



### Third-Round Leaderboard

**CRMC Championship presented by Gertens**

**Cragun's Dutch Legacy Championship Course**

**September 2, 2023**

Full [Leaderboard](#)

[PGA TOUR Canada Media Center](#)

**Contact:** Sara Wright, PGA TOUR Canada Communications, 719-310-2606, [sarawright@pgatourhq.com](mailto:sarawright@pgatourhq.com)

Pos.	Name	Scores	Fortinet Cup Pos.
1	Yi Cao (China)	66-62-65—193 (17-under)	55
2	Sam Jean (United States)	66-68-64—198 (12-under)	52
3	Hayden Springer (United States)	68-70-61—199 (11-under)	7
T4	Jeffrey Kang (United States)	70-67-63—200 (10-under)	26
T4	Blake Tomlinson (United States)	67-67-66—200 (10-under)	149
T6	Travis Trace (United States)	70-68-64—202 (8-under)	43
T6	Gavin Hall (United States)	68-67-67—202 (8-under)	39
T6	Brendan MacDougall (Canada)	71-64-67—202 (8-under)	81
T6	J.T. Griffin (United States)	68-66-68—202 (8-under)	75
T6	Davis Shore (United States)	66-67-69—202 (8-under)	9

### **Cao retains lead heading into final round of CRMC Championship presented by Gertens**

**BRAINERD, Minnesota** – Yi Cao didn't take a glance at the scoreboard on Saturday. Not even a peek. And at the end of the day, when his final putt had fallen, he looked and learned that things hadn't changed. His five-shot lead was still intact, and he was one round closer to his first victory on PGA TOUR Canada.

Cao shot a 5-under 65 on the Cragun's Dutch Legacy Course and moved to 17-under after three rounds of the CRMC Championship presented by Gertens. A win would move the Canadian resident all the way from No. 55 to No. 9 on the Fortinet Cup standings and give him momentum heading into next week's Fortinet Cup Championship in Calgary, Alberta.

"I didn't look at the leaderboard at all today, because you think I'd care and actually I don't care," Cao said. "It's not like I don't care whether I win the tournament or not, but I don't really care whether the other players make a birdie or not. I just want to play my own golf game and I'll see what happens."

The strategy worked. Cao picked up birdies at No. 3 and 4, the added birdies at No. 16, 17 and 18. He did not have a bogey.

"I played really steady, really solid, just a couple of putts that wouldn't drop, just turn at the edge or burn the edge a few times," Cao said, "The (30-foot) birdie putt at 15, I wasn't expecting. I thought I hit it a little too firm and when it was 3-4 feet to the hole I started worrying it was going to be 3-4 feet past the hole. Then all of a sudden it dropped. I'm like, I'll take that."

Cao, of Delta, British Columbia, continues to experience neck pain, but he played through the discomfort, just as he has done the first two days.

"Grateful to finish another 18 today, which is awesome," he said. "It's always there. It was there when I woke up this morning. But, it's better when I'm focused on the course, especially after I take some medicine before a tee time. We'll see what happens."

Cao's closest pursuer is Sam Jean, of Greenwood, Indiana, who shot 6-under 64, is five-strokes behind and sits alone in second place at 12-under. Jean had two eagles during his round. He holed out for eagle on the second hole and finished birdie-birdie-eagle on 16, 17 and 18.

"That was pretty exciting. I hadn't holed out since my freshman year in my first tournament in college, so it's been a long time," Jean said. "I had like 75 yards and hit it a little hard honestly, hit it like in the back fringe and just watched it pull back and it's one of those where you're hoping it goes in, but normally runs past the hole and this time it just dropped."

The eagle on 18 wasn't as dramatic, but still elicited a big fist pump from Jean after the big breaker putt rolled in. A good final round could move Jean near the top 10 on the points list and give him an opportunity to grab one of the exemptions into the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour that goes to the top-five.

"Golf is such a brutal game," Jean said. "One week you feel like you're on top of the world, the next week it's like you can't find it. So, it's always nice to enjoy the good times while it's here. Hopefully, I can keep it going. Just trying to enjoy it and play free."

Last week's tournament winner, Hayden Springer, set a tournament record with his 9-under 61 today and moved up 22 spots into third place at 11-under.

Springer, of Trophy Club Texas, shot 31 on the front nine and followed with a 30 on the back, including birdies on five of the last six holes. He finished birdie-birdie-birdie and moved up 22 spots into third place.

"I did everything pretty solid," Springer said. "I didn't putt all that great the first few days and I finally had some go in in today. I drove it pretty nicely today. It was a solid, pretty simple round and I was making the putts I needed to make."

Tied for fourth place at 10-under are Jeffrey Kang, who shot a third-round 63 to move up 12 spots, and Blake Tomlinson, who shot 66 to move up three. Kang eagled two of the par-5s and birdied two of the par-3s. He finished his round birdie-birdie-eagle to shoot 31 on the final nine.

Five players were tied for sixth at 8-under: Travis Trace, Gavin Hall, Davis Shore, J.T. Griffin and Brendan MacDougall.

## Key Information

### Fortinet Cup Standings

(Through CentrePort Canada Rail Park Manitoba Open)

Pos.	Player	Points	Third-Round Tournament Pos.	Projected Standings
1	Sam Choi (United States)	1,210	T15	1
2	Davis Lamb (United States)	1,117	T41	2
3	Étienne Papineau (Canada)	944	Cut	3
4	Stuart Macdonald (Canada)	707	Cut	5
5	John Pak (United States)	690	T44	6
6	Devon Bling (United States)	639	Cut	8
7	Hayden Springer (United States)	630	3	4
8	Chris Korte (United States)	593	Cut	10
9	Davis Shore (United States)	567	T6	7
10	David Kim (United States)	443	Cut	11

Fortinet Cup points leader **Sam Choi** recorded his second-straight 67 and moved into a tie for 15<sup>th</sup>. **Davis Lamb**, No. 2 on the list, shot his second-straight 68 and moved into a tie for 41<sup>st</sup>. **John Pak**, No. 5 on the points list, shot 68 and moved into a tie for 44<sup>th</sup>.

**Yi Cao's** five-stroke lead heading into the final round is once again the largest lead that any player has held after 54 holes this season. **Davis Lamb** and **Eric Lilleboe** were close when they held a four-stroke third-round lead at the ATB Classic in early July. Lamb went on to win that event by three strokes and Lilleboe went on to finish tied for ninth.

A third-round leader has went on to win six of the eight PGA TOUR Canada events this season. The two events that saw different winners emerge from the pack were the Commissionaires Ottawa Open, in which there was a three-way playoff for the title between third-round leader **Devon Bling**, eventual winner **Stuart Macdonald** and **Luke Schnierderjans**, and the Windsor Championship, in which **Sam Choi** matched the low score of the day, a 7-under 64, to claim a three-shot victory.

**Jeffrey Kang's** third round of 63 included a pair of eagles today. It was the second time he's had two eagles in one round this season, the other coming in the third round of the Windsor Championship.

**Reid Davenport** began the third round tied for second place but started the day with a double-bogey and bogey to fall out of contention. He didn't make a birdie until the 16th hole and wound up shooting a 1-over 72 and dropped into a tie for 21st.

Players need to finish among the top 60 on the Fortinet Cup points list to earn a spot in next week's Fortinet Cup Championship. That will be the area of interest for most players near the cut-off. The players projected to move into the top 60: **J.T. Griffin** (75<sup>th</sup> to 50<sup>th</sup>), **Brendan MacDougall** (81<sup>st</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup>), **Chris Crisologo** (73<sup>rd</sup> to 55<sup>th</sup>), **Luis Gagne** (66<sup>th</sup> to 56<sup>th</sup>), and **Ryan Davis** (78<sup>th</sup> to 59<sup>th</sup>). Projected to move

out of the top 60: **Brian Carlson** (54<sup>th</sup> to 61<sup>st</sup>), **Taylor Funk** (57<sup>th</sup> to 62<sup>nd</sup>), **Johnny Travale** (58<sup>th</sup> to 64<sup>th</sup>), and **Luis Gerardo Garza** (59<sup>th</sup> to 68<sup>th</sup>).

#### **Quotable**

“The best thing I can do is have no expectations. We’ve probably all heard this a bunch of times, but I have to take it one shot at a time and I’ll do the absolute best that I can on each and every shot and see what happens,” – **Hayden Springer**

“What everybody is shooting for is our top five. That’s really the threshold to get some Korn Ferry starts. It’s a good time to be playing well, these last few events and heading into the Fortinet Cup Championship with elevated points. I definitely want to finish in the top five.” – **Hayden Springer**

“I’ve worked really hard on the putting, switched a couple of things. It was kind of just mindset a little bit. I knew my game was good, so I just keep trucking along.” – **Travis Trace**

“I’m definitely not trying to chase (Yi Cao). Just trying to hit good quality shots, roll good quality putts and if the score is lower than his tomorrow, great. If it’s not, then I did everything I could, but I think trying to chase stuff is not good.” – **Sam Jean**

**Third-Round Weather:** A heat advisory was issued today as it was sunny with a high of 92°F (33°C.) Winds were mild out of the S at 5-10 mph (8-16 kph.)