



## **Duke Goes Low to Lead 2019 Division I Women's Golf Championships After Round Two; Florida's Sierra Brooks Leads Individuals**

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – All five Duke players shot under par in round two, carding a second-round total of 11-under-par 281 and a 36-hole score of 586, to take the lead at the 2019 NCAA Women's Division I Women's Golf Championships, played at Blessings Golf Club (par 73, 6,397 yards). Florida junior Sierra Brooks carded a 6-under-par 67 to lead the individual race.

Round two spanned two days as inclement weather forced a suspension of play just shy of the midpoint of the round. The morning wave of golfers had anywhere from seven holes to one hole left before play was halted at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday. The second round resumed at 10 a.m. Sunday.

The stroke play portion of the tournament, which was shortened to 54 holes following the weather delay on Saturday, will feature all 24 teams and 12 individuals in the final round on Monday, beginning at 7 a.m., to determine the individual champion and top eight teams to advance to match play on Tuesday.

The Blue Devils jumped from fifth to first following today's action. Ana Belac, fourth individually with a 36-hole score of 145, led Duke with a 4-under 69 in the second round. She is followed on the leaderboard by a pair of teammates tied for fifth, Jaravee Boonchant (2-under) and Miranda Wang (-1). Gina Kim fired a 3-under 70 and jumped 26 places into a tie for 13th. Virginia Elena Carta was the big mover in round two, moving 52 spots into a tie for 43rd after a second-round score of 2-under par. This marked the first time that all five players for Duke shot under par in the same round in its 31 appearances in the NCAA championship.

Getting his team refocused to finish the second round strong after the stoppage of play on Monday wasn't a concern for Duke head coach Dan Brooks.

"If that's the worst of our problems, trying to keep them tuned in and ready to play, then we don't have much a problem," Brooks said. "We were fortunate to play early yesterday, and a day of rest in a long tournament is not a bad thing. I'm really proud of our girls."

Duke leads the field by nine strokes with Southern California in second (595), followed by Texas (596) and Arizona (598) and Arkansas (598) tied for fourth. The "Race for Eight" will be tight tomorrow as several teams will be challenging to finish the final round of stroke play inside the top eight – and advance to match play. Stanford is sixth (604), Purdue is seventh (606), followed by Northwestern (607) at eighth and Auburn and Wake Forest are tied for ninth (608).

In the individual race, Florida's Sierra Brooks birdied three of her last four holes, shot a 6-under-par 67 for a 36-hole total of 142 (-4) and climbed 12 spots up the leaderboard to take a one-shot lead over Arkansas' Maria Fassi (143) and Arizona's Bianca Pagdanganan (143).

Overall, Brooks was 3-under through 11 holes Saturday and 3-under through her final seven holes on Sunday.

“It was different from what we’re used to,” she said. “Coming back out, I was able to pick back up on my momentum, so that was nice. I’m really pleased with the way I’ve been playing and my course management has been good. I’ve been able to take advantage of the opportunities I’ve had.”

GOLF Channel’s live coverage of the championships begins tomorrow, with individual national championship coverage on air from 4-8 p.m. ET.

The Salute to Service event originally scheduled for Monday morning during the women’s championships has been cancelled due to the full field of teams and individuals in the round.

**GOLF Channel NCAA Women’s Golf Championships Airtimes**

Monday, May 20	Individual National Championship	4-8 p.m. ET (Live)
Tuesday, May 21	Quarterfinals, Team Match Play	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. ET (Live)
Tuesday, May 21	Semifinals, Team Match Play	4-8 p.m. ET (Live)
Wednesday, May 22	Team National Championship	4-8 p.m. ET (Live)



## 2019 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Second Round

Blessings Golf Club, Fayetteville, Arkansas  
Sunday, May 19, Par 73, 6,397 yards

### SECOND ROUND QUOTES

#### **Sierra Brooks, Florida, -4 through Round 2**

*On starting yesterday and finishing today...*

It was different from what we're used to, but coming back out, I was able to pick back up on my momentum so that was nice.

*On seeing lowing scores in round two...*

I think the pins were in some easier locations this time so having a round under your belt and understanding how to play the course really helps.

*On her performance so far...*

I'm really pleased with the way I've been playing and my course management has been good. I'm not hitting exactly the way that I would like but I know where my misses are and I've been able to take advantage of the opportunities I've had.

#### **Dan Brooks, Duke head coach, finished +2**

*On differences in the first and second rounds...*

I've talked to the players and it's a combination of things. I think the takeaway from it is to realize that a little bit of adjustment on the course here and there can make a huge difference. The good players are going to learn day-by-day and there's a lot of that going on as well.

*On keeping the rhythm with a shortened second day...*

If that's the worst of our problems, trying to keep them tuned in and ready to play, then we don't have much of a problem. We were fortunate to play early yesterday, and a day of rest in a long tournament is not a bad thing.

#### **Maria Fassi, Arkansas, -3 through Round 2**

*On her eagle on No. 7...*

I knew hole seven was a doable par five. It was downwind so I knew I was going to have an iron in and I hit it close and had a good putt. I was excited with the eagle to get back down to even on the day. I had good looks at eight and nine but couldn't make them. It was still a good finish so I'm excited for tomorrow.

*On picking things up where she left off yesterday...*

I think it was pretty much the same for everyone and there's nothing that you can really do about it. We just had to come out today and do what you have to do and take care of what I could. I actually enjoyed just having to play seven holes, it was kind of nice. We'll get a chance to rest for tomorrow and hopefully for match play.

*On her composure...*

I enjoy playing golf and talking with the competitors and people outside the ropes. It's just part of it and it's one of the things that I enjoy the most. I think it takes some of the pressure off me so it's my favorite part.

*On going back and forth at the top of the leaderboard...*

I'm not really sure what the leaderboard looks like for individual play because it just shows the team scores. I knew that Sierra Brooks was having a good round and that we were probably going to be pretty close, but I was just trying to make as many birdies as I could. I think it's a nice place to be and I'm excited to be in contention going into tomorrow so hopefully I can post a low number and win the title.

**Bianca Pagdanganan, Arizona, -3 through Round 2**

*On seeing lower scores in the second round...*

I guess everyone kind of got used to the course after the first round.

*On her overall performance...*

I'm pretty satisfied with the way I've played. I didn't expect the first round to go as well as it did, but I'm just trying to stay in the zone and take it shot by shot. I'm trying to stick to the game plan of staying patient on the greens and if I can keep that going it could end well.

**Inez Wanamarta, Purdue, -2 through round two**

*On missing a day of play...*

It was kind of what we expected. We looked at the radar yesterday morning and spoke with the coaches so it wasn't a surprise. It also happened to be our teammate's birthday yesterday so it was fun to have the off day for that.

*On round two...*

It was good. I think the wind was better than it was on the first day and it was warm. Overall, I played with some really great players and had a good time out there.

*On heading into the final round...*

I have to be smart and not get emotional. I just have to take it one shot at a time.

**Ana Belac, Duke, -1 through Round 2**

*On seeing lower scores in the second round...*

I think that we're all more familiar with the course. It's been playing really tough so having another round under your belt and knowing where to hit your shots means a lot.

*On her overall performance...*

I would say that my long game in both rounds has been pretty similar, but yesterday I got more putts rolling in and got more confidence on the greens.