



KIA Open

Quito Tennis y Golf Club | Quito, Ecuador | May 2-5, 2024

Second-Round Notes – May 3, 2024

PGA TOUR Americas 2024 Season: 5th of 16 events

- Latin America Swing: 5th of 6 events

Fortinet Cup Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$225,000 (\$40,500 winner)

Pos.	Player	Score
1	Gunn Yang (United States)	67-66 – 133 (-11)
T2	Kyle Karazissis (United States)	68-67 – 135 (-9)
T2	Thomas Longbella (United States)	66-69 – 135 (-9)
T2	Ricardo Celia (Colombia)	68-67 – 135 (-9)
T2	Felipe Garcés (Ecuador)	64-71 – 135 (-9)
T6	Eric Lilleboe (United States)	67-69 – 136 (-8)
T6	Harry Hillier (New Zealand)	65-71 – 136 (-8)
T6	Marcos Montenegro (Argentina)	69-67 – 136 (-8)

QUITO, Ecuador – Gunn Yang carded a bogey-free 6-under 66 and leads by two after 36 holes at the KIA Open. Four players are tied for second at 9-under entering the third round Saturday at Quito Tennis y Golf Club.

After playing eight events on PGA TOUR Canada in 2023, Yang notched four top-25s with seven made cuts and finished 45th in the Fortinet Cup standings to gain membership into the inaugural season of PGA TOUR Americas. In four starts this season, the 30-year-old's best finish was at the Totalplay Championship at Atlas Country Club where he finished T55.

Yang turned professional in 2017, not long after playing nine events on the PGA TOUR schedule during the 2014-15 season as a sophomore at San Diego State University. While making appearances at the Masters Tournament, the U.S. Open and The Open Championship, Yang's best finish came at the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial where he finished T65.

Yang's amateur highlights include being the highest finishing amateur at the Mazda NSW Open in Australia, where he took fourth overall at 12-under, and most notably, claiming the 2014 U.S. Amateur Championship title. Yang won six straight matches and defeated current PGA TOUR member Corey Conners 2&1 to claim the victory. Yang became San Diego State University's second U.S. Amateur champion since Gene Littler in 1953.

Third-round tee times begin at 8:27 a.m. ET and will run until 1:15 p.m. ET off the No. 1 tee on Saturday.

About Gunn Yang (T1/-11)

Age: 30

Birthplace: Pyeong Chang, South Korea

Residence: San Diego, California

College: San Diego State University

Fortinet Cup (start of week): T123

- In 2014, won the U.S. Amateur defeating Corey Conners, 2&1, in the final round of the championship at Atlanta Athletic Club; became the second South Korean to claim the U.S. Amateur title
- Made his first cut on the PGA TOUR at the Crowne Plaza Invitational, where he was T15 after the second round, but finished T65; competed in his first major championship in 2015 at the Masters Tournament (MC)
- About his family: "We have moved around about seven times in three different continents in the last 12 years. My parents provided me and my brother to see bigger things and enjoy and experience different cultures. Definitely helped with our education and my golf"
- Earliest golf memory is when Tiger Woods made his signature chip shot on 16th hole at the 2005 Masters. "That is when I had first dream of becoming a professional golfer like him"
- Kygo - Firestone would be his first-tee intro song

Competition Notes

Course Setup: Par 72 / 7,412 yards; Cumulative average: 71.340

Weather: Cloudy with a high of 62. Wind from the northwest at 1-4 mph with gusts up to 9 mph.

- The lowest round of the day was 6-under par, and was carded by: Gunn Yang (1st/-11), Flint Bekkers (T9/-7) and Skyler Finnell (T47/-3)
- Diego Venegas of Colombia (T9/-7) recorded a 2 at the par 5 No. 3; it was the third albatross of the PGA TOUR Americas season
- Champion of the 2015 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica KIA Open Ricardo Celia carded rounds of 68-67 (-9) and is tied for second place
- Ecuador native Felipe Garcés is the first amateur to make a cut this season (T2/-9)
- Two Canadians finished round two inside the top 20: Joey Savoie (T9/-7) and Matthew Anderson (T16/-6)
- Four Monday Qualifiers moved onto weekend play: Diego Vanegas (T9/-7), Austen Christiansen (T22/-5), Mauro Baez Julien (T32/-4) and Martin Contini (T47/-3)
- Quito Tennis y Golf Club played .660 strokes under par through two rounds; the hardest hole on the golf course is No. 6 – the 220-yard par 3 which averaged a +0.270

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About PGA TOUR Americas

PGA TOUR Americas is an international tour that provides professional golfers with competitive opportunities and prepares them to advance their careers on the Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR. The 2024 schedule consists of 16 events – six in Latin America and 10 in North America – and the inaugural season culminates in September with the Fortinet Cup Championship, where the top-10 players on the season-long points list will earn Korn Ferry Tour membership the following season.

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