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Kjeldsen Extends Lead Entering Final Round of Q-School

Scottsdale, Arizona – Overnight leader Søren Kjeldsen extended his lead to three strokes following a third-round 65 at the PGA TOUR Champions Qualifying Tournament (Final Stage) at TPC Scottsdale (Champions Course) on Thursday.

Kjeldsen, who sits at 19-under after three rounds, played his first 17 holes on Thursday without a blemish for the second consecutive day before bogeying the 18th hole. On Wednesday, he double-bogeyed the final hole. After making the turn in 2-under on Thursday, he birdied Nos. 10-12 on his way to a 4-under back nine.

“I was a little bit on edge the first few holes, so I needed to settle into the round a little bit,” the 49-year-old Kjeldsen said. “The birdie on No. 10 settled me a little bit and then I really played well on the back nine.”

Kjeldsen, who turns 50 on May 17, 2025, has held at least a share of the lead after each of the first two days, co-leading after Tuesday and held a two-stroke lead after Wednesday. He was the medalist at last month’s First Stage Q-School site at Grand Bear Golf Club in Mississippi.

He made 712 starts on the DP World Tour from 1998 to 2024, which ranks as the third-most starts in that Tour’s history. Kjeldsen is a four-time winner on the DP World Tour, most recently at the 2015 Dubai Duty Free Irish Open.

In Friday’s final round, Kjeldsen will be paired with fellow European Freddie Jacobson for the fourth consecutive day. Jacobson, whose position by round has been 3rd-T2-2nd, shot 66 for the second consecutive round. He sits at 16-under, three strokes behind Kjeldsen.

“I think I putted really well on the back nine,” Jacobson, who birdied Nos. 10, 11, 13 and 15, said. “I made a little change just before the turn. Just a little change in the setup and I mixed up the routine. I felt like I started to strike them a lot better.”

The Swede turned 50 in September before earning a top-10 in his PGA TOUR Champions debut at Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS in October.

55-year-old Dicky Pride will play alongside Kjeldsen and Jacobson in the final grouping on Friday following a third-round 69. Pride is 13-under for the week, six strokes behind Kjeldsen and three strokes back of Jacobson.

52-year-old Australian Scott Barr sits in solo fourth at 12-under after posting 67 for the third consecutive round. Fellow Aussie Brendan Jones, who turns 50 in March, and Chilean Felipe Aguilar, who turned 50 last month, share fifth place at 11-under entering the final round. Aguilar, the medalist at last month’s First Stage Q-School Buckhorn Springs Golf and Country Club in Florida, birdied four of his last six holes en route to 65 in the third round.

2014 European Ryder Cup team member Stephen Gallacher and Mario Tiziani, who finished 54th in the 2024 Charles Schwab Cup standings, are T7 at 10-under. Mark Walker, who carded the low round of the day with 7-under 64, is one of four players T9 at 9-under.

At the end of four rounds, the top-5 finishers will be fully exempt into open, full-field events for PGA TOUR Champions in the 2025 season. In addition, players finishing sixth through 30th will be eligible to compete in open qualifiers on PGA TOUR Champions in 2025.

Tee times for Friday’s final round will run from 8:00 a.m. to 10:12 a.m. (Mountain Time) off the Nos. 1 and 10 tees at TPC Scottsdale.

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