



## WINDSOR CHAMPIONSHIP

### First-Round Leaderboard

#### Windsor Championship

Ambassador Golf Club

August 3, 2023

Full [Leaderboard](#)

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Pos.	Name	Scores	Fortinet Cup Pos.
1	Stuart Macdonald (Canada)	32-28—60 (11-under)	5
T2	Joseph Juszczyk (United States)	30-32—62 (9-under)	T118
T2	Ryan Linton (United States)	31-31—62 (9-under)	55
T4	Lawren Rowe (Canada)	31-32—63 (8-under)	73
T4	Cory Crawford (Australia)	32-31—63 (8-under)	96
6	Myles Creighton (Canada)	31-33—64 (7-under)	16

### Macdonald shoots 11-under, leads by 2 strokes at Windsor Championship

**WINDSOR, Ontario** – Stuart Macdonald already has a win on PGA TOUR Canada this season, but the Vancouver native admitted he was definitely fighting the nerves on Thursday while pursuing a bit of history.

Macdonald had a legitimate shot to join the “59 Club” but settled for a course-record 11-under 60 to take the first-round lead at the Windsor Championship. Macdonald had 11 birdies and no bogeys at Ambassador Golf Club and finished with the lowest score recorded on PGA TOUR Canada this year.

“It’s weird being nervous in round one,” Macdonald said. “I was 10-under with three to play and I was definitely thinking about (a 59). I had a couple good putts on 16 and 17 that I couldn’t get to go, but I obviously can’t complain. It was great day.”

Macdonald holds a two-shot lead over Americans Justin Juszczyk and Ryan Linton who posted the ninth and tenth 62s on PGA TOUR Canada this season. Canadian Lawren Rowe and Australian Cory Crawford are tied for fourth place at 8-under 63, while Canadian Myles Creighton is alone in sixth place at 7-under 64.

Nine players are tied for seventh at 65 – Americans Alex Scott, Cole Bradley, Chris Francoeur, Travis Trace, David Kim, Mateo Fernandez de Oliveira, Eric McCardle, Luke Schneiderjans and Canadian Jared du Toit.

Macdonald, who won the Commissionaires Ottawa Open two weeks ago in a playoff, matched his best professional score. His other 60 came in a two-day mini-tour event in Florida when he shot 73-60.



“The first round you don’t normally feel all those emotions,” he said. “When you get into that situation, you want to capitalize and make the most of it. Happy with the way the day went.”

Macdonald shot 32 on the front nine and opened the back with six consecutive birdies. He made a birdie on the 18<sup>th</sup> to complete the magical round.

“I just made a bunch of 6-10 footers,” he said. “Last week I didn’t make anything and today they’re kind of going in for me. Just struck it really well.”

He was especially proud of the birdie on No. 14, a 237-yard par-3 that plays over water. He hit his tee shot to within two feet and drained the putt.

“That’s a hole where three isn’t a bad score and I made a two to keep the momentum going,” he said.

Juszczyk, who started on No. 10, got red-hot on his second nine when he went six-under during a six-hole stretch that included an eagle and four birdies. The eagle came on the 507-yard par-5 third hole. He hit a 7-iron from 188 yards to about 30 feet and made the uphill putt.

“I was hitting it well and I was kind of around the hole most of the day,” Juszczyk said. “I didn’t really have to work for a whole lot, saving putts or anything like that. It’s nice to see some putts going in.”

In June, the Detroit, Michigan native won the 106<sup>th</sup> Michigan Open and called it the best of his career. At 36 years old, Juszczyk wants to see that success translate to PGA TOUR Canada, where he’s made the cut in two of three events but hasn’t finished better than a tie for 44<sup>th</sup> place.

“It’s a lot of fun to be in contention,” he added. “You want to get there as much as you can. It’s huge to be able to draw on recent successes and experiences, for sure.”

Linton, of Lake Forest, Illinois, was playing under tougher conditions in the afternoon wave. He shot 31 on each side and bounced back from his lone bogey on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole with a birdie at No. 17.

The highlight of Linton’s round was an eagle on the 513-yard par-5 seventh. Despite ending up with mud on his tee ball, Linton landed his 6-iron approach from 196 yards to within 15 feet and made the putt. Linton was proud of the way he handled the adversity.

“You can’t change what happened. There’s no point in getting frustrated about it,” Linton said. “It’s just part of the game and you just deal with it. I tried to adjust as best as possible. It was on top of the ball, so normally it just comes off a little lower and it did just that.”

Rowe had an eagle, seven birdies and one bogey during his 63, besting his previous low score by three shots. Crawford had an eagle and six birdies, and has put himself in a solid position to make the cut for the second time in seven starts.

Creighton, of Digby, Nova Scotia, was second last week at the Osprey Valley Open. He had eight birdies – including a stretch of four-straight – and one bogey in shooting his 64.

## Key Information

### Fortinet Cup Standings

(Through Osprey Valley Open)

Pos.	Player	Points
1	Davis Lamb (United States)	1,068
2	John Pak (United States)	680



3	Étienne Papineau (Canada)	644
4	Chris Korte (United States)	581
5	Stuart Macdonald (Canada)	553
6	Davis Shore (United States)	527
7	Sam Choi (United States)	520
8	Devon Bling (United States)	433
9	Brian Richey (United States)	384
10	David Kim (United States)	383

**Stuart Macdonald** became the fifth player to make six-plus consecutive birdies this season. **Sam Choi** had seven in a row at the Elk Ridge Saskatchewan Open and **Chris R. Wilson, Connor Howe** and **Blair Burnsey** each had six in a row.

The last time the Windsor Championship was played in 2019, **Bryson Nimmer** set a course record at Ambassador Golf Club with a 61 in the third round.

**Chris Francoeur** got off to a great start. He made five consecutive birdies and was 6-under after seven holes. He made a bogey at No. 8, but birdied the ninth hole to shoot 30 on the front side. The Newburyport, Massachusetts native has six-straight rounds and 11 of his last 13 rounds in the 60s.

**Davis Lamb** and **John Pak**, No. 1 and No. 2 in the Fortinet Cup points standings, both opened with a 3-under 68 and are tied for 61<sup>st</sup>.

**Travis Trace**, of Jacksonville, Florida, continued his stellar play with a 66. Over his last nine rounds, Trace has three 66s and has not shot higher than 71. Trace is looking for his second-straight top 25.

**Jordan Hahn** and **Brendan Seys**, both playing on a sponsor exemption, opened with 66s and are tied for 16<sup>th</sup>.

Open qualifier **Van Holgren** shot 66 in the first round and is tied for 16<sup>th</sup>, while **Ty Campbell**, who won the Monday qualifier, opened with a 70.

### Quoteable

“There’s a couple of longer holes, a couple of the par-3s on the back are pretty long. So if you can get away with a three there, you’re pretty happy. Super scoreable. The greens are rolling good this morning and there wasn’t too much wind on the front nine. If you can make some putts, you’re going to make some birdies out there.” – **Stuart Macdonald**

“The last couple of weeks I wasn’t really driving it well and today I was kind of driving on a string. It made things a little easier to get at the pins. You’re going to have a lot of wedges, the par-5s aren’t very long, so I think it’s going to be pretty scoreable all week.” – **Justin Juszczuk**

“The course was great. It’s starting to firm up, which is fantastic. We haven’t seen many firm conditions all season, so it was nice to be able to hit the ball pin high and have it stay there. Looking forward to the rest of the week.” – **Ryan Linton**

“Just staying mentally patient. That’s something I’ve struggled with a times, at least this season. Just getting out there and just trying to stay patient.” – **Ryan Linton**

**First-Round Weather:** Mostly sunny with a high of 30. Wind SSW from 9-15 km/h with gusts up to 35 km/h.