



Blessings Golf Club, Fayetteville, Arkansas  
Par 72, 7550 yards

### DAY FOUR RECAP – MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019

#### OKLAHOMA STATE'S MATTHEW WOLFF WINS NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP INDIVIDUAL TITLE AS COWBOYS EARN TOP SEED FOR START OF MATCH PLAY

**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.** – Oklahoma State sophomore Matthew Wolff carded a four-day, 10-under-par score of 278 (73-66-70-69) to win the 2019 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship, played at Blessings Golf Club (par 72, 7,550-yards). Wolff additionally led the Cowboys to the top seed for match play, which begins Tuesday with four quarterfinal matches, starting at 7 a.m., followed by a pair of semifinal matches teeing off at 1:30 p.m.

Wolff is the ninth Cowboy to be an NCAA champion and he set an Oklahoma State record with six wins during the 2018-19 campaign.

"It was an unbelievable experience," said Wolff. "Started off kind of slow, but kind of just was mentally tough and I told myself to kind of pick it up a little bit, give myself opportunities, and obviously, we have had a great year, so don't let anything get to you. I have confidence in kind of just taking it shot by shot after that. But happy to be here, but still got work to do for the next couple days."

Tied for 21st after an opening-round 73, Wolff climbed to the top of the leaderboard after round two as he tied a Blessings record with a 6-under-par 66. Wolff held the lead after 54 holes with a 2-under-par 70 on Sunday.

"When I shot the 73, I actually closed really well," said Wolff. "I shot 4-over the first nine, but shot 3-under on the last nine with a bogey on the last hole. And I think that kind of coach reminded me after the front nine, I was kind of getting a little down on myself and I felt confident and I still felt like I could still play really well, but. I wasn't even hitting bad shots, but stuff wasn't going my way. I had a couple 3-putts and I think the course was just really hard. And he kind of told me the amount of times that Tiger Woods probably looked like he wasn't going to make the cut after the first nine or even after the first round, the greatest player of all time, and see -- that kind of motivated me a little to push me and know that I can still, obviously, win this thing and bounce back. And I think that's going to show a lot more character than going out and not missing a shot and playing four spectacular rounds. To be able to go out there and struggle a little bit and then bring it back and have really good a back nine. And then the last three days really gave me a lot of confidence for the rest of my career and for the next couple days."

In the final round Monday, Wolff started well with birdies on holes 5 and 6. Over the four days, Wolff played holes 1-9 at 8-under-par and, after a slow start to his championship, he played his final 63 holes at 14-under par. Wolff sealed the championship with birdies on holes 10, 15 and 17 for a 3-under-par 69.

Georgia Southern's Steven Fisk was runner up. The senior posted a 1-under 71 Monday and finished the championship with a 5-under-par total of 283 (76-68-68-71). Chan An Yu (Arizona State) was third (285), while Justin Suh (Southern California) and Lee Detmer (Wake Forest) tied for fourth (286). Isaiah Salinda (Stanford) and Collin Morikawa (Cal) tied for sixth (288). A quartet of golfers tied for eighth – including Trent Phillips (Georgia), Zach Bauchou (Oklahoma State), Austin Eckroat (Oklahoma State) and Kyle Cottam (Clemson) – at 289.

Phillips had the second-best round of the day with a 4-under-par 68 and moved up 22 spots into the top 10. The freshman needed two holes Monday morning to win a three-way playoff and advance to the final round.

Defending national champion Oklahoma State concluded stroke play with a 72-hole total of 1,136, 31-strokes over second-seed Vanderbilt (1,167). That just missed the NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship record for largest 72-hole margin as Wake Forest holds the mark with a 33-stroke difference over Oklahoma State in 1975 (1,156 to 1,189).

"It was a fantastic week," said Oklahoma State head coach Alan Bratton. "What a great test of golf the Blessings has been. And proud of my team that we showed our depth, got contributions from all of our guys. Hayden Wood went out and shot 69 today, that was big, to have the first guy out post a good number. We wanted to close well, we obviously had built a big lead, but wanted to take pride in putting up another good score today to keep building momentum into match play. And walking with Matt was a treat, it always is, he does some pretty awesome things. He hit an 8-iron from 151 on number 3 which I thought was the best shot he hit all day, and on No. 12 he hit an 8-iron from 200 yards. So to have the ability to change speed like that was exciting. He worked the ball both ways and did a fantastic job of keeping his composure all week. After the slow start, he was 4-over par after his first nine holes and I just did the best I could to remind him, hey, it's a 72-hole tournament and hopefully that's a lesson that he learned, we talked about that a lot, and hopefully that he remembers that for the rest of his life to always play that way. So certainly fun to have a front row seat for the show that he put on."

Vanderbilt moved up four spots to second as three Commodores tied for 20th. Will Gordon led the charge as he posted the low round of the day, a 5-under-par 67, to climb 45 spots on the final day.

Seeds three through seven include Wake Forest, Texas, Oklahoma, Stanford and Texas A&M, respectively.

Clemson and SMU, who were playing together, battled to the end for the final spot. In fact, the teams were tied with one hole remaining, the par-4 9th, and both players tied to force a playoff. The playoff holes included 18, 1, 15, 16, and 17. SMU won three of the five playoff holes to earn a spot in the quarterfinals of match play.

### **Quarterfinal Matches – Tuesday, May 28**

**(All Times Local CST):**

**MATCH 1: 7:00 a.m. – Hole 1 – #2 Vanderbilt vs. #7 Texas A&M**

MATCH 2: 7:00 a.m. – Hole 10 – #3 Wake Forest vs. #6 Stanford

MATCH 3: 7:50 a.m. – Hole 1 – #1 Oklahoma State vs. #8 SMU

MATCH 4: 7:50 a.m. – Hole 10 - #4 Texas vs. #5 Oklahoma

**Semifinal Matches – Tuesday, May 28**

MATCH 5: 1:30 p.m. – Hole 1 – Winners of Matches 1 and 2

MATCH 6: 2:20 p.m. – Hole 1 – Winners of Matches 3 and 4

**NCAA Men's Golf Championships**

**GOLF Channel Airtimes (all times local, CT)**

**Tuesday, May 28** Quarterfinals, Team Match Play 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. CT (Live)

**Tuesday, May 28** Semifinals, Team Match Play 3-7 p.m. CT (Live)

**Wednesday, May 29** Team National Championship 3-7 p.m. CT (Live)

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**DAY FOUR QUOTES – MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019**

[http://asaptext.com/asap\\_media/media/79/444/transcripts/38524.pdf](http://asaptext.com/asap_media/media/79/444/transcripts/38524.pdf)

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**2019 NCAA Men's Golf Championship**

**Oklahoma State Head Coach Alan Bratton**

**NCAA Champion Matthew Wolff**

THE MODERATOR: We'll start with a quick statement. Matthew, just a quick statement about your play today. Obviously, you have four big rounds for you, just your feeling about winning the championship.

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah. It was an unbelievable experience. Started off kind of slow, but kind of just was mentally tough and I told myself to kind of pick it up a little bit, give myself opportunities, and obviously, we have had a great year, so don't let anything get to you. I have confidence in kind of just taking it shot by shot after that. But happy to be here, but still got work to do for the next couple days.

THE MODERATOR: Coach, can you talk about, obviously, the play of your team was outstanding, but also Matthew, just talk about both.

ALAN BRATTON: Yeah. It was a fantastic week. What a great test of golf the Blessings has been. And proud of my team that we showed our depth, got contributions from all of our guys. Hayden Wood went out and shot 69 today, that was big, to have the first guy out post a good number. We wanted to close well, we obviously had built a big lead, but wanted to take pride in putting up another good score today to keep building momentum into match play. And walking with Matt was a treat, it always is, he does some pretty awesome things. He hit an 8-iron from 151 on number 3 which I thought was the best shot he hit all day, and on No. 12 he hit an 8-iron from 200 yards. So to have the ability to change speed like that was exciting. He worked the ball both ways and did a fantastic job of keeping his composure all week. After the slow start, he was 4-over par after his first nine holes and I just did the best I could to remind him, hey, it's a 72-hole tournament and hopefully that's a lesson that he learned, we talked about that a lot, and hopefully that he remembers that for the rest of his life to always play that way. So certainly fun to have a front row seat for the show that he put on.

**Q. Talk a little bit about coming back from that 73, your first round and how you were able to rebound from that to be where you are today.**

MATTHEW WOLFF: Yeah, it was, the 73 actually I closed really well. I shot 4-over the first nine, but shot 3-under on the last nine with a bogey on the last hole. And I think that kind of coach reminded me after the front nine, I was kind of getting a little down on myself and I felt confident and I still felt like I could still play really well, but. I wasn't even hitting bad shots, but stuff wasn't going my way. I had a couple 3-putts and I think the course was just really hard. And he kind of told me the amount of times that Tiger Woods probably looked like he wasn't going to make the cut after the first nine or even after the first round, the greatest player of all time, and see -- that kind of motivated me a little to push me and know that I can still, obviously, win this thing and bounce back. And I think that's going to show a lot more character than going out and not missing a shot and playing four spectacular rounds. To be able to go out there and struggle a little bit and then bring it back and have really good a back nine. And then the last three days really gave me a lot of confidence for the rest of my career and for the next couple days.

**Q. Matthew, first individual championship for Oklahoma State since Jonathan Moore, who is now a strength and conditioning coach for you guys, how has his presence around the program and out here again today going to help you maybe get through this week?**

MATTHEW WOLFF: He's awesome. The last two years he's been one of the most important people on the team to me. He really, every single time I see him in the gym, at the course, eating lunch, I mean, he'll practice and play with us. He always has a smile on his face. He always just takes everything as it comes and is really blessed to be around all of us and as I am him. Obviously, I was talking to him a little before. I got stretched each round beforehand and he was kind of just telling me to take it one shot at a time. And at the end of the day, the team is the most important thing, but if you do everything that you can to help your team, then it's going to work out for you individually as well and that's what I did. That's the mindset I had today. I did everything I could to get the team score as low as possible and finish out the round and that just ended up me being the National Champion individually. So, but like I said, the team was, we killed everyone else and that's the goal for the next couple days as well.

**Q. Alan, talk about the match play last year. Obviously the success you had and what you hoped for going into match play starting tomorrow.**

ALAN BRATTON: Well, I mean that's the goal at the start of the week, you have several goals as you go, you got to make the Top-8 and our goal was to come out on top in the stroke play and we were able to do that last year and we did it again this year.

And then the great thing about this event is we start all over tomorrow. Everybody starts at zero, we're all tied, and it looks like we'll get SMU in the morning, they just won the playoff, I think, so congratulations to them and we'll be ready to go in the morning.

**Q. Coach, Hayden Wood obviously came in shape the last two rounds, a guy that contributed to the team score. Can you talk about the importance of having a solid fifth, for rounds where maybe guys maybe struggled here and there?**

ALAN BRATTON: Well that's been the strength of our team the last four years is our depth. We have a different guy step up every day. I think Hayden and Matt tied for the low score for our team today. Everybody had a round under par this week. So again that speaks to the strength of our group and you need that in much match play. Each guy can only get you one point. I think Matt won the tournament by five. In a stroke play event one player can carry you. In match play all five guys have to contribute. So that's important for us and it will be important tomorrow, it's always important. But I'm comforted that our guys know how to get it done and have great experience to draw on from last year, but last year's last year, this is a new week and we'll be focused on the first tee ball tomorrow and get as many points as we can.

**STEVEN FISK, GEORGIA SOUTHERN**

***(finished -5)***

*On being the highest finishing player in Georgia Southern history...*

It's been such a great week to be able to prove to myself could do it. It's been a wonderful four years and I couldn't have had a better time anywhere else.

*On the back nine...*

I was able to get into the zone on the back nine because I had patience. A few of my shots didn't work out but I kept my cool and that really helped me. I waited for birdie opportunities to come and was grinding.

*On the course...*

Patience is key. This is a really hard golf course and it will bite you. I didn't do a very good job the first day so my goal was to stay as patient as I could and take advantage of the opportunities I gave myself.

*On being an individual today...*

It was a little bit different than the rest of the week. There were a few times that I caught myself looking around to figure out where the rest of the team was. But they still came out and watched and it was nice to see them supporting me all day whether it was going good or going bad.

**LEE DETMER, WAKE FOREST**

***(finished -2)***

*On today's round...*

I'm feeling pretty good. I'm really happy that the team was able to move on to match play, which was our goal coming here. The top-five individual finish is just a bonus.

*On the final hole...*

I knew we kind of had it locked up. Coming down the stretch, I was just trying to make as many birdies as possible. Unfortunately, I didn't but we got the job done as a team.

*On going to match play...*

We have two younger guys who will lead us out there because they have a lot of match play experience. We haven't really been in this position before, but we deserve to be here.

### **TRENT PHILLIPS, GEORGIA**

*(finished +1)*

*On today's round...*

I started off pretty early, earlier than most people. I had to come out and secure the last individual spot with a play-in. I was able to do it and just kept on rolling. I had one bogey all day on a par five, which was about 100 yards out, but I really shouldn't have had any. It was really a step-up from the way I've played the past few days. My putting and speed was better, which is what I was lacking at the beginning of the tournament, so today I just tried to make do that better so I could make it to the hole and I did.

### **SCOTT LIMBAUGH, VANDERBILT HEAD COACH**

*Summary of moving on ...*

After what happened on this day last year, we've had a little chip on our shoulder, but that's sports. We didn't handle this day very well last year. This senior group we have, they weren't going to let that happen again. It was really difficult out there today, and for Will Gordon and Patrick Martin to finish at 7-under par in their final stroke play round for Vanderbilt, I couldn't sum up who they are and what their character any better.

All that we talked about was doing this together. And today, even though Reid's round doesn't look so great compared to the other rounds, the way that freshman battled are building blocks for the rest of this week and the rest of his career. I'm just so proud of John. He just continues to handle those moments under control and he's just steady and knows what he's doing. And also Harrison. I was with him all day today and was really proud of how he played. That was his first national championship round. And that's tough. And it's different. But it's good for us.

*Will Gordon and Patrick Martin ending up with the same career stroke average...*

Will was really hoping that Patrick would make that six-footer for par on 18, although he almost made the birdie putt. For him to make that six-footer for par is only fitting for those guys to end up that way.

*About tomorrow...*

I think the strategy is to get your point. Do your job and get your point. I think we've had enough of these deals that we understand that you have to bring your best. That's what's going to be required of you. It doesn't matter who you're playing. You have to go get your point. That needs to be your focus. Whatever it takes to do that, that's what you have to do. I like this golf course for us. I like this team. That does not mean we are entitled to do anything. You have to go earn the right to tee it up. We had to earn the right to play today, and we had to earn the right today to play tomorrow. We have to earn the right tomorrow to take another step. I'm really excited about it.

**JASON ENLOE, SMU HEAD COACH**

***(SMU finished +44)***

*On making it to match play...*

There's a lot of emotions today, I think it's pretty obvious if you saw it on tv. I thought we were going to win in regulation, but we were up and down all day. It was crazy. This course provides a lot of major swings, that's how difficult it is. We fought, we battled, and luckily we were able to redeem ourselves.

*On playing Oklahoma State...*

When you earn the eighth seed, the consolation prize is to play the top team. They are one of the greatest teams in the history of college golf so we're just going to go out there and fight hard.

*On the matchups...*

I'm very confident in the matchups. I think both of us are happy with the matchups so it's going to be so much fun. Being able to take this special group into match play against, arguably, one of the greatest golf teams ever will be an awesome day.

**JERRY HAAS, WAKE FOREST HEAD COACH**

***(Wake Forest finished +20)***

*On carrying the momentum to match play...*

I've felt all year that this team is a top-five team. Lee Detmer was our low guy this week and that makes the eighth different Wake Forest men's golfer to be the low guy for the week, and there's no team in the country that can say that. That's why we have a pretty good team. No matter who you play, you have to play well, and I feel like all five of our guys are doing that. We're learning the course a little bit and we need to be smart, ready to compete, and play hard.

**CONRAD RAY, STANFORD HEAD COACH**

***(Stanford finished +37)***

*On heading into match play...*

I feel great. We had a tough day in stroke play today so it's great to have a fresh slate. Wake Forest is a good team but I feel like our guys are up for the challenge.

*On what he'll tell the team before match play...*

For us, you have to play the golf course first. The team that hits better shots and manages their game will come out on top so I think the focus is going to be hitting quality shots and eliminating mistakes.

**JOHN FIELDS, TEXAS HEAD COACH**

***(Texas finished +28)***

*On his message to the team...*

This is a whole different set-up than stroke play, but we have guys with experience in high-level match play. We have two guys who've played in NCAA match play, so I don't really have to tell them anything.

They'll be prepared and excited about playing because this was one of our goals. This is a Red River Rivalry with Oklahoma, so it's a big deal and I don't have to tell them a thing.

*On where the team is...*

We're one of the Elite 8, so whether it's Oklahoma or ourselves we played some good golf to get here. You have to respect the field that we competed against during this tournament, so to make it to match play with three Big 12 teams is outstanding.