



**SIX EVENTS · NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 18, 2018 · PGA GOLF CLUB · PORT ST. LUCIE, FLA.**

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## **Sowards, French, Schmid Share Lead in Event No. 3 Of PGA Tournament Series**

By **CRAIG DOLCH**  
Special to PGA of America

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PORT ST. LUCIE (Dec. 6, 2018) - Bob Sowards played his last eight holes in 5-under Thursday to shoot a 4-under 68 and share the first-round lead in Event No. 3 of the PGA Tournament Series at PGA Golf Club.

Sowards was 1-over after 10 holes, but made an eagle with a chip-in at No. 13 and three birdies on the back nine of the Ryder Course to share the lead with Chris French of Loves Park, Ill., and Jeffrey Schmid of Iowa City.

“I made a terrible bogey on 10 and just got hot from there,” said Sowards, the PGA Professional at Kinsale Golf & Fitness Club in Powell, Ohio. “It was very cold this morning and the ball wasn’t going anywhere.”

Schmid was bogey free, making his four birdies on the back nine. French had eight birdies to offset two bogeys and a double bogey.

Sowards finished 18th in last week’s final stage of q-school for the PGA Tour Champions. He was a bad round away from finishing in the top five and earning exempt status.

“I have a lot of confidence,” said Sowards, who has won eight PGA Tournament Series events to rank seventh and captured this fall’s Senior PGA Professional Championship. “I feel like I can play with anyone.”

Frank Bensel of Jupiter is fourth at 69 and six players are tied for fifth with 70s: Omar Uresti, Dick Mast, Brett Walker, Casey Pyne, Kyle Baehler and Mike Genovese.

The winner after Friday’s round receives \$5,000.

The PGA Tournament Series is presented by GolfAdvisor.com.

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