



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Nick Parker
(904) 806-4582

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	James Driscoll	62 (-9)
	Matt Atkins	62 (-9)
3	Tyler Duncan	63 (-8)

James Driscoll and Matt Atkins open with 62s to take first-round lead at the Utah Championship presented by Zion Bank

FARMINGTON, Utah – With a pair of opening 9-under 62s Thursday, James Driscoll and Matt Atkins share the co-lead after the first round at the Utah Championship presented by Zion Bank. Both Driscoll and Atkins got hot late in their round, playing their last three holes in 3-under-par to seize the lead over Tyler Duncan’s 8-under 63 at Oakridge Country Club.

“I think anytime you shoot a round like that it’s all about the putter,” Driscoll said. “I definitely set myself up with good iron shots, but I would say putting No. 1, irons No. 2, and then I obviously kept it in play enough to give myself chances with the irons, but for the most part it was pretty much the putter.”

Added Atkins: “It was just a really solid day. I just stuck to my game plan and executed very well. Got some putts to go in, so it was a really good day. There’s obviously a lot of golf left, but it’s always a nice thing to be in this position. Obviously, we all want to be here on the final day, but it’s just really good to get off to a good start.”

Both Driscoll and Atkins arrived in the State of Sport feeling like they hadn’t had their best in recent weeks. Driscoll, who won the Nashville Golf Open a year ago, had missed the cut in five of last six starts and is 94th on the money list. He found the going easy, though, Thursday with 10 birdies and a bogey.

“The last couple of months have been a bit of a struggle,” Driscoll said, “but tried to give myself a little bit of an attitude adjustment a couple weeks ago. Hopefully it’ll pay off.”

Although Atkins arrived in Utah at No. 14 on the Regular Season money list, the newly married man missed the cut in his last start and hasn’t feel like he’s had his best stuff very often this season. Outside of a victory at the El Bosque Mexico Championship in April, he hadn’t finished inside the top 10 this season.

“I felt like my game has been in weird spot,” Atkins said. “It’s been good enough on the days it needed to be good enough on, but overall, I knew that I was playing with my C game pretty much every week. I couldn’t get anything to go in, hit a lot of loose shots and they seemed to be in the wrong direction at the wrong time. I just kind of went back to the drawing board and went back to the fundamentals this week.”

Like the two co-leaders, Duncan birdied his last three holes to jump into sole possession of third at 8-under. The 28-year-old, who was celebrating his birthday Thursday, took the week off last week and arrived on the heels of three consecutive missed cuts, but he turned the tide around with a field-leading 23 putts.

“I don’t think I missed a fairway today and I made about every putt I looked at,” Duncan said. “So that’s a pretty good combination usually.”

Kyle Wilshire, Brice Garnett, and Wes Roach sit in T4 after a trio of 7-under 64s.

Thursday Notes:

- * Thursday weather: Partly Cloudy, High: 94, Winds: W-SW 6-12 mph.
- * This week's purse is \$700,000 with \$126,000 going to the champion.
- * Driscoll and Atkins tied the lowest first round in tournament history with a pair of 62s. Willy Wilcox has the lowest round in tournament history with a 59 at Willow Creek in the final round in 2013.
- * Kyle Wilshire's 7-under 64 is his best round of the season so far.
- * 100 players shot in the 60s on Thursday.
- * At 4,000 feet in altitude, 25 players averaged 350 yards or more off of the tee in the first round.
- * Erik Compton and Augusto Nunez led the field in greens in regulation with 17/18 and both fired a pair of 4-under 67s.
- * There were 24 bogey-free rounds in the opening round.
- * Nate Lashley, who won the 2009 Utah Open at Oakridge Country Club, opened with a 4-under 67.

Scoring Averages at the par-71 Oakridge Country Club:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1:	34.452	34.103	68.645	

HIGHLIGHTS AND INTERVIEWS from today's play are available via the following FTP site:

website: <https://moveit.pgatourhq.com> <<https://moveit.pgatourhq.com/>>

Username: webcom_Highlights

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* First click on "FOLDER" on the top left of the main page. From there, navigate to the following folders:
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