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### Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Steve Lewton (CC-PL)	66-63—129 (-14)
2	Taylor Dickson (PL-CC)	65-65—130 (-13)
	Curtis Thompson (CC-PL)	68-62—130 (-13)
4	Nick Hardy (PL-CC)	68-63—131 (-12)
5	Four players tied	132 (-11)

*\*CC – Crooked Cat, PL – Panther Lake*

[Full Leaderboard](#) | [Tee Times](#)

### Steve Lewton claims 36-hole lead at Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament’s Final Stage

**Winter Garden, Fla.** — Steve Lewton carded a bogey-free 63 at Orange County National’s Panther Lake course in rainy conditions Friday to claim the 36-hole lead at 14-under 129 at the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament’s Final Stage. Taylor Dickson and Curtis Thompson sit one shot off the pace at 13-under 130.

After posting a 6-under 66 on Thursday, Lewton kept his foot on the pedal during Friday’s second round. After making the turn at 2-under for the day, the Englishman caught fire over his final nine holes. Lewton tallied birdies at Nos. 10 and 11 to reach 10-under for the week. After three consecutive pars, the 36-year-old rallied down the stretch with birdies on his final four holes of the day to reach 14-under for the tournament.

“I played pretty solid on the front but didn’t really hole anything,” Lewton said. “On the back nine, my putter just got hot and I hit a couple of shots close which helps. I birdied three of the par-3s which I think are generally the toughest holes around this place. I finished strong and I’ve been playing pretty well, so hopefully I can carry that on to the next couple of days.”

Players battled rainy conditions on Friday as play was delayed for one hour and 45 minutes. Despite the difficult weather, Lewton was able to hit 17 greens in regulation during his second round and has only missed three fairways over his first 36 holes.

Lewton, who is playing in his first Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, has experience playing around the world but returned to the United States to make a run at the Korn Ferry Tour. Prior to his professional career, Lewton played his collegiate golf at North Carolina State University.

“I’ve always wanted to play golf in America, I’ve just never come across this Q-School before,” he said. “I’ve been playing solid this year so that’s why I decided to come have a go. That was probably my main reason behind it because I enjoy playing golf over here.”

Tied in second place is Taylor Dickson who carded a bogey-free 65 on Orange County National’s Crooked Cat course on Friday. Starting on the back nine, the Winthrop University product recorded one birdie on his first nine holes. After making the turn, the 27-year-old found his rhythm with six birdies over his final nine holes to reach 13-under for the tournament.

Dickson, who has yet to make a bogey this week, had great motivation from his group during the second round. Both his playing partners, Santiago Gomez and Tom Whitney, carded bogey-free rounds of their own on Friday. The group combined to shoot 23-under during Friday’s second round.

“None of us in our group made any bogeys today, that was awesome. I’ve never been a part of that,” Dickson said. “I hit my driver really well, I don’t think I missed a fairway and got up and down whenever I got out of position.”

Joining Dickson at 13-under is Curtis Thompson who carded a second-round 9-under 62 on the Panther Lake course. The Louisiana State University product tallied six birdies and two eagles on Friday including an eagle on the par-5 18<sup>th</sup>, his final hole of the day.

“Well, two eagles helps. I was making putts and obviously missed a few early that were makeable but made up for it,” said Thompson, who celebrated his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday. “There weren’t very many mistakes.”

Nick Hardy sits alone in fourth place at 12-under 131 after posting a second-round 9-under 63 on the Crooked Cat course.

#### **FRIDAY NOTES:**

- \* Friday's weather: Scattered showers, high of 79, winds S/SW 5-10 mph.
- \* Preferred lies were used during Friday’s round.
- \* This week’s purse is \$480,000 with \$50,000 going to the medalist.
- \* The Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament marks the last qualifying stage for the 2020 Korn Ferry Tour season with players competing for status on the 2020 Korn Ferry Tour. The medalist/co-medalist will secure fully exempt Korn Ferry Tour status, while finishers 2-10 (and ties) will secure starts for the first 12 events of the 2020 Regular Season. Finishers 11-40 (and ties) earn entry into the first eight events in 2020.
- \* Second-round leader Steve Lewton hit 17 of 18 greens in regulation en route to an 8-under 63. He birdied his final four holes on the Panther Lake course to claim the lead.
- \* Celebrating his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday, Curtis Thompson (T2) jumped into contention with a 62, the lowest round of the tournament thus far. Thompson, the older brother to LPGA star Lexi

Thompson, competed on the Korn Ferry Tour from 2015-18. Nicholas Thompson, the eldest brother to Curtis and Lexi, sits T15 after two rounds.

\* After hitting only eight of 13 fairways and 11 of 18 greens in regulation on the Panther Lake course on Thursday, Taylor Dickson (T2) hit 13 of 14 fairways and 16 of 18 greens in regulation at the Crooked Cat course on Friday.

\* Dickson is one of two players in the field without a bogey or worse thus far (one eagle, 11 birdies and 24 pars). The other is Harry Hall (T92; 3 birdies and 33 pars).

\* First-round co-leaders Braden Thornberry (T24) and Tag Ridings (T5) were unable to maintain their lead. Thornberry carded a second-round 70 while Ridings posted a 68.

\* Tom Whitney tied for the low round of the day (in relation to par) with a 9-under 63 on the Crooked Cat course. Whitney sat T130 after the first round but rose to T33 on Friday. Other players to shoot 9-under on Friday were Curtis Thompson, Nick Hardy (fourth) and Greyson Sigg (T5).

\* Mark Blakefield (T5) fired rounds of 65-67 to enter the weekend at 11-under. Blakefield played collegiately at the University of Kentucky with five-time PGA TOUR winner J.B. Holmes. Holmes was the medalist at the Qualifying Tournament held at Orange County National in 2005.

\* This year marks the first time since 2016 the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament's Final Stage is being held at Orange County National. In 2016, Jim Renner took home medalist honors with a score of 17-under.

**\*Orange County National Scoring Average:**

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
<b>Crooked Cat</b>				
R1	35.169	35.468	70.636	
R2	33.909	34.727	68.636	69.636
<b>Panther Lake</b>				
R1	35.221	34.610	69.831	
R2	34.506	34.013	68.519	69.175

*For highlights from today's round, or any 2019 event visit <http://bit.ly/kornferry2019video>*

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