | 30 |
| T9 | Trevor Sluman (U.S.) | 73-67-66—206 (-10) | 4 |
| T9 | Patrick Cover (U.S.) | 72-68-66—206 (-10) | 16 |

\*\* As of June 15

**France’s Bouniol on track to be first European winner on PGA TOUR Series-China**

SUZHOU, China—Since the inaugural season of the PGA TOUR Series-China in 2014, there have been winners from nine nationalities but surprisingly, none of those have been from Europe. The English have come agonizingly close, with 2018 Order of Merit champion Callum Tarren finishing runner-up on six occasions. Also, last month, England’s Steve Lewton lost in a playoff in Nantong. Three Europeans are in position to break that streak heading into the final round of the Suzhou Open.

France’s Cyril Bouniol has the best chance to get it done for Europe as the former European Tour player leads by one stroke over American Matt Gilchrest after a second consecutive 6-under 66 moved him to 15-under. Spain’s Samuel Del Val (67) and Ireland’s Niall Turner (69) are three shots back in a tie for third at 12-under, along with Canada’s Myles Creighton (67), Japan’s Kenta Endo (70), and South Korea’s Daewon Kim (63).

Bouniol, who played in the final group, scored well in front of big crowds at Jinji Lake International Golf Club, picking up six birdies and no bogeys to give himself the 54-hole lead.

 “Today was probably one of my most solid rounds lately. I didn’t make any mistakes and missed only one green, which was on hole 17. A few others landed on the fringe, so for the most part I was in good positions all day,” said Bouniol, who is 34th on the Order of Merit. “I just played smart and stayed focused for all 18 holes. It was an awesome day.”

The 31-year-old Frenchman revealed the key to his successes, which included birdieing three out of the four par-5s and eating plenty of “healthy food.”

“If I have a number, I’ll go for it, if not, I’ll try to play the ball in the good areas to give myself a chance at an up and down which I did on the par-5s,” Bouniol explained, noting xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx That’s how I made a lot of birdies. I just try to get good sleep and eat good. Actually, I had a good pizza last night, I guess maybe that was the secret. Not so healthy, but oh well, it worked.”

**Did you know** that Cyril Bouniol proposed to his wife under France’s Eiffel Tower and then took her to a Moulin Rouge show that same night and that his aspiration outside of golf includes opening a French bakery?

**Key Information**

* The course this week is a par-72 totaling 7,326 yards.
* Cyril Bouniol turned pro in 2012 after graduating from Abilene Christian University in Texas in 2011.
* Bouniol studied physics and astrophysics in college in France for a couple years before going to the United States.
* In 2014, playing on the European Challenge Tour, Cyril Bouniol had six top-10s, including a best finish of third at the Norwegian Challenge.
* Matt Gilchrest started the day with a one-shot lead but quickly dropped after opening with a double bogey. That was his only mistake of the day, and he went on to card five birdies.
* Matt Gilchrest played on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada in 2017 and the PGA TOUR Latinoamerica in 2018 and has yet to win. On PGA Latinoamerica, 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.
* Daewon Kim had the low round of the day. He carded 10 birdies including a stretch of six in a row from hole 5-10. He ended with a 9-under 63 and lies in a tie for third. His birdie streak ties him with Weihsuan Wang for most consecutive birdies in a round. Wang did it at the Qinhuangdao Championship. Kevin Yuan also has a streak of six in a row, spread over two rounds. He finished his first round with five consecutive birdies at the Beijing Championship and then birdied his first hole of the second round.
* China’s Enqi Liang is the highest-ranked amateur in the field. He lies in a tie for 13th after rounds of 68-72-68.
* The oldest winner this year is Luke Kwon. He was 26 years, 9 months, 8 days when he won the Qinhuangdao Championship. Cyril Bouniol turns 32 in August.
* The last three PGA TOUR Series-China winners—Richard Jung, Luke Kwon and Kevin Techakanokboon—have all been 26, all born within two months of each other.

**Quotable**

“I didn’t have a great start, so I was really happy with how I recovered to post a good round.” **– Matt Gilchrest**

“I think you only have one option after you get off to a bad start. (You) just have to keep going; no point to feel sorry for yourself because everyone is just going to pass you if you play poorly. I’m the only player in the field who wants me to do well, so you just need to stay positive and know that the good shots are ahead.” **– Matt Gilchrest**

“I played a little bit more conservatively, and I think I shot the lowest round that I could today which I’m proud of.” **– Matt Gilchrest**

“I’m happy because I finished really well. It makes dinner taste well. I’ve made two bogeys in three rounds, and it’s been on No. 1, the last two days, so it is a bit disappointing starting out like that because it feels like a big effort to come back.” **– Myles Creighton**

“I got it going on the back nine. I seem to play better on that back side. I think I’m only 2-under on the front nine this week and 10-under on the back, so it’s been really good. I like it a lot, and it’s nice to be comfortable on a side that you’re going to finish on Sunday.” **– Myles Creighton**

“I hit it to a foot on hole 18. I don’t know how it didn’t go in. It dropped a foot in front of the hole and ended up a foot behind it, so it had to have been close. And I birdied 17 so to birdie those two holes, you’re stealing a couple shots there so that was nice.” **– Myles Creighton on his approach shot on his closing hole of the day**

“It’s nice to be in one of the final groups. I love the golf course and being in this position before definitely helps. Learning how to cope with those nerves and stuff. I’m going to be nervous, but I think that’s normal, everyone is going to be so it will be fun. I’m looking forward to playing in front of some crowds, and I know last year they had some great crowds.” **– Myles Creighton**

**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.

**Third-Round Weather Report**

Mostly cloudy. High of 96. Wind SSW at 4 mph.

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**Photographs**

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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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