**Third-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.) | 68-62-66—196 (-14) | 22 |
| T1 | Gustavo Silva (Chile) | 68-67-61—196 (-14) | 125 |
| T3 | Ryan Ruffels (Australia) | 67-66-67—200 (-10) | 4 |
| T3 | Augusto Nunez (Argentina) | 65-67-68—200 (-10) | 2 |
| T3 | Sebastian Szirmak (Canada) | 70-64-66—200 (-10) | 100 |
| T3 | Rodrigo Lee (Brazil) | 68-69-63—200 (-10) | 72 |

\*\* As of May 19

**Ryan and Silva share third-round lead, set to battle Sunday**

TIJUANA, Mexico—Gustavo Silva shot a 9-under 61—with a bogey. By setting a tournament and course record, even with the one bad hole, Silva joins Matt Ryan atop the leaderboard heading into the final round of the Abierto Mexicano de Golf. Ryan, the 36-hole leader got to 14-under when he birdied the 11th hole but could take it no lower, parring his final seven holes of the day. The duo is at 14-under, four clear of its next-closest pursuers. A quartet of players—Rodrigo Lee, Sebastian Szirmak, Ryan Ruffels and Augusto Nunez—are tied for third, at 10-under.

Silva holds a share of the lead because of a career day at Tijuana Country Club. Despite that bogey on No. 3 and pars on the other three holes to begin his round, Silva was 1-over standing on the fifth tee. Everything about his round and his place on the scoreboard changed after that. He birdied No. 5, parred the sixth then reeled off six consecutive birdies, his streak finally ending on No. 13. No matter. He just started another one. Following a par on 14, he birdied the 15th, 16th and 17th in succession before finishing his day with a par, giving him the 61—and a back-nine 29.

“That’s a fantastic round,” Ryan said of Silva, who will be his playing partner in the final group Sunday. “That must have been a really special round. That’s cool.”

“It was a round that I did not even expect. I hit the ball well, but to be honest only after a while did I realize I was making a lot of birdies,” said Silva. “The feeling is inexplicable after the six birdies in a row.”

Silva is in his first full season playing PGA TOUR Latinoamerica, and his position here with 18 holes to play is surprising since he’s only made one cut all year (a tie for 31st at the Molino Cañuelas Championship), while missing three cuts and the victim of a disqualification in the other. He is currently 125th on the Order of Merit. A solid Sunday will likely put the native of Rancagua, Chile, inside the top 60 on the Order of Merit, qualifying him for next week’s Bupa Match Play. However, Silva clearly has bigger goals than that as he seeks his first professional victory since he turned pro in 2015.

Ryan had his third round in the 60s this week, with most of his action taking place on his opening nine holes. Between Nos. 4 and 9, he had four birdies and a bogey (at No. 7). Ryan has had a solid season, seeing action in all six tournaments prior to Mexico’s national open. His top finish was a tie for fifth at the Abierto de Chile, the lefthander shooting a Sunday 69.

Seven players are bunched at 9-under, five behind the Silva and Ryan. Among them is American Jared Wolfe, winner of the season-opening Buenaventura Classic in Panama.

**Did you know Gustavo Silva**has played seven previous PGA TOUR Latinoamerica tournaments—six as a professional and one as an amateur? His low 18-hole score prior to today’s 61 was the 67 he shot in the second round of the Molino Cañuelas Championship.

**Key Information**

* The bulk of Gustavo Silva’s birdies this week have come in bunches. In the first round, he twice had back-to-back birdies. In the second round, he birdied the first three holes of his round and Saturday, he had birdie streaks of six and three.
* Gustavo Silva has not made more than two birdies on a hole this week. Conversely, he’s spread his five bogeys around, each one occurring on a different hole (Nos. 7 and 18 in the first round, Nos. 11 and 14 in the second round and No. 3 Saturday).
* Matt Ryan had to grind early in his third round, making three putts—all of them in the range of eight to 10 feet—for pars.
* Mito Pereira held a share of the 36-hole lead but endured a difficult third round, shooting a 2-over 72 to tumble 13 positions into a tie for 14th. Pereira had five bogeys and three birdies in the third round. He’s at 8-under.
* Two Canadians occupy top-10 positions with 18 holes to play. Sebastian Szirmak is tied for third, while Drew Nesbitt is tied for seventh.
* In his first PGA TOUR Latinoamerica season, Sebastian Szirmak had only had two rounds in the 60s in his previous six starts. His best finish this year is a tie for 31st at the Molino Cañuelas Championship. Despite being the only player in PGA TOUR Latinoamerica history to shoot a 59 (at the 2018 JHSF Brazil Open), Drew Nesbitt has yet to record a top-15 finish.
* There were 19 scores of 66 or better Saturday and 46 sub-70 scores for the day.
* 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, enters the final round six shots off the lead after an even-par 70 left him tied for 14th. A top-25 will get him into the Tour’s next stroke-play event, and a high finish Sunday could conceivably move him inside the top 60 on the Order of Merit and qualify him for next week’s Bupa Match Play, also in Mexico.
* The top Mexicans in the field are Fernando Cruz valle and Raul Pereda. Both are tied for 26th, at 6-under. The others from Mexico on the leaderboard are Isidro Benitez, Raul Cortes and Cristian Romero (tied for 37th), David Faraudo (tied for 50th), Nicholas Maruri (tied for 54th) and Gonzalo Rubio (58th).
* Augusto Nunez kept two streaks alive after shooting a third-round 68. He has had 13 consecutive rounds at par or better, and he’s also turned in eight 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.
* The only two players who have converted 54-hole leads into victories are Jared Wolfe (Buenaventura Classic) and Evan Harmeling (BMW Jamaica Classic).

**Quotable**

“That calmed me down. I wouldn’t say I wasn’t calm when I teed off, but it’s golf. A couple of shots didn’t go the way I wanted and I had to get up and down.” **–Matt Ryan on the start to his round where he had to get up and down for par on each one**

“Here in particular, the grass is very similar to what I grew up on. Even playing the practice round, it looks like some of the courses I grew up playing in Los Angeles County.” **–Matt Ryan**

“I’ve been to Guadalajara, Leon, San Luis Potosi, Mazatlan, and I’ve always had a good time (in Mexico). I think the people are great.” **–Matt Ryan**

“Every time I go to Mexico, my wife says, ‘Yea, it will be a good week.’” **–Matt Ryan**

“I got really lucky. I’m glad the members paid for a net on the left side of the fairway. There’s a hotel, and there’s a net up there to block balls from going over. I got a great break. [My ball] hit the net and bounced down into a divot. But it was a great break; fantastic because it helped me save par.” **–Matt Ryan on his 17th-hole tee shot**

“Play well in Mexico.” **–Matt Ryan, on what it will take for him to return to the Web.com Tour**

“I wouldn’t say there’s any pressure. Tom (Whitney) has set a great example this year of someone who was on the Web.com Tour. I roomed with him the first four events. He just has so much confidence—good confidence—so it was nice for me to see how I should be.” **–Matt Ryan**

“Everyone is so good here. There isn’t that much difference in competition. We’ve had a taste of the next level, and we want to get back there.” **–Matt Ryan, talking about former Web.com Tour players Jose Toledo, Mito Pereira and Tom Whitney and the desire to return**

“On the fifth (hole), I saved the par, and on No. 6 it was when the putter got hot. I tried to prolong that good moment as much as I could.” **–Gustavo Silva**

“On 18, my second shot was a little short, I hit it into the bunker, but once again I saved myself. I made a good approach and left it close to save the par.” **–Gustavo Silva**

“This round tied the best of my entire career. [Sunday] I will go without pretensions, I will try to be calm, and I simply want to enjoy the day.” **–Gustavo Silva**

“This year I have had ups and downs. I have only made one cut, and I hope at some point to resume the good game that I showed in Malinalco (at the 2018 DevSeries Final where he tied for 15th to earn 2019 PGA TOUR Latinoamerica status). It’s my first year on the Tour, and everything I do gives me experience.” **–Gustavo Silva**

**Tournament Fast Fact**

Tijuana Country Club has previously hosted eight PGA TOUR events, the Agua Caliente Open, from 1930-35 and again in 1956 and 1957. The lowest winning score in those tournaments was the 8-under 280 Ed Furgol and Al Besselink both turned in in 1957 when the course played as a par-72. Furgol beat Besselink in a playoff.

**Third-Round Weather Report**

Mostly cloudy. High of 65. Wind W at 9-11 mph.