

**WEB.COM TOUR - BAHAMAS EXUMA**

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: 2018 is upon us. And for the second straight year, kicking things off in the Bahamas. Pretty good vistas and views all around here. And a windy 2017 in Exuma. A little bit of a wet start to 2018 on the Web.com Tour so far this year. Certainly excited for the opportunity. And speaking of the weather, at least the wind is down, negligible at this point, 81 degrees, showers in the area. But happy to get things for the Web.com Tour season, its 29th year. It is off and running. And the quest to try to make it to the PGA Tour starts right here in January. Those people, they're not worried about getting a PGA Tour Card. They're here for some fun in the sun, some great water activities down here in Sandals Emerald Bay. Taking a look at the leaderboard, Scott Langley, Max Homa, a couple of youngsters who have been on the PGA Tour before, certainly would like to get back there. Currently at 5-under par, Kramer Hickock, coming off a "Player of the Year" season in 2017 up in Canada. Good to see some low scores here out of the gate. A very soft golf course, receptive so far, here in the opening round.

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ANNOUNCER: Please welcome Greg Norman.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: This was Friday during the Pro-Am, getting things officially underway here. The course architect at Sandal's Emerald Bay, Greg Norman, getting things going. He still looks like one of the great drivers of the golf ball, Craig.

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CRAIG PERKS: Ah, yeah, he's probably one of the greatest drivers in the history of the game when he was at it, 331 weeks he spent as the best player in the world.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Still physically fit--

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: --for a man who is going to turn 63 in February. And what a career it has been for a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, being inducted back in 2001. Twenty wins on the PGA Tour, two-time Open champ. You mentioned all that time as World Number 1. Greg Norman, uh, one of the greats that we saw.

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PHIL RITSON: And now back at the 9th trying to save par. Hickok.

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TRIPP ISENHOUR: You know, Phil, in every round that you have going, you got to make a couple of these for par to keep things going. This would be a huge par save right out of the break. Exact same line as Blakefield.

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PHIL RITSON: A good stroke there. That looked good all the way. And that's a nice par save for Kramer. Stays at -4 out. Very good first nine here at the first round of the Web.com 2018 season.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Drop back to 10. Michael Johnson with this putt upcoming.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: Well, following on from what you fellows said earlier on about maybe this is the year that Michael turns it on. It already seems a--a lighter character this year. He was very serious last year. You know, maybe put too much pressure on himself. This one downhill, left-to-right. He was very happy about that second shot, though.

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CRAIG PERKS: And he's even happier now, to--to make the three.

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PHIL RITSON: Let's go back now to the 9th, the par 5 we saw earlier. This is Matt Ryan, the lefty, with his third shot, even par on his round.

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CRAIG PERKS: I thought he had a football game to play against the Philadelphia Eagles. Right? [chuckle] Doing double duty.

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PHIL RITSON: Oh, he--this--look out. There you go. Taking advantage of the soft conditions. That's an eagle 3. That's how you do it. Play the spin. That ball had a lot of spin on it, didn't it? It was racing back. Pan back down the fairway and see his response. He doesn't know that it went in. He's got his putter out. [chuckle]

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Jump back up to the 18th, this for Ben Taylor, birdie at the par-5. Remember, a few years ago he clinched the National Championship for LSU at Concession in 2015 by rolling a putt about that length. And not a bad way to get things going. Well, 32, on the back nine for Ben.

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PHIL RITSON: 11th tee here now. Kramer Hickok a little short par 3.

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TRIPP ISENHOUR: Well, the water is blue. But this par-3 is a green-light situation. No wind, Phil, and you talk about these players, and--and their wedges. This is where you would see a top player in the world [club swing] inside 10 feet every time. This just to the left of the hole.

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PHIL RITSON: A very good shot there, controlling his spin nicely, about 12 to 14 feet. A good chance for a birdie. And you're so right, Tripp, you got to take advantage of shots like this, even though the water is right there close. With no wind in, these sort of conditions, you got to take dead aim.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now, at 18, Kyle Reifers who has been on the PGA Tour, this for birdie.

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah, I think he spent five or six straight years out there, and struggled a lit--little bit last year. Father's in the Ohio State Golf Hall of Fame.

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PHIL RITSON: Well, the bo--the background, Hickok now for birdie.

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TRIPP ISENHOUR: And this a putt you can hit about three different ways. There is no one right way to hit it. Because you hit it hard, you can take the break out of it. You can die it. Moving to his right.

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PHIL RITSON: His follow-through, his putting stroke is not the same grip. But it reminds me a little bit of Spieth. It's kind of--kind of a hit-and-stop, not a long, languid motion through the ball. Very similar. And a good putt there for birdie. To the 13th now, [indistinct] for birdie.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: And a very similar line to Johnson's, downhill, fairly straight.

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PHIL RITSON: All right. Well done. He gets one back now, just 1-over in his round today. That was a much-needed birdie. Oh, don't throw that birdie ball in the water. Come on. That ball was nice to you. Come on. I got some friends at home that would have like to have had that ball.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Back at 12, this is a birdie opportunity for Matt Ryan to get him to 3-under.

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. Not much in this, just straight down the hill. We saw him hole one from the fairway at 9 for the eagle. There is another birdie.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: So that moves him to just a couple of shots

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off the lead. Head back to the tee at 15.

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PHIL RITSON: A par-5 here. And a lot of players elected not to go with a driver, playing it as a three-shot par five. Craig, you look at his--his game over the years. He's gotten better every--every year, he's gotten better. His freshman year at Texas, he averaged 77. By the time he was a senior, he averaged 71. And he goes out last year on the--in Canada and leads the Order of Merit. And I think that, uh, the things he's doing with Cameron McCormick, I think they do some very inventive things there. And it's--it's--it's great to see a game come along and progress like that. [club swing]

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. And I liked what he said about the--that it's the mental side of it, the belief. So he's got that validation from that one point, where he made a birdie in the playoff just to get to the, uh, MacKenzie Tour. And then I--I--I think he pictured--he could picture himself holding that trophy. So he's, uh--he's comfortable in those situations. Uh, he's doing a lot of good things.

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PHIL RITSON: Well, he is, uh, saying a lot of good things. Now, with the driver, Rodriguez. I don't know that he's got the length to get there in two, anyway. [club swing] So very risky second shot, if you go for the green, a very, very narrow green. Water to the left. But a nice tee shot. He may have an opportunity. He might have got that out there far enough.

00:08:18:27

STEVE BURKOWSKI: There's Hickok walking down 15, alongside Blakefield. A lot of good Longhorns have come through the Web.com Tour on their way to the PGA Tour. And taking a look, since 1990, Brad Elder three times a winner on the Web.com Tour. You got Omar Uresti, Gary Webb, our own Brandel Chamblee a winner in the inaugural season on the Web.com Tour in 1990.

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CRAIG PERKS: And to me, the interesting thing about all of this, we've talked about Jordan Spieth being the roommate. Jordan Spieth missed Q School second stage, had nowhere to play.

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Got some starts early on the PGA Tour. And then actually came-- went and played South America, a couple of events, and then got a sponsor's invite to Puerto Rico. And the rest is all history. So that's why we really don't see--Jordan only playing two events. So we don't see him as a winner out of the University of Texas on the Web.com Tour.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: But if Puerto Rico didn't happen, and then Valspar where he got enough money to get--

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CRAIG PERKS: Right.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: --unlimited sponsors' exemptions. I don't want to say that history would have looked a little bit different, because it's worked out pretty well for this man's roommate. Kramer Hickok and Jordan Spieth have been roommates since their days back in Austin. Hickok looking to join his buddy on the PGA Tour.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

00:09:34:02

STEVE BURKOWSKI: It's a Sunday morning at the Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay. And Round 1, if you're just joining us, had to be completed here on Sunday morning, due to some overnight rain and early morning rain. But that is in the books. So Round 2 now off and running. And they're all trying to catch Matt Ryan.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Wes Roach now, playing alongside Nunez here at 12. And that is for birdie. So that gets Wes Roach to 4-under. So what a difference a year makes for everyone here in the field. 2017, it was about the wind. 2018, it is about the rain. More than nine inches have fallen on this golf course in the past week. Now up to 15, Sungjae Im, Korean, this for birdie to get to 5-under. Played mostly in Korea and Japan the past couple of seasons. But finished second at Q School, behind Lee McCoy. So the 19-year-old, who is 149th in the world ranking, maybe somebody we will see on those first couple of

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pages of the leaderboards.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: At the short par-4 see, if Nunez can make his birdie.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: And that's why he has his name on the bag. Well done there at 14 by Augusto. He gets to 5-under, just a couple of shots back.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Back at 13, this for a birdie for Eric Axley.

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. I think the players enjoy these downhill putts on these slow greens.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Safe to say Eric enjoyed that one, rolling that one right in. So birdie at 13 for Axley gets him back to 5-over. Some work to do if he's going to be around for the final two days of action, as we jump ahead to the short 14th. Now at 14, short one for Etulain.

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TRIPP ISENHOUR: Yeah, not much in it. The only difficulty here is the wind staying steady.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: All right. No issues there. So after the short miss at 13, able to convert there at 14. That moves him to 4-under par, three shots off the lead.

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PHIL RITSON: Well, this is the third shot for Max Ratliff here at the 13th, par--or the 15th, excuse me, par-5, coming out of the bunker, 572 yards. It's a risk/reward-type par-5, a beautiful par-5, water all down the left-hand side. He evidently went for the green in two. I have not seen many players. And he was rewarded for it. What a beautiful shot there to make eagle. That'll brighten your day. And back to what you were saying, Burko. Yeah, the wedges are so important.

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And the wind, you have a little wind blowing, it will really tend to expose you if you're not a great wedge player, controlling your trajectory and distance. It will expose you a little bit. But I think something else, as we look at Max's card, that gets him down into red numbers. You know, the greens, we're not seeing a lot of putts made, as we watch Billy Kennerly now at 13 for birdie. He's at 5-under.

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. He controlled his wedge shot magnificently. It's an interesting setup. He goes through this every time. A lot of players working very hard on posture and setup. And it worked very nicely.

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PHIL RITSON: A good birdie there, taking advantage of the short par-3. Puts him to minus-6.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now up ahead at 14, Ruiz has this for birdie.

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TRIPP ISENHOUR: And putting on the same line as Gonzalo Castano. And so this one should be--or Fernandez-Castanio, excuse me. And there you go. I mean, that--that wind just is really starting to gust out here.

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CRAIG PERKS: And Tripp, I think sometimes in the wind, uh, you know, we used to see it back in the, uh, you know, the old school guys. But widen out a little bit. Make a little of an adjustment with your stance to get that stability in the lower half in there. Because you get buffeted with this wind and knocked around, it's really difficult to hit your putts solidly.

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TRIPP ISENHOUR: There was guy named, uh, Watson, I believe, who has, uh, got some Claret Jugs, who kind of widened his stance. And I think he was a pretty good wind player.

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PHIL RITSON: He was pretty good. And Tripp, you're--you get to follow all the different tours of golf all around the world. Do

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you think that today's players is adept at making adjustments like that as players from yester-year, perhaps?

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TRIPP ISENHOUR: No. Because the conditions are so much more uniform. Those players had to adapt week-to-week. And the conditions changed. And, gosh, back in the old days, before, uh, agronomy, they had to change from green-to-green. [chuckle] So, yeah, they had to be a lot more adaptive. And I think the modern equipment, too, allows for more unif--uniformity of--of your approach. Not much in this putt at all, downwind.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: So Axley able to convert at 14.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Adam Svenson, two big shots to get it to this point. So he'll have this for eagle.

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PHIL RITSON: Well, he had a great opportunity last year. He finished 5th at Boise in the second of the Web.com Finals events. The top 25 get their cards for the PGA Tour there. And he came so close there. You can see how close he hit this shot for his chance for eagle. All he had to do was just make a couple of cuts the last two weeks. You have yourself an average week. And--and he struggled those last two weeks. And, uh, hopefully he'll learn from that experience and use that as a building block to future success, as he makes a great three there on the par-5.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Roger Sloan getting ready to play this par-3, Phil.

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PHIL RITSON: Well, the wind whipping across from the left. And, Gary, would you ever play this shot, kind of shove it back in your stance, hook the face a little bit, close it down a little bit, and--and then just try to kind of hold it so the ball would hold against the wind?

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GARY CHRISTIAN: We were talking about this earlier in the week, weren't we? I went out and played with the Tour Balata, uh, you know, a 20-year-old ball. And I was able to do that, hit that shot. Not quite as easy with the modern balls. They just don't spin enough. So you'll see a lot more people ride the wind somewhat more. And this makes it a little bit easier. And Roger teeing up on the right side here. It looks like he's trying to cut one, and use the wind.

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PHIL RITSON: It sounds like you need a little bit more club head speed, get a little more spin, Gary.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: Yeah. I've always--I'm unfortunately always struggled, Phil. But that's a beautifully controlled shot there, pin high.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now up ahead at 15, Eric Axley, Phil, has this long birdie putt.

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PHIL RITSON: Let's see if he can get it to the hole here, give it a chance. And he does.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: How about that for Eric Axley? So a bit of a struggle. But all of a sudden, birdies on 13, 14, 15. Craig, you said this could be a part of the golf course that you might be able to take advantage.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: We're back at 13. Roger Sloan has this for birdie.

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah, basically, straight putt. An important one for Roger. Shot 69 that first round. But look at those, three straight bogeys to open. But bounced back with birdie. Well done. Sort of starting to unravel. And then you sort of stop-- stop it a little bit, and keep moving forward.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Yeah. You think about Roger Sloan a couple of years ago in Evansville, a chance to win. And after that rain delay, he sort of fell apart coming down the stretch. It's that fine line between getting the job done on the Web.com Tour, trying to get back to the PGA Tour, then maybe having to put in a little more time out here, and--and make sure you fulfill that opportunity, and pay it off when it presents itself, for sure.

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CRAIG PERKS: Well, Greg Norman mentioned, uh, you know, every--every rung up the ladder, everything changes. It gets more difficult. And, uh, you know, being good is easy. Being great is very hard. And--and I think that those rungs, it comes with experience, and--and learning the trials and tribulations of professional golf.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Well, currently 7-under, the lucky number, Curtis Luck, one of those at 7-under, tied for the lead. As 2nd round coverage Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay winding down. But we're seeing a lot of good scores. A soft, receptive golf course, with more than 9 inches of rain having fallen on this Greg Norman design over the past week.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: They are off and running in Round 3. Let's go to some highlights from a little bit earlier. Dan McCarthy, the 36-hole leader, his 3rd at the opening par-5, uh--5 first, Craig Perks.

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. 70, 66 the first two rounds. Just two bogeys. So eliminating the mistakes.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Mark Anderson at the Par-3 2nd, 173 yards.

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. To a front-right hole location. Played the PGA Tour last year, lost his card. But has won on this tour in

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2013.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: He would make birdie, get to 8-under. Now ahead at the 7th, Brett Drewitt, to get to 7-under.

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CRAIG PERKS: Another man that played the Tour last year. Take that experience and get a jump start on the season. 3-under through his first seven holes in this Round 3.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: So we are seeing some good scores being posted here early on the front nine. Steve Burkowski, alongside Players Champ Craig Perks with you on this Monday afternoon. And Dan McCarthy has given that early birdie back. He is now at 8-under par, tied at the top with Mark Anderson. Bret Drewitt, who is making that run early here in Round 3, just a shot back. Carlos Ortiz playing nicely. Graduated successfully with three wins back in 2014. Maybe he can jump start his year on the Web.com Tour with a victory here this week. He's 3-under on the day.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now over at 8, this is Grant Leaver, currently 7-under, a shot back. And this to get a share of the lead. So with that birdie, now three tied at the top, Leaver, McCarthy, and Anderson, all 8-under. Brett Drewitt among those just a shot back. And you can see the waves crashing in here on a windy Monday afternoon in the Bahamas.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: We head back to the 4th, where Mark Anderson has this for birdie.

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CRAIG PERKS: The strength of Mark's game can be a little erratic with the driver. But he has always been rock solid on the greens.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: So two birdies in his first four holes. That moves Mark Anderson to 9-under par. And right now, the outright leader. Let's go up to nine.

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PHIL RITSON: And Brett Drewitt has an opportunity here for birdie. This would be his 5th birdie on this outward 9, a chance to get to minus-9. He is on fire. Brett Drewitt has really got it going. That's a 31 on the opening 9. The Australian 27-year-old is tied for the lead.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: So we go back out to the action at 7.

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PHIL RITSON: And Matt Ryan, his third shot here on the par 4. Came up just a little bit short of the green. He hit the greens in wonderf--or the entire golf course in great shape. [indistinct] and fairways. We talked about it earlier. And watch this technique. He's got--going left-hand, well, right-hand low. He's left-handed. So I got the right hand going there. And look at this shot.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: Uh, cross-handed.

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PHIL RITSON: Cross-handed, right hand low, at, uh--I've tried that before. It didn't--it didn't work for me.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Why do you think he goes with that? Why would you choose to do something like that?

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PHIL RITSON: Uh, most times if somebody goes, like--they're having issues of some sort that they're having to deal with. And based on that pitch, he's solved them.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Make our way back to 6, the par-3, second of the par-3's on the front side of this golf course. And McCarthy sort of just doing a little homework, checking things out, what he might have in store for his second.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: Well, you kind of get a feeling like he's, you know, playing a little catch-up from taking so long to get to the Web.com Tour at 30 years old, and then having the injury. You know, you kind of feel a little bit cheated. You know, maybe there is a little bit of luck or fate, maybe, this year. It might be his year. Straight back up the hill low. It should be a fairly simple chip. He's probably looking to make this don't you, Craig?

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CRAIG PERKS: Yeah, you--maybe, uh--I would think you were just concerned of how it's going to come out of that, uh, rough. But that was a brilliant shot. Good call there, Gary.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: So nice touch there by McCarthy. He'll tap that short one in for his par, to remain at 6-under, three shots off the lead. So let's see, the double bogey at 5, currently 2-over here in the third round for the 32-year-old.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Keep it right here at 6. Mark Anderson, one of those tied at the top at 9-under. And, uh, would like to get down in 2 from here, I would assume, Gary.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: Yeah. See what he'll do. A good 50,60 feet, or so. I was having a nice talk with Mark beforehand. I think his career sort of mirrors Kyle Thompson a little bit, where when he's good, he's very, very good. He has a chance to win tournaments every year. But he just has a tendency to go missing for a month or so at a time. And then we saw what Kyle's done over the years, just got a little better, more consistent. And Mark said that's all he's looking for, more consistency in his game. But he's fought some of his emotions. And, you know, he's--he's trying to learn. You're always learning in this game.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: You mentioned that similarity. Another one, they both played collegiately at South Carolina. So maybe with Kyle now out on the PGA Tour this season, Mark can join him in nine months' time.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: Yeah, be inspired by Kyle being out there.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: A pretty good effort from that long range. These paspalum greens a little bit slower than ordinarily you'd see a professional game, about nine on the Stimpmeter.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Back out at 8, Brandon Matthews sizing this one up for birdie. We had a chance to first meet him four years ago, at the US Open at Marion. He was the first alternate. That's in the Philadelphia area. Brandon went to school in the Philadelphia area. Grew up in that part of Pennsylvania. And he waited, and waited, and waited. Ultimately ended up driving overnight, as he didn't get to play in the [word] Amateur. But, uh, winner on the Latino America Tour last year. One of those players, keep an eye on. He's slowing ascending. You don't think a player that is coming out of Temple as ones to watch. But I think by season's end we might be saying differently, Craig.

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CRAIG PERKS: He might be guilt for a different sport. He's 6'4", 210. He's got tremendous clubhead speed.

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: As we go ahead to 9.

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PHIL RITSON: Matt Ryan with a good chance for birdie here. A good putt. Finally see somebody get a putt to roll in there. It's been a while since we've seen a putt made. Look at that start he got off to. That was just a terrible start. 13 now, Connor Arendell for birdie. Swinging hard to the left. All right, good putt. Connor, the 27-year-old, out of University of Florida. He's a rookie. Tenth at the Q School. Getting a taste of the Web.com. And now we go back out at the 9th and McCarthy.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: Yeah. I think he's quite confident as a player

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to see another player hit a good shot. So you kind of have an idea of what the ball is going to do. They play a fairly similar game. Don't go full-out with their wedges. 74 yards. Again, got to pitch this beyond the flag.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: Well, brought that in low. Very nicely done, indeed.

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PHIL RITSON: Yes, it was. Two nice wedge shots, right there. That one a nice low, piercing trajectory. Controlling the ball on the greens after it landed, which is you're going to hit it close, you have to do. It's not just how far you hit it in the air, but what the ball does once it gets on the ground. And Drewitt, after that nice tee shot. And here see if he can handle this what looks to be about six feet, for birdie. There shouldn't be a whole lot of break in this one. All right, nicely done. Gets him to minus-6, as we head back to the 9th and McCarthy for birdie.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: Well, it's nice. He's really found his rhythm, hasn't he, with his wedges? The last hole was a beautifully-controlled shot. Didn't take advantage. Let's see if he can do it better here. Just a little gentle right-to-lefter.

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GARY CHRISTIAN: It's actually interesting. Off the tee, he hit a driver off the deck. He had lost one left on 5. And his caddy said when he does that, oftentimes, the next drive he'll hit, he'll put it just on a little plug of earth and try to have the anti-left swing. So interesting how he, uh, gets that in his repertoire.

00:26:20:00

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Yeah, Gary, we saw him do that last year at this event, the third and fourth rounds, right on the opening hole.

00:26:25:16

GARY CHRISTIAN: Yeah. That's interesting, isn't it? It takes a lot of, uh--a lot of guts sometimes. But it's something he

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has practiced over and over again. Again, you always like that comfortable shot.

00:26:39:07

PHIL RITSON: Well, a good putt there for birdie. And I think-- I applaud going with the driver off the deck, because you got to--you got to make adjustments sometimes to eliminate mistakes before they happen.

00:26:47:18

STEVE BURKOWSKI: As we go ahead to 13.

00:26:49:14

PHIL RITSON: And Jamie Arnold has this for a birdie. Get him to minus-3. And you never know. Good putt there for Jamie Arnold. The lead right now at 7, just four back.

00:27:01:23

STEVE BURKOWSKI: So as we make our way back to 10, McCarthy getting ready to hit his 3rd.

00:27:09:14

GARY CHRISTIAN: Oh, yeah. He'll be dropping it between the sandy area and the hazard. Just a little over 200 yards. 200 and--well, no, actually, only 184 yards. The flag towards the front today. So at least he's got a--a decent chance to get this on the green. He's going to be going with a--a 4-iron, though, straight back into the tee that's picked up a little, 20 miles an hour now. A good, clean lie, though.

00:27:34:19

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Yeah, co-leader, 7-under, darkness coming quickly. You want to try to end this day on somewhat of a positive note.

00:27:52:14

GARY CHRISTIAN: Well, it's getting so dark out here. Not many of us could see that.

00:27:57:26

CRAIG PERKS: It didn't look like it was struck very well. It looks like he's lost that to the right.

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00:28:02:18

PHIL RITSON: Anyway, out at the 11th now, second shot from just off the green, [word].

00:28:08:29

TRIPP ISENHOUR: Yeah, Phil. He hit actually one of the best shots I've seen, start right on line. A huge gust came up, and just knocked his ball down and to the right. It was looking good three-quarters of the way there. And then, all of a sudden, boom, it looked like it was going in the hazard. But all-in-all, I mean, this is one up the hill. He's--he's got a, you know, wedge out. He's going to give this a good look. He's got the pin out, or the flag out, excuse me. And, uh, again, we talked about this earlier, Phil. These--these are ones you're definitely are trying to--to put in the hole if you're a professional.

00:28:46:04

PHIL RITSON: Well, a good run at it. Doesn't quite get it in the hole. You know, and 117 yards, the 11th today, and there has only been four birdies. How about that?

00:28:54:22

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now, back at 10. McCarthy's struggles continuing. This now his 6th shot, Gary?

00:29:01:14

GARY CHRISTIAN: Yeah. Absolutely hit it in the water again on his second shot, after he dropped off the tee. Awkward little pitch here. Not much green to work with, coming up a rise. He's just got to minimize the damage now. This might be the most important up-and-down of his week.

00:29:18:10

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Trying to minimize the damage here at what might be his final hole of the day, as the clouds rolling in. Sunset about 10 to 12 minutes away.

00:29:30:29

CRAIG PERKS: That was very nicely done. It spun a little bit to the right.

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So, McCarthy and Anderson currently tied for the lead. McCarthy won't be there in a matter of moments. He has that short one for triple-bogey coming up at the 10th. The sun is setting. Darkness rolling in quickly. They'll get back on Tuesday morning to wrap up Round 3. And then we we'll be back for the final round. Let's call it Championship Tuesday from the Bahamas for the first Web.com Tour event.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

00:30:10:06

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Championship Tuesday on hand for you. First event of the Web.com Tour Season in 2018. The waves crashing off of Emerald Bay on the peninsula. The wind up yet again, and a little bit of rain has started to fall over the past 30 minutes for the first event of 2018, on the Web.com Tour. For the second straight year, we begin things in the Bahamas. Not a bad way to get it going in the middle of January. Currently, 78 degrees. Isolated thunderstorms in the area. Winds coming out of the northeast at about 12 miles per hour. This Greg Norman-designed layout a challenge to begin with. Mother Nature might have a little something to say about it before it's all said and done. Steve Burkowski with you, alongside Players Champion Craig Perks. And 19-year-old Sungjae Im out of the gates quickly here at 3.

00:31:01:18

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. Not affecting this 19-year-old. Again today, tied for the lead. Birdied the opening hole. And that would set up another birdie at the 3rd.

00:31:08:06

STEVE BURKOWSKI: That got him to 8-under. Now, at the par-3 6th, this to get to 9-under par.

00:31:12:02

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah, left it in a great spot, underneath the hole, turning right-to-left. Has eliminated all the mistakes. Only four bogeys the entire week for the young man.

00:31:21:14

STEVE BURKOWSKI: And he keeps it going here at the par-4 8th to get to 10-under par.

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00:31:25:00

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. Certainly rolling the rock beautifully on this final round.

00:31:29:24

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Im finished second at Q School about six weeks ago, behind medalist Lee McCoy. And there you see it, as Sungjae Im, the 19-year-old Korean, makes the turn 10-under par, a two-shot lead over Bo Hoag. Max Homa, twice a winner on the Web.com Tour, is one of four players three shots back. But all these players within reach, 4, 5, 6 shots behind.

00:32:01:08

STEVE BURKOWSKI: At the 12th, the par-4, Brett Drewitt has this for birdie, would move him to 8-under, and just two back.

00:32:06:12

CRAIG PERKS: Oh, this would be stealing one. The hardest hole on the golf course the entire week. Matt is only the 5th birdie on the 12th today. Beautiful hole there for the Australian. Played the PGA Tour last year, taking some of that experience forward to this week and beyond.

00:32:21:17

STEVE BURKOWSKI: How difficult was this hole, in comparison to everything?

00:32:23:22

CRAIG PERKS: [overlap] Oh, yeah, it played--it was the hardest hole on the Web.com Tour's history last year. 5.08 was the score. And a little different conditions this year.

00:32:34:24

PHIL RITSON: Back at 11, now, for bogie, Hoag. Well, he had his 9-under through number 8, four birdies in his first eight holes today. But he drops two here. So he's dropped three shots now in the last three holes. Very costly for Bo Hoag. He falls back to minus-6.

00:32:58:29

STEVE BURKOWSKI: On to 15.

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00:33:00:14

PHIL RITSON: Third shot for Brett Drewitt. Laid up here on the par-5. You can see, it's pretty narrow, with the ocean on the left, it runs all along this hole, and a lot of trouble on the right-hand side. A lot of players choosing to lay up, have a little wedge in there. And that's a nice shot.

00:33:18:15

PHIL RITSON: This is Ortiz for par. He was long left with his tee shot. I know who normally wins that, Gary. And it's usually not the player, is it?

00:33:35:28

PHIL RITSON: You know, that's a very unfortunate bogey, with a wedge in your hand from the tee, to put it in that position.

00:33:43:01

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now ahead to 18, Rhein Gibson, his third shot, 4-under on the day, 7-under overall. So birdie here at the last could get him to 8, maybe hang around, wait and see, Craig.

00:33:54:24

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. No question about it. Uh, you've really seen this flagstick being peppered recently. The ideal spot. And he's left it back far enough so it's a full wedge to a front hole location. Post 8-under, and see what happens.

00:34:37:15

PHIL RITSON: 15, Drewitt now see if he can capitalize on that nice wedge he played in here for birdie. All right, well done. That pulls him to minus-9, just one behind Im now.

00:34:49:29

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Back out to 18, Gibson to close with birdie.

00:34:52:08

CRAIG PERKS: Huge putt here. Try and get to 8-under, up the hill breaking to his right. And trying to get back to the PGA Tour for the second time. That's a heck of a round today. Got off to a flying start, 5-under through six, and to post 67 today. Great bounce-back round, after a disappointing third day.

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00:35:25:13

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Drop back one to 14, Carlos Ortiz has this short one for birdie.

00:35:34:00

CRAIG PERKS: Now, that's nicely done. Nice bounce-back with the bogey.

00:35:38:16

PHIL RITSON: Yeah. It looks--Tripp, [word] is going to be next to go. A little bit, but not that much. I mean, it landed, it came back four or five feet, six feet.

00:35:56:25

PHIL RITSON: They did. That was one of the things that Tiger-- I had a chance to watch Tiger practice a lot when he was really going strong in the early 2000s. And one thing he practiced and talked a lot about was controlling his trajectory and spin with his--his short irons and his wedges. He was phenomenal at it. And, you know, he was always talking about being hole high. So about 23 feet here for birdie. Homa birdied three out of his first four. But he's not made one since.

00:36:26:28

PHIL RITSON: You know, he didn't like that one. Bogeys at 10 and 12. Had it to 8-under when you made the turn. Not the inward nine that he was looking for at all, though, particularly these conditions. Once the rain abated, it--it's gotten pretty nice out there, and--

00:36:55:14

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now, back at 14, Im for birdie.

00:36:55:14

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Oh, ho. It didn't go in cleanly, but it went in.

00:36:59:16

CRAIG PERKS: It went it, though. Yeah.

00:36:59:27

STEVE BURKOWSKI: And that's all that matters.

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00:37:00:18

CRAIG PERKS: That little box there, there is only one for a score. And three he will put down.

00:37:07:02

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now we got to 16. And let you know that Brett Drewitt is 7-under. It was actually a bogey at the par-5 15th, not a birdie. So currently 4 back, Craig.

00:37:16:23

CRAIG PERKS: A good opportunity here. Straight up the hill. And you've just got to make those adjustments. The rain has fallen and slowed these greens down even more. This game is all about controlling the emotion, and making some adjustments in midround.

00:37:32:08

STEVE BURKOWSKI: And with that adjustment in scoring, Sungjae Im has a three-shot lead over Rhein Gibson, who is already done at 8-under. Drewitt and Carlos Ortiz, the next closest pursuers, four shots back, as we go back to 15.

00:37:48:28

PHIL RITSON: And Im safely in the fairway after his second shot. So his third upcoming here on the par-5.

00:37:55:20

PHIL RITSON: Yeah. A short right would get into that sandy area. You never know with the rain that we've had, what sort of lie you might catch in there. We've seen some problems this week with that, with it getting packed down from the rain, so. I suspect since he hit driver there off the tee, he's going to take dead aim, I would think. [club swing]

00:38:33:08

PHIL RITSON: One of the best we've seen all day. Just five feet for another birdie for Sungjae Im, looking for his first win here at 19-years-old on the Web.com opening event of 2018.

[COMMERCIAL BREAK]

00:38:51:27

PHIL RITSON: Im now with a great opportunity for another birdie

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after a fabulous approach.

00:39:11:13

PHIL RITSON: For a 4-shot lead. Just three to play.

00:39:33:05

PHIL RITSON: Fabulous putt. What a birdie there for our leader, Sungjae Im, 19 years old, South Korean. I bet you K.J. Choi is somewhere with the TV on, watching him, young player from South Korea. I'm sure K.J. Choi couldn't be prouder of the way he's handling himself today.

00:39:53:16

PHIL RITSON: Rodriguez would be next. And, Craig, there is a lot of players right now. We have a couple of birdie holes here, coming in. And there is--we have a four-way tie at minus-7 for 3rd. And we have a number of players at 6-under, as well, uh, still on the golf course. A lot of money--early in the year, a lot of money at stake. It's very, very important, some of these guys, maybe if they can make some birdies, it, uh, really would help them a lot.

00:40:14:27

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. Don't protect where you are currently. Try and continue to push forward, because every dollar does count. Sneak in the outside of that, uh, tie for 3rd, you could actually get, Jose, if he birdied this hole, he could tie for 2nd with Rhein Gibson. And I think it just gives you that momentum, impetus, for next week and beyond.

00:40:38:11

PHIL RITSON: And maybe gives you some security, as far as your numbers start, you get later in the year, as well. To tie for 2nd, here.

00:40:47:23

PHIL RITSON: Well, he was working harder on his putter after he finished the first round. I saw him out there after he got done. He's figured some things out. And a nice round going today.

00:40:57:12

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Sungjae Im, 12-under, leads by 4, and getting

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ready for his second here at 16.

00:41:20:11

CRAIG PERKS: Gary, what has impressed you most about this young man today?

00:42:18:01

GARY CHRISTIAN: Oh, my goodness.

00:42:19:03

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. You think you might make some physical mistakes. You try not to make any course management errors. But incredible shot, there. Correctly--correct side of the flagstick, just right of the hole, taking the water out of play, and perfectly hole high.

00:42:31:19

STEVE BURKOWSKI: All things considered, I don't recall him missing a shot, or being in any sense of trouble since we came on the air two hours ago. And a--

00:42:41:23

CRAIG PERKS: And a smile.

00:42:42:02

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Yeah. Why not? It's fun. You're 6-under through 15. You just hit it inside 10 feet to extend your lead. Have a sip of water, and maybe enjoy it just a little bit, as we jump ahead to the last, the par-5 18th. Brett Drewitt to close things out nicely for birdie, and join the group tied for 2nd.

00:43:05:16

CRAIG PERKS: Yes, sir. A couple of years ago played on the PGA Tour. Didn't have much success. And 74th on the Money List last year.

00:43:13:18

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Yeah. Now, back to tournament leader, Sungjae Im, at 16. This would be for his 7th birdie here in the final round.

00:43:48:10

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Go back out to 18 now. Rafael Campos getting

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ready for his 3rd. Currently 7-under, tied for 5th, along with Carlos Ortiz. And we say it every year, every week, every day, and every dollar counts, and especially for a man like this who was trying to find his way on any tour a year ago.

00:44:10:17

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. No question about it. But an awkward angle on this third shot here. Hole location just four paces from the left, coming from that left-hand side of the fairway. And they shoot away from the flagstick a little bit. 57th on the Money List last year on the Web.com Tour, a couple of top 10's.

00:44:28:20

PHIL RITSON: Ortiz now with a chance to move into a tie for 5th. Excuse me, that is a tie for 2nd, out of a tie for 5th. So well done there for Ortiz. I think important for him to get off to a good start this year. It was not the year he was looking for last year, trying to get back to the PGA Tour. And this will really help his psyche out, his belief, give him some momentum going into this year.

00:45:04:13

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now head to the last, Rafael Campos to finish up with birdie, and get in at 8-under.

00:45:08:29

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. It's going to be up the hill. A very slow putt. Hit it firmly enough. And he did. Oh, excellent putt. 7-under, currently in a tie for 5th. Good performance from the 29-year-old from Puerto Rico.

00:45:27:25

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Rounds of 70, 72, 70, and this short one for 69 for Campos.

00:45:31:29

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. You know, I remember a couple of years ago, 2015, he finished 3rd in Latino America Tours. And then sort of was always looking for a place to play. And when he showed up PGA Tour a couple of Top 10's in 2017. And a good player. A really good player.

00:45:50:13

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STEVE BURKOWSKI: Right now, the stage is this young man's, 19-year-old Sungjae Im, while he waits on the tee on 18. Let's see how he got to this point, Craig Perks.

00:46:01:28

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. 65 yards here at the short 14th. [club swing] Maybe an awkward yardage. But no problem for the 19-year-old. Landed it short of the hole, controlled the spin.

00:46:12:29

STEVE BURKOWSKI: So he would make birdie there. Then at 15th, after another good shot.

00:46:17:04

CRAIG PERKS: Yeah. This would set up the 6th birdie of the day. Gary Christian mentioned it in the broadcast. It's been a clinical display of iron shots, driving. He hasn't missed a fairway. He hasn't missed a green. And when you're in control of your emotions, you hit a lot of shots hole high, and that's exactly what we're seeing from Sungjae Im.

00:46:38:23

STEVE BURKOWSKI: So he was 12-under playing the 16th, had a wonderful approach into that point. He would make it for birdie to move to 13-under. Now, Homa to join Hoag at 7-under. All right, so what was not the most impressive of rounds by Hoag and Homa. Still, they hung around. They battled. They closed in style, with birdies, and get in at 7-under par. So they can take some confidence rolling into Abaco. The man that will take the most confidence, Sungjae Im. He leads by 5. And in the fairway at 18. Nineteen years of age, about 10 minutes away from winning on the Web.com Tour. [club swing]

00:48:01:12

CRAIG PERKS: I don't know. Maybe a little adrenalin, excitement, a little bit more downwind. You see the wind kicking up there. But right over the top of the flag. [chuckle]

00:48:12:05

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Ortiz next up.

00:48:19:18

STEVE BURKOWSKI: It would get him to 9-under, Gary, and solo

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2nd. [club swing]

00:48:45:03

CRAIG PERKS: Hmm. Probably a little disappointed with that, yeah. But currently in a five-way tie for 2nd. That's \$36,000. Solo second, \$64,000.

00:48:55:14

STEVE BURKOWSKI: So a \$28,000 difference?

00:48:57:12

CRAIG PERKS: [overlap] Yeah.

00:48:58:25

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Nonetheless, a good start by the man that won three times on the Web.com Tour in 2014. This young man just minutes away from picking up his first career Web.com Tour victory. And we've talked about it for a few hours. But how exactly would you describe the performance we have seen from Sungjae Im?

00:49:19:10

CRAIG PERKS: Exquisite. Uh, I'm not sure this could potentially be, as we look at the purse breakdown there, a \$600,000 purse here at the Bahamas Great Exuma Classic, \$108,000 for 1st. But, uh, not sure I've seen a better final round. If he shoots 64, and makes that putt, Sungjae Im, that would be the lowest round of the week.

00:49:39:11

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now, Ortiz up next.

00:49:51:06

CRAIG PERKS: Did he hit it? He hit it? Yes, sir.

00:49:52:09

STEVE BURKOWSKI: [overlap] Oh, he did. [clapping] How about that finish by Carlos Ortiz? A birdie at the last, final round 69. But most importantly, a solo 2nd to start 2018 on the Web.com Tour.

00:50:07:00

CRAIG PERKS: \$28,000 pot, right there. And solo 2nd, \$64,800.

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That is huge, huge for his confidence. The belief that what he's been doing recently, a few of the changes he's made, are actually working.

00:50:19:24

STEVE BURKOWSKI: Now, the stage set for this young man, 19-year-old Sungjae Im, for birdie, to close it out in style.

00:51:02:19

STEVE BURKOWSKI: So he'll throw a mark down on that short one. Willie Wilcox will finish up. Wilcox in with his par. [clapping] Unable to mount that charge he was hoping for in the final group. [clapping] And with that, Sungjae Im, bogey-free 65 in the final round. And the 19-year-old, a winner on the Web.com Tour.

00:52:08:01

End of recording