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**Third-Round Results**

**Abierto OSDE del Centro presentado por FiberCorp-Telecom**

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| **Pos.** | **Name** | **Scores** |
| 1 | Russell Budd (Canada) | 71-66-65—202 (-11) |
| 2 | Nicolo Galletti (U.S.) | 73-64-67—204 (-9) |
| T3 | John Somers (U.S.) | 69-71-65—205 (-8) |
| T3 | Tommy Cocha (Argentina) | 69-69-67—205 (-8) |
| T3 | Paulo Pinto (Argentina) | 64-67-74—205 (-8) |
| T6 | Maxi Godoy (Argentina) | 74-67-65—206 (-7) |
| T6 | Tom Whitney (U.S.) | 73-67-66—206 (-7) |
| 8 | Santiago Gomez (Colombia) | 75-65-67—207 (-6) |

**Canadian Budd shoots 65 and storms to lead in Cordoba**

CORDOBA, Argentina—When the third round of the OSDE Abierto del Centro presentado por FiberCorp-Telecom began, Canadian Russell Budd trailed Argentina’s Paulo Pinto by six strokes. While Budd built on his second-round 66, shooting one shot better in his third trip around Cordoba Golf Club, Pinto was dropping strokes in bunches on his way to a 3-over 74. That allowed Budd, a Toronto native, to vault into a two-shot lead over American Nicolo Galletti with 18 holes to play. John Somers, who won last week’s Abierto de Chile in Santiago, is tied for third along with Pinto and fellow countryman Tommy Cocha.

Budd played bogey-free golf Saturday, with three birdies on his front nine and an eagle and a birdie in succession, starting at No. 12, on his back nine. Budd could only laugh about his eagle, that came via an 80-foot putt.

Hitting into the par-5 with his driving iron from 215 yards, things seemingly were going downhill. “I hit probably my worst golf shot of the week. [The ball] ricocheted off a tree, which could have easily gone the other way,” Budd said. “It was just the worst swing I made this week—and it led to an eagle. Sometimes you get good bounces.”

**Did you know** Russell Budd made his lone PGA TOUR appearance at the 2018 RBC Canadian Open. After opening with a 3-over 75 at Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, Ontario, he shot an even-par 72 to miss the cut.

**Key Information**

* The cut came Saturday morning following the completion of the suspended second round. Sixty-five players at 3-over moved on to the third round.
* Russell Budd’s career-best finish on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica is his runner-up performance five months ago at the 113th playing of the Visa Open de Argentina, where he fell to 19-year-old Isidro Benitez by three shots with an invitation to the 2019 Open Championship on the line.
* This is Russell Budd’s 34th career PGA TOUR Latinoamerica start. He began his career in 2015, played the Mackenze Tour – PGA TOUR Canada in 2016 and then played 10 tournaments in 2017 and 13 a year ago.
* In his previous three starts this season, Russell Budd has yet to make a cut. However, after shooting scores of 74-78-76 in his first three rounds of the season, he followed with 67-70-70 leading into the Abierto del Centro. Counting this week, Budd is 20-under in his last six rounds.
* Nicolo Galletti kept pace with Russell Budd on No. 12, making an eagle of his own. Galletti also added an eagle on No. 16.
* Russell Budd has played his last 22 holes bogey-free, and he’s 10-under during that stretch.
* Thirty-six-hole leader Paulo Pinto’s third-round troubles began on the par-3 fourth hole, when he made double bogey. He bounced back with birdies on Nos. 5 and 8 to get back to even-par for the round as he turned to the back nine. No birdies and three bogeys (Nos. 11, 12 and 15) over his final nine holes left him at 3-over for the day.
* With two eagles on his back nine Saturday, Nicolo Galletti became the sixth player this season to record two eagles in the same round. Galletti joins Augusto Núñez (Molino Cañuelas Championship) and Toni Hakul (Abierto de Chile) to make two on the same nine.
* Nicolo Galletti’s eagle putts were from 20 feet on No. 12 (after a 4-iron approach) and 11 feet on No. 16 (2-iron approach).
* The 54-hole leader has only won once this season. Jared Wolfe took a two-shot lead into the final round of the Buenaventura Classic in Panama and won by five. Andreas Halvorsen (Molino Cañuelas Championship) and Alex Weiss (Abierto de Chile) couldn’t hold onto their leads Sunday.
* A week after winning in Santiago, John Somers is again in position to claim victory. Somers made four birdies on the front nine against five pars then bounced back nicely from a bogey at No. 11 with an eagle at 12 and a birdie on the closing hole. His eagle putt was from 30 feet and his final stroke of the day coming from 17 feet.

**Quotable**

“I play this golf course different than a bunch of people. I live and die by my driver. I was hitting it good and making some putts.” **–Russell Budd**

“With this golf course, you can go on stretches both ways, good and bad. You gotta live and die by your game plan, and I did that really well today.” **–Russell Budd**

“I’ve put myself into an opportunity that I’ve wanted to be in. I’ve been down here for four years. I’m going to take advantage of it.” **–Russell Budd**

“The back nine was awesome. I figured out something with my driver. I wasn’t hitting my driver well at all on the front nine. I hit more fairways, and that obviously gave me more chances to attack the pins. The eagles on 12 and 16 were big helps in me moving up the leaderboard.” **–Nicolo Galletti**

“Russell made eagle there, so I knew I had to make mine so I could stay somewhat within distance.” **Nicolo Galletti on his eagle at No. 12, matching Russell Budd’s**

“I’m very happy how I played today, especially after the first eight holes of the front nine. I was not playing well. I’m happy I was able to figure it out and take advantage of a couple of the par-5s on the back nine.” –**Nicolo Galletti**

“I’m not a big guy with game plans. I sort of go with the flow. I’ve been putting really well, so hopefully I can figure out something with my driver that will make me hit more fairways.” **–Nicolo Galletti**

“I don’t know what happened. To tell you the truth, I hope this round won’t be the one to cause me to lose the tournament. I think I still have a chance. I hope this was my bad round for the week.” **–Paulo Pinto**

“You couldn’t ask for better weather today. It was beautiful, which is helpful.” **–John Somers**

“It wasn’t as long as last week, but it still felt good to make it.” **–John Somers on his 12th-hole eagle putt six days after his 45-foot eagle putt on the 72nd hole in Chile gave him his first PGA TOUR Latinoamerica victory**

“I had made my only bogey, so eagling the next hole is always a good positive, a good bounce back.” **–John Somers on his two-hole stretch, beginning at No. 11**

“I’m just going out there, trusting in my game and hitting the shots I need to.” **–John Somers**

“I need to be able to attack the pins instead of hitting escape shots to save pars.” **–Nicolo Galletti**

**Third-Round Weather Report**

The second round resumed at 8 a.m. Mostly sunny and warmer. High of 71. Wind NE at 5-8 mph.