

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2020

CONTACT: Preston Smith, prestonsmith@pgatourhq.com, 706-844-2100

Third-Round Leaderboard

| Pos. | Name | Scores |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Tommy Gainey | 66-75-67—208 (-8) |
| 2 | Will Zalatoris | 70-74-65—209 (-7) |
| | Jose de Jesus Rodriguez | 69-72-68—209 (-7) |
| | Dylan Wu | 67-66-76—209 (-7) |
| | George Cunningham | 71-69-69—209 (-7) |

[Full Leaderboard](#) | [Tee Times](#)

Tommy Gainey reclaims lead at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay

Great Exuma, The Bahamas — A day after a 3-over 75 seemingly dropped Tommy Gainey out of contention, the 44-year-old responded with a bogey-free 67 to ascend the leaderboard and take a one-stroke lead into the final round at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay. At 8-under, Gainey edged four players by a stroke to take the 54-hole lead.

Gainey began the day eight strokes back of Dylan Wu, but a 3-over front nine by Wu opened the door. Gainey birdied his first two holes and turned at 4-under 32 before tacking on one more birdie at the par-4 13th to reach 8-under.

“I think Dylan shot 67-66 the first two days and he was 11-under going in, but I knew I could get this golf course when the wind lets up just a bit,” said Gainey, a PGA TOUR winner at the 2012 RSM Classic. “Obviously it subsided some today, which I was glad to see, and I played a great round.”

Four different players held a share of the lead during the third round as less windy conditions led to better scoring conditions, including Wu, Gainey, George Cunningham and Jose de Jesus Rodriguez. Though the conditions were calmer than the first two days, the sea breeze was still consistently 15-20 miles per hour with gusts up to 25 miles per hour.

“Playing in [windy] tournaments throughout my career have me prepared for when it is gusting hard,” said Gainey. “Everyone has to play in it...I try to deal with it like everybody else and so far it’s going pretty well.”

After a par at the par-5 first, Gainey credited his shot on the par-3 second hole with kickstarting his round.

“On No. 2, I hit the ball to about 10 or 12 feet,” said Gainey. “The pin was on the front and it was playing about 210 yards. When you hit it that close with the wind in your face off of the left, I’m pretty happy with that. Birdies on the first two holes really started my momentum.”

While the second hole was kind to Gainey, the same can’t be said for Wu, who began the day with a seven-stroke lead on the field. After a birdie at the first, Wu hit his tee shot on the second in the water and settled for a triple bogey. He added three more bogeys and a double at the par-4 12th (countered by three more birdies) to card a 4-over 76.

“Of course it’s hard when you lose a lead like that, but it’s my first time playing in this type of situation on this Tour so all you can do is learn from it,” said Wu, whose seven-stroke lead after the second round tied a Korn Ferry Tour record. “I’m still happy that I still have a chance to win the tournament tomorrow.”

Zalatoris, a former standout at Wake Forest University, carded the round of the day with a 7-under 65. Entering the day 11 strokes off the lead, Zalatoris enjoyed a torrid stretch from Nos. 13-15 in which he went ace-birdie-eagle. The ace was the third of Zalatoris’ life and helped him overcome an early double bogey at the par-3 sixth.

“On No. 13 I had a pitching wedge and the pin is so far up that I could barely see the bottom of the hole; it ended up going in, which was a shocker,” said Zalatoris. “After that I was just trying to validate that shot...On 15 was when I knew it was my day. I had a good tee shot but had 295 yards to the hole and it’s blowing 30 miles per hour downwind. I hit 5-iron and pulled it, it was carrying the edge of the water the whole time and rolled up to about 25 feet from the hole. Erik (Compton) told me I need to go buy a lottery ticket after this round. I agree.”

The final round on Wednesday will run from 7:25 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. off of the first tee.

TUESDAY NOTES:

- * Tuesday’s weather: Breezy and partly cloudy, high of 80, winds E 14-20 mph with gusts up to 25 mph.
- * After the second round was completed on Tuesday morning, the cut fell at 5-over 149 with 68 professionals making the cut. The 5-over cut is the highest since the 2017 season; the cut fell at 3-over at the 2019 Panama Championship and 4-over at the 2018 Panama Championship, the highest cuts over the past two seasons.
- * The scoring average on Tuesday (72.515) was approximately two and a half strokes lower than the first two days.
- * In Tommy Gainey’s only previous 54-hole lead on the Korn Ferry Tour, he converted it into a victory at the 2010 Chiquita Classic. He failed to convert his lone 54-hole lead on the PGA TOUR at the 2011 Waste Management Phoenix Open.
- * Jose de Jesus Rodriguez (-7, T2) finished T3 in his only previous start at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay.

- * John Oda (-6, T6) and Sean O'Hair (-6, T6) are tied for the fewest bogeys or worse through three rounds. Each player has two bogeys and one double bogey.
- * Last season, Sandals Emerald Bay Golf Course ranked as the 12th hardest course on the Korn Ferry Tour. Despite Tuesday's lower scoring conditions, the tournament's cumulative scoring average is on pace to be the highest since the 2017 season.
- * Augusto Nunez (E, T17) is looking to continue one of the more impressive streaks in golf. He has finished in the top-20 in his past 15 stroke-play events, all on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica. Another top-20 finish this week would mark 16 straight in PGA TOUR-sanctioned events. He previously finished T13 at the 2018 Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay.
- * John Chin (E, T17) carded the second ace of the Korn Ferry Tour season on Tuesday at the par-3 13th hole. Later in the round, Zalatoris carded another ace at the hole, playing at 101 yards on Tuesday.
- * The par-4 12th played as the most difficult hole on Monday with a scoring average of 4.544. In 2017, the 12th ranked as the most difficult hole on the Korn Ferry Tour and played to a scoring average of 5.008.
- * The par-5 first hole played as the easiest on Sunday with a scoring average of 4.729.
- * This week's purse is \$600,000 with \$108,000 going to the winner. The champion will also receive 500 Korn Ferry Tour points.

Sandals Emerald Bay Golf Course Scoring Average:

| | Front | Back | Total | Cumulative |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| R1 | 36.817 | 38.084 | 74.901 | |
| R2 | 37.008 | 38.000 | 75.008 | 74.955 |
| R3 | 36.235 | 36.279 | 72.515 | 74.141 |

For highlights from today's round, or any 2020 event visit [this link](#).

For the latest information and updates on the Korn Ferry Tour visit www.pgatourmedia.com

Scores available at www.pgatour.com or on the Associated Press wire

Follow the Korn Ferry Tour on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/kornferrytour> on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kornferrytour/ and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/kornferrytour/?hl=en>