



FORTINET[®]
CUP
CHAMPIONSHIP

Third-Round Leaderboard

Fortinet Cup Championship

Country Hills Golf Club - Talons

September 9, 2023

Full [Leaderboard](#)

[PGA TOUR Canada Media Center](#)

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Pos.	Name	Scores	Current Cup Position	Projected Cup Position
1	Hayden Springer (United States)	66-62-67—195 (18-under)	4	1
2	Derek Hitchner (United States)	67-62-66—195 (18-under)	45	5
3	Jared du Toit (Canada)	67-67-64—198 (15-under)	31	13
T4	Eric Lilleboe (United States)	64-67-69—200 (13-under)	37	26
T4	Alex Scott (United States)	65-65-70—200 (13-under)	53	33
T6	Eric McCardle (United States)	72-64-65—201 (12-under)	16	15
T6	Noah Steele (Canada)	69-66-66—201 (12-under)	21	17
T6	Etienne Papineau (Canada)	68-66-67—201 (12-under)	3	4
T6	Myles Creighton (Canada)	69-65-67—201 (12-under)	24	19
T6	Yi Cao (China)	66-67-68—201 (12-under)	9	7

Springer, Hitchner tied for lead heading into the final day of the Fortinet Cup Championship

CALGARY, Alberta – Hayden Springer and Derek Hitchner, the veteran and the rookie, will go head-to-head for the second-straight day on Sunday with a chance to win the Fortinet Cup Championship – and possibly a lot more.

Springer, the 36-hole leader, shot 67 on Saturday and Hitchner shot 66 at the Country Hills Golf Club's Talon Course, leaving both players tied for the lead at 18-under 196 and holding a three-shot lead over the field with one round left in the PGA TOUR Canada season.

"It'll be fun to do it again tomorrow and see what happens," Springer said.

A victory by Springer would elevate him to No. 1 in the Fortinet Cup standings, guarantee him fully exempt status on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour and reward him with a \$25,000 bonus. A win by Hitchner would leave him somewhere among the top five on the points list, making him partially exempt for the Korn Ferry Tour.

"It's really cool to be in that position," Springer said. "I'm going to try to do everything that I do the exact same way I always do it."

Hitchner said, "It's awesome. I'm just super grateful to be here in the first place, but also to have a chance going into tomorrow. I'm pretty sure I still need some help if I was to win just to get into the top five. Some it's out of my control."

The leaders enjoy a three-shot lead over Canadian Jared du Toit, who shot a 64 on Saturday. Eric Lilleboe (69) and Alex Scott (70) are tied for fourth at 13-under, with Eric McCardle, Yi Cao and Canadians Noah Steele, Etienne Papineau and Myles Creighton tied for sixth at 12-under.

Springer, a professional since 2019 from Trophy Club, Texas, had a few missteps along the way, most notably a double-bogey at No. 12 and a bogey at No. 17, which allowed Hitchner to temporarily take the lead. Springer birdied the final hole to move back into a tie.

Hitchner, a rookie from Minneapolis, Minnesota, who gained eligibility through PGA TOUR University, got hot with three-straight birdies on the front side. He bogeyed No. 12, but came back to make two more birdies and shoot 66.

"I felt like we both played nicely on the front nine," Hitchner said. "We were kind of trading birdies. He made an eagle at No. 7 and I birdied No. 7 and No. 8. It was great. The back nine was probably a little shaky for both of us, but I felt like we steadied the ship a little bit. It was a blast."

Du Toit, the hometown kid from Calgary, had eight birdies and one bogey in shooting 64, his second-best round of the season. He is looking for his first top-10 since the season opening Royal Beach Victoria Open presented by Times Colonist. Du Toit is seeking his first win on PGA TOUR Canada in 63 starts.

"It's kind of hard to win anywhere," du Toit said. "You've got to beat a lot of guys. I'm going to lean on that a little bit. I was saying earlier this week that I've probably played this course more than almost anybody here. Really going to lean on that experience as well and we'll try and shoot a good, good number."

Springer and Hitchner played together for the first time on Saturday. On Sunday, they'll do it again with the stakes much higher. It almost seems like a match play situation. Springer may have an experience advantage as he closed strong on the final day to win the CentrePort Canada Rail Park Manitoba Open just a couple weeks ago. But Hitchner gained plenty of match-play experience during his career at Pepperdine University.

"Getting it done and winning, it can be tough," Springer added. "I've already been able to do that, so I can definitely draw on that and know what it feels like, sleeping tonight and waking up tomorrow. The last few weeks I've kind of been hanging out toward the back, so I've been gaining more experience in

this position, which is really good for me. I don't know if it makes all that much difference. Everybody's really good, so it'll come down to who plays better tomorrow."

Key Information

Fortinet Cup Standings

(Through CRMC Championship presented by Gertens)

Pos.	Player	Points	Projected Rank
1	Sam Choi (United States)	1,228	2
2	Davis Lamb (United States)	1,134	3
3	Étienne Papineau (Canada)	944	4
4	Hayden Springer (United States)	711	1
5	Stuart Macdonald (Canada)	707	6
6	John Pak (United States)	700	8
7	Davis Shore (United States)	647	9
8	Devon Bling (United States)	639	11
9	Yi Cao (China)	633	7
10	Chris Korte (United States)	593	10

How the Canadians fared

The Canadians in the field came out firing today. Yesterday, the best finish saw three Canadians tied for 13, while today four of them broke into the top 10. Here are where all Canadians stand heading into the final round of PGA TOUR Canada:

Pos.	Player	Score
3	Jared du Toit	67-67-64—198 (15-under)
T6	Noah Steele	69-66-66—201 (12-under)
T6	Etienne Papineau	68-66-67—201 (12-under)
T6	Myles Creighton	69-65-67—201 (12-under)
T17	Sudarshan Yellamaraju	66-70-68—204 (9-under)
T27	Stuart Macdonald	71-65-70—206 (7-under)
T27	Brendan MacDougall	70-70-66—206 (7-under)
T46	Lawren Rowe	72-68-66—206 (7-under)
T42	Matthew Anderson	70-69-70—209 (4-under)
55	Joey Savoie	71-71-70—212 (1-under)

Canadian **Lawren Rowe** had back-to-back eagles. He holed out on the par-5 15th and followed that with a hole-in-one at No. 16, his first career ace. On 15, a 437-yard par-4, he hit a lob wedge from 100 yards. On 16, a 181-yard par-3, he hit an 8-iron. "It's a lot of luck. That's all I can say," Rowe said. He shot 66 and rose into a tie for 27th.

The top three on the Fortinet Cup points list would all slide down a spot if Hayden Springer wins this week's event, but would remain in the top five and gain status on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour. No. 1 **Sam Choi** shot 65 and is 3-under in a tie for 27th. No. 2 **Davis Lamb** shot 71 and is 2-under, tied for 51st. No. 3 **Etienne Papineau** shot 67 and sits at 12-under in a tie for sixth.

Chase Sienkiewicz has been given an exemption into next week's Fortinet Championship in Napa, California. It will be the first PGA TOUR event for Sienkiewicz, a rookie who grew up in Sacramento, California, and played college golf at the University of Arizona. Sienkiewicz has two top-10 finishes on PGA TOUR Canada this season. Sienkiewicz will have his longtime friend Grant Lepik, who played college golf at Chico State, on the bag as his caddie. "It's awesome," said Sienkiewicz. "I'm so stoked because I've played that course about a dozen times."

Yi Cao had three birdies and no bogeys on Saturday to stretch his bogey-free streak to 101 holes. His last bogey came on the seventh hole during the first round of last week's CRMC Championship.

Taylor Funk shot 63 on Friday, but skied to a 77 on Saturday. The 14-stroke differential is the highest of the season on PGA TOUR Canada.

Quotable

"To start the week, I kind of did the math and if I get a win, I've probably got a chance to get in the top five. It would be interesting to see if that stands up. I'm playing to win and if I have a good result, it's good for me in another way, too." – **Jared du Toit**

"It's pretty unforgettable. It's just such a special circumstance to be in. It's always just a lot more fun to have people watching and applauding when necessary. I really enjoyed it. It's an awesome atmosphere." – **Derek Hitchner**

"I think the conditions are supposed to be pretty similar. It's really just trying to settle in as much as you can, just relax and just try to execute and make the right decisions ... hit the right spots and hopefully get some putts to fall. We both kind of did that today, so I think that's probably kind of the same mentality." – **Hayden Springer**

Third-Round Weather: Mostly sunny and pleasant with a high of 21°C. Winds out of SSW 9-24 km/h with gusts up to 32km/h.