



CARBALLO TAKES LEAD AT MOONAH CLASSIC

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Moonah Classic, Moonah Links, Fingal, Victoria
February 26 – March 1, 2009

Despite shooting just one under par for the day, Argentinian Miguel Angel Carballo survived the challenging winds to maintain a two shot lead ahead of Australian Richie Gallichan heading into tomorrow's final round of the Moonah Classic.

The overnight co-leader Garballo managed to hold off the rest of the field to close out the day with a nine under par total, two shots ahead of little known Gallichan. The 24 year old from the New South Wales Central Coast was the surprise packet of the third round, holding the lead at one stage and maintaining his composure where others failed as the Moonah winds threw their best at the players all afternoon.

Twenty nine year old Carballo finished T15 at this event last year and whilst he admitted it took a while to settle into today's conditions, he was happy with the way he handled the course.

"To finish on one under par in these conditions is great," said Carballo who admitted it took a while to settle into his round. "I played here last year and the wind was blowing hard so I feel like I was more prepared for it this year."

Gallichan on the other hand was relaxed and confident picking up an eagle and two birdies for a front nine 32 to move into the lead. Despite bogeys at the 15th and 16th, Gallichan remained steady to finish at seven under and will start tomorrow in the final group.

"I felt really relaxed out there I expected to be nervous after I got off to such a great start and saw my name up there on the leaderboard, its not something I'm used to on such a big stage but I felt really good," said Gallachan, who favours the windy conditions.

"I grew up playing a lot in the wind, I grew up on the Central Coast NSW, and we get a lot of wind up there, and I've also played Moonah a few times and I know it well.

"I have a really good game plan for here, try not to hit any bunkers at all, there's so many of them out there they're like landmines so I've only hit one bunker all week. But that's the plan, stay out of the traps."

The pair has an experienced chasing pack on their heels, with the likes of New Zealander David Smail (71) who led for most of the final round at last year's Australian Open and Bathurst born Peter O'Malley (72) on six under par with West Australian Stephen Leaney (71) a further shot back. Leaney is at five under alongside Victorian Alistair Presnell (72) and American's Daniel Summerhays (73) and Dustin White (72).

O'Malley produced the putt of the day holing a monster 40 footer for birdie at the par three 16th much to the delight of the gallery and no less O'Malley.

"I certainly have never hold a putt that long," said the man affectionately known as POM. "I was just happy to make a three and not a five I was thinking about when I was standing over the putt. "

" I didn't know what to do, I almost got the sand wedge out, and thought maybe I have to try to get up there and then thought, 'no its too hard, I'll just get the putter out and try to get anywhere in the vicinity where I can just hole the next one. It was one of those complete flukes complete really."

For West Australian Stephen Leaney, his return to form in the past six months sees him just four shots off the lead.

"It's just playing very hard," said the West Australian who will be playing the PGA TOUR this year on a Major Medical Extension and is using this event as one of his five allowed 'rehab' starts. "You have to try and make pars on some holes. It's just that sort of golf course. I didn't watch the board all day because I knew people were going to go backwards all day. I've played here quite a few times and that wind (South) is the hardest wind for this course. I was trying to do my own thing and not worry about what the leaders were going to do."

The round of the day went to Victorian Craig Spence who took advantage of the morning conditions to shoot a four under par 68 and move into a share of ninth place on four under with fellow aussies Adam Bland (71), Steve Conran (74) and overnight co-leader Michael Sim (76).

Sim had a disastrous start to his round dropping five shots in his first six holes, including a double bogey at the second. Two further blemishes on his card on the back nine were hardly softened by a bogey at the 18th as the 24 year old West Australian dropped back to four under, five shots off the pace.

Tomorrow's action begins at 7:05am with the leaders teeing off at 12:40pm. Entry to the Moonah Classic is Free with all day parking at the venue \$5.00.

Round three notes:

Victorian Ashley Hall had a hole-in-one today. Hall used a 6-iron to ace the 180-yard, 5th hole. It is the first hole-in-one on the Nationwide Tour this season.

Defending champion Ewan Porter dropped further back in the field with a six over 78 to be in a tie for 69th place.

The Moonah Classic will be telecast in Australia on TEN HD:

Saturday Feb 28 – 1-5pm Ten & Ten HD AEDT (LIVE)

Sunday March 1– 1-5pm – Ten & Ten HD AEDT (LIVE)

For more information on the Moonah Classic go to www.pga.org.au

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For further information please contact:

MEDIA CENTRE: + 61 3 5988 5173

Jude Coen, Tour Media and Player Relations, PGA of Australia or 0419 425 406

Nicole Powell, Communications & PR Coordinator, PGA of Australia or 0439 933 490

