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Texan Omar Uresti (69) Leads Windy PGA Stroke Play Championship

By CRAIG DOLCH

Special to PGA of America

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PORT ST. LUCIE (Feb. 9, 2020) - Omar Uresti of Austin, Texas birdied three of his first five holes Sunday to shoot a 3-under 69 and take the lead after a windy first round of the PGA Stroke Play Championship at PGA Golf Club.

Uresti, who has played in more than 370 PGA Tour events, birdied two of the par-3s on the Ryder Course, but only made one birdie on the par-5s.

“I hit it better than I putted,” Uresti said. “I left a couple out there with only the one birdie on the par-5s. It was playing tough. The wind was 15-to-20-mph most of the day.”

Uresti leads by one over Joe Lussier of Reston, Va., Jeff Sorenson of Blaine, Minn., Jason Caron of Oyster Bay, N.Y., Jonathan Mansfield of Clearwater and Brett Melton of West Chester, Pa.

Defending champion Frank Bensel of Jupiter was among 11 players tied for seventh place after a 71 on the Ryder Course. Also at 71 were Kraig Joy of Neenah, Wis., John Montgomery of Clermont, Fla., Rob Labritz of Pound Ridge, N.Y., Joshua Rackley of Brookville, N.Y., Scott Berliner of Lake Luzerne, N.Y., Matt Borchert of Winter Garden, Fla., Dakun Chang of Long Grove, Ill., Zac Oakley of Palm City; Aaron Purviance of Park City, Utah, and Alex Beach of Rye, N.Y.

Only 17 of the 150 players in the field broke par in the first round. The 54-hole tournament’s final round is Tuesday. There is a cut after 36 holes to the low 57 scores and ties.

The PGA Winter Championships are presented by GolfPass and PrimeSport.

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