



PRESS RELEASE

Holman Hits The Front In Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, February 18: European Tour champion Nathan Holman shot to the top of the Maybank Championship Malaysia leaderboard after a flawless round of 64, but the Australian has in-form Englishman Danny Willett breathing down his neck in Kuala Lumpur.

Holman had played just 15 European Tour events coming into the new season, but claimed a maiden win in his homeland at the Australian PGA Championship in December.

The 24 year old took last week off but showed no signs of rust at Royal Selangor Golf Club, racing to seven under par to sit on top a congested leaderboard, one shot ahead of Angelo Que, Tommy Fleetwood, Peter Uihlein, Alex Levy, Jorge Campillo and that man Willett.

Willett climbed to third in The Race to Dubai and 13th in the Official World Golf Ranking following his victory in Dubai a fortnight ago, and he promptly picked up where he left off with a superb 65 which was rounded off with a long putt at the last – one of five birdies for the Ryder Cup hopeful.

The highlight of his round came at the 13th hole, where he made eagle, and after making three more gains in his final five holes Willett had well and truly atoned for a sticky start which saw him play his first seven holes in one over par.

Former Malaysian Open champions Thongchai Jaidee and Louis Oosthuizen also got off to strong starts with respective rounds of 66 and 67.

For interview transcripts, please visit po.st/MCMTranscripts

For the full preview, please visit po.st/MCMR1

Key

quotes

Nathan Holman: “There are a lot of birdie chances out there, but if you find the rough it can really grab you, I’m really happy with seven under par.

“I just played really well to be honest. Every part of my game was good and I was

saying a few weeks ago that my game has been trending in the right direction, so it was nice to get a really low one in.

“The course suits my eye. I like the look of it, and that’s obviously shown in the score I had today so I’m looking forward to playing the next three days.”

Danny Willett: “It was a bit of a mixed bag today if I’m being honest with you. I hit it very nicely on the front nine but made nothing. Then on the back nine it was a bit scrappy at times, but I seemed to hole everything in sight. So it was one of those days where you put two very different nines together, but still walk away with a good score.

“It was a very long flight here and my body only started feeling right yesterday. I was coming down with a bit of cold and flu, but I feel fine now. One thing I tried to do was to keep expectations as low as possible. It is always easy to come to a tournament after you’ve won and put pressure on yourself to go out and do it again. I’ve done that before and it kind of kills you. So I came here, tried to do the same things, kept working hard and tried to hit the same shots. And it seemed to work for me today.”

Round One Scores

64 N Holman (Aus)

65 A Levy (Fra) , D Willett (Eng) , P Uihlein (USA) , T Fleetwood (Eng) , J Campillo (Esp) , A Que (Phi) ,

66 T Jaidee (Tha) , R Bland (Eng) , P Meesawat (Tha) , S Lee (Kor) , M Fraser (Aus) , K Kim (Kor) , M Kawamura (Jpn) , M Tabuena (Phi) ,

67 L Oosthuizen (RSA) , T Chuayprakong (Tha) , G Bhullar (Ind) , S Hussin (Mas) , 68 R Rock (Eng) , R Gangjee (Ind) , R Wattel (Fra) , K De Silva (Mas) , T Lawrence (RSA) , C Nirat (Tha) , M Kieffer (Ger) , J Morrison (Eng) , C Hsieh (Tpe) , S Gallacher (Sco) , D Lipsky (USA) ,

69 C Wood (Eng) , K Deng Shan (Sin) , M Korhonen (Fin) , A Wall (Eng) , E De La Riva (Esp) , T Wiratchant (Tha) , N Srithong (Tha) , K Broberg (Swe) , C Plaphol (Tha) , S Rahman (Ban) , R Cabrera-Bello (Esp) , A Kang (USA) , G Storm (Eng) , A Dodt (Aus) , J Pagunsan (Phi) , K Low (Mas) , K Richardson (Aus) ,

70 M Fitzpatrick (Eng) , N Fung (Mas) , M Manassero (Ita) , M Tran (Vie) , L Wei-Chih (Tpe) , P Larrazábal (Esp) , G Havret (Fra) , W Ashun (Chn) , R Karlberg (Swe) , C Pigem (Esp) , L Bjerregaard (Den) , W Choo (Mas) , M Mamat (Sin) , T Khongpha (Tha) , J Quesne (Fra) , E Pepperell (Eng) , K Horne (RSA) , C Phadungsil (Tha) , J Cheng (Chn) ,

71 A Quiros (Esp) , T Pieters (Bel) , S Yates (Sco) , B Hebert (Fra) , Y Song (Kor) , A Lascuna (Phi) , M Kaymer (Ger) , C O’Toole (USA) , A Johnston (Eng) , R Lee (Can) , M Ilonen (Fin) , L Chieh-Po (Tpe) , S Kjeldsen (Den) , S Brazel (Aus) , D Drysdale (Sco) , T Hatton (Eng) , P Marksaeng (Tha) , A Groom (Aus) ,

72 P Peterson (USA) , L Weber (Fra) , G Stal (Fra) , G Bourdy (Fra) , M Madsen (Den) , H Chien-Yao (Tpe) , A Cañizares (Esp) , K Aphibarnrat (Tha) , D Clarke (Nir) , A Zahari (Mas) , E España (Fra) , P McGinley (Irl) , J Luiten (Ned) , J Knutzon (USA) , G Gandranata (Ina) , M Lorenzo-Vera (Fra) , R Jacquelin (Fra) ,

73 S Chawrasia (Ind) , F Zanotti (Par) , M Warren (Sco) , K Baharin (Mas) , P Junhasavasdikul (Tha) , B Munson (USA) , U Park (Aus) , G Green (Mas) , F Aguilar (Chi) , T Pilkadaris (Aus) , S Norris (RSA) , D Howell (Eng) , A Da Silva (Bra) , S Benson (Eng) , M Jamil (Mas) , J Janewattananond (Tha) , J Winther (Den) , B

Leong (Mas) , S Hend (Aus) , R Khan (Ind) ,
74 P Edberg (Swe) , M Siem (Ger) , J Wang (Kor) , B Henson (USA) , W Ormsby
(Aus) , S Barr (Aus) , O Wilson (Eng) , J Kruger (RSA) , R Nachimuthu (Mas) , J
Lagergren (Swe) , N Turner (Irl) , S Lewton (Eng) , C Kumar (Ind) ,
75 P Pittayarat (Tha) , H Rai (Ind) , J Jeong (Kor) , D Boonma (Tha) , M Jiménez
(Esp) , S Othman (Mas) , T Olesen (Den) , K Kheng Hwai (Mas) , E Chang (am)
(Mas) ,
76 J Singh (Ind) , Z Latt (Mya) , M Carlsson (Swe) , A Atwal (Ind) , D Chia (Mas) ,
77 M Perera (Sri) , M Hoey (Nir) , A Irawan (Mas) ,
78 J Colomo (Esp) , N Colsaerts (Bel) ,
79 L Wen-Tang (Tpe) ,
81 S Kapur (Ind) ,
** D Horsey (Eng)

Ends.

About Maybank – Humanising Financial Services

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About GlobalOne

GlobalOne (Emerald Evolution Holdings Sdn Bhd) is an executive lifestyle sports promoter and we create sports event ownerships. We specialise in providing the full spectrum in sponsorship event management and have an excellent track record in planning and delivering on PGA European Tour golf events for Malaysia (Maybank Malaysian Open), Singapore (Singapore Masters) and Indonesia (Indonesia Open) since 1999. We have strong relations with sports governing bodies, the media and commercial sponsors and technical partners to deliver on the bottom line. We assist all our clients to create strategic, high-return, best practice sponsorship to provide a strong, unified vision, across departments and stakeholders, of the broad range of marketing and business objectives that can be achieved through this sponsorship. We also form and maintain strong relationship with players' managers to source the best players. GlobalOne has staged a highly successful and prestigious tournament in Asia – the Maybank Malaysian Open, (2006 – 2015) which is co-sanctioned by the European Tour and the Asian Tour providing the event with Official World Ranking status.

About the Asian Tour

As the official sanctioning body for professional golf in Asia, the Asian Tour leads the development of golf across the region, enhancing the careers of its members while maintaining a commitment to the integrity of the game. The Asian Tour, through its membership of the International Federation of PGA Tours, is the only recognised pan-Asian professional golf tour in Asia. This unique feature positions the Asian Tour at the pinnacle of professional golf in Asia; providing its events with Official World Ranking status. Tour Partners include ECCO (Official Footwear Supplier), FENIX Golf (Official Apparel Supplier), Fuji Xerox (Official Office Solutions Partner), Hilton Worldwide (Official Hotel Partner), Titleist (Official Web Partner) and Rolex (Official Timekeeper). Sentosa, Singapore is the Home of the Asian Tour which also has an office in Kuala Lumpur. Also, visit us at www.asiantour.com , www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf , www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf , www.youtube.com/theasiantour and www.weibo.com/asiantourgolf.

The European Tour

The European Tour is committed to celebrating the game of golf from the origins of the professional game, building a proud history of achievement, sportsmanship and integrity as well as showcasing our diverse global talent and rich landscapes. The European Tour's innovative approach enables us to embrace the world, combining championships of tradition with new tournaments in the cities and countries of the future. The European Tour International Schedule, which from 2009 has incorporated The Race to Dubai, is a thriving global brand which, in 2016, will span 45 tournaments in 26 countries across five continents ; the European Challenge Tour focuses on the up and coming players of the future; while the European Senior Tour provides a new start for champions celebrating their 50th birthday. The European Tour's corporate identity features the iconic silhouette image of six-time Open Champion Harry Vardon who gives his name to The Harry Vardon Trophy, presented to the player who is crowned European Tour Number One and winner of The Race to Dubai at the end of the season.