**Second-Round Leaderboard**

**Abierto Mexicano de Golf**

**For the complete leaderboard, click** [**here**](https://www.pgatour.com/la/en.html)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pos.** | **Name** | **Scores** | **Current OOM\*\*** |
| T1 | Matt Ryan (U.S.) | 68-62—130 (-10 | 22 |
| T1 | Mito Pereira (Chile) | 65-65—130 (-10) | 5 |
| T3 | Augusto Nunez (Argentina) | 65-67—132 (-8) | 2 |
| T3 | Matthew Pinizzotto (U.S.) | 63-69—132 (-8) | N/A |
| T5 | Ryan Ruffels (Australia) | 67-66—133 (-7) | 4 |
| T5 | Drew Nesbitt (Canada) | 64-69—133 (-7) | 85 |
| T7 | Sebastian Szirmak (Canada) | 70-64—134 (-6) | 100 |
| T7 | Ryan Baca (U.S.) | 67-67—134 (-6) | 42 |
| T7 | Tom Whitney (U.S.) | 68-66—134 (-6) | 1 |
| T7 | Shad Tuten (U.S.) | 66-68—134 (-6) | 34 |
| T7 | Will Collins (U.S.) | 66-68—134 (-6) | 54 |

\*\* As of May 19

**Playing partners Ryan and Pereira storm to the lead in Tijuana**

TIJUANA, Mexico—Matt Ryan shot a career-low 62, while playing partner Mito Pereira shot a second consecutive 65 on Friday at Tijuana Country Club. The two players are tied for the lead at the halfway point of the Abierto Mexicano de Golf. Augusto Nunez and first-round leader Matthew Pinizzotto are tied for third, two shots back.

Ryan’s 62 is easily the lowest round numerically he’s shot on a PGA TOUR-affiliated Tour. He had a 65 a year ago on the Web.com Tour and a 64 at PGA TOUR Latinoamerica’s 2014 TransAmerican Power Prouducts CRV Open. Even with his great play, Ryan felt it was only proper to give at least some of the credit to his playing partner, Pereira.

“He’s been absolutely cruising for two days, and it gets you going a little bit when someone in your group is making putts,” said Ryan of Pereira. “Mito and I have played a few rounds together this year. We have blast when we play golf.”

It sure looked fun Friday. Ryan probably had the more interesting round of the two players, as he began his day with five consecutive pars. He then reeled off a birdie-birdie-birdie streak and added five more birdies on his back nine during his bogey-free day. Pereira wasn’t quite as good, with two less birdies and a bogey on his card. His bogey came on his opening hole, with six birdies and 11 pars to follow.

Ryan had something of an epiphany on the par-5 15th hole. “I hit a chip and made perfect contact,” Ryan said of the shot that led to his sixth birdie of the day. “I said to my caddie, If I keep making that good of contact, it’s going to be a good week chipping the ball.”

Prescient comment. Three holes later, on his final swing of the day, Ryan chipped in for birdie on the 18th hole.

A pair of Canadians are only three shots off the pace as Sebastian Szirmak and Drew Nesbitt both find themselves at 7-under through two rounds.

**Did you know Mito Pereira, whose given first name is Guillermo,** played one season of college golf at Texas Tech before turning pro? The Santiago, Chile, native was the 62nd-ranked player in college golf following his freshman year in Lubbock.

**Key Information**

* The cut came at 1-under 139, with 60 players advancing to the weekend.
* Mito Pereira has shot 65 in three of his last four officials rounds. He had a third-round 65 at the BMW Jamaica Classic followed by a closing 72. He’s opened this week’s tournament 65-65 to share the 36-hole lead.
* Prior to the BMW Jamaica Classic, Mito Pereira’s low 2019 18-hole score was the 66 he shot at the Abierto de Chile’s second round. This season, Pereira has 21 under-par scores of his 25 official rounds.
* Monday qualifier Matthew Pinizzotto, the 18-hole leader, wasn’t quite as good as he was during his opening-round 63, but he is right in the thick of the battle, tied for third, after a Friday 69.
* Mito Pereira has gotten off to slow starts in each of his first two rounds only to gather momentum as the days progressed. In the first round, he was even-par through eight holes before playing his final 10 holes in 5-under. Friday, Pereira was even through seven holes before finishing with a second consecutive 65.
* One area where Australia’s Ryan Ruffels needed a little improvement was with his second-round scoring. He had a pair of 75s in second rounds this season—at the Buenaventura Classic and the Abierto de Chile. In his last three starts, Ruffels has recorded scores of 68-69-66 in his second rounds. Ruffels is tied for fifth, at 7-under, as he looks for his first PGA TOUR Latinoamerica triumph.
* Canada’s Sebastian Szirmak had the low round of the day, posting a 6-under 64. His previous-low score this week were two 68s. In his last seven rounds prior to this week, Szirmak’s best score was a 71, and he was a combined 14-over par. Szirmak opened with a 70 prior to his 64—also a career-low score—to move into a tie for seventh with 36 holes to play.
* Augusto Nunez kept two streaks alive after shooting a second-round 67. He has had 12 consecutive rounds at par or better, and he’s also turned in seven consecutive rounds in the 60s dating to the final round (67) of the Puerto Plata Open. Nunez is also seven for seven in made cuts this season.
* When the week began, the only three players to make every cut this season were Tom Whitney, Mito Pereira and Augusto Nunez. They easily kept their streaks alive, and they’re all in contention. Pereira is tied for the 36-hole lead, while Nunez is two strokes back (in fourth) and Whitney is four behind (tied for seventh).
* Symetra Tour member Paola Pavon struggled for a second consecutive day, following her opening 81 with a 76. She finished at 17-over and missed the cut.
* The top player from Mexico through 36 holes are Cristian Romero and Raul Pereda. They are tied for 12th. The other Mexicans to make the cut are Raul Cortes and Fernando Cruz Valle (tied for 29th), David Faraudo (tied for 37th), Nicholas Maruri, Gonzalo Rubio, Isidro Benitez and Alvaro Ortiz Becerra (all tied for 45th).
* None of the three amateurs in the field—Aaron Terraza, Daniel Kim and Daniel Cordoba—made the cut.
* The last two 36-hole leaders have all turned their advantages into wins—Cristobal Del Solar at the Puerto Plata Open and Evan Harmeling last week at the BMW Jamaica Classic.

**Quotable**

“There’s a picture of the course record in the locker room. I knew it was 62. Coming down 17, I was thinking if I could birdie the last two, I could tie that.” **–Matt Ryan**

“My caddie found a tree yesterday to go to the bathroom, and he dropped putter cover out of the bib. We’d been looking for it all day and sure enough it was right where he was on 17. I was using a sock today.” **–Matt Ryan on his missing putter cover and what he used in its absence**

“I don’t feel great with the driver, but I’m hitting a lot of fairways, which I think is important.” **–Matt Ryan**

“If you don’t hit the fairway, the greens are firm enough that you can’t get to certain pins. Hitting fairways is key, and like any golf tournament making putts is massive.” **–Matt Ryan**

“I feel good. I’m playing solid for the most part. I need to clean up a few things.” **–Matthew Pinizzotto**

“I’m excited to have the opportunity being out here this week after Monday-qualifying in. I’m just happy to be playing golf this week because I could be at home. It’s all fun.” **–Matthew Pinizzotto**

“I hit a few bad drives late today, which led to a couple of big numbers. If I keep hitting fairways, I think I’ll do pretty well.” **–Matthew Pinizzotto on is bogey on No. 6 and double bogey at No. 8**

**Tournament Fast Fact**

World Golf Hall of Famers who have won this tournament are Roberto De Vicenzo (1951, 1953 and 1955), Bobby Locke (1952), Lee Trevino (1973 and 1975), Billy Casper (1977), David Graham (1980) and Ben Crenshaw (1981)

**Second-Round Weather Report**

Partly cloudy and pleasant. High of 65. Wind WNW at 7-9 mph.