

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 4, 2019

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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Matthew Campbell	64 (-8)
2	Tim Wilkinson	65 (-7)
3	Six players tied at	66 (-6)

Matthew Campbell takes first-round lead at suspended LECOM Health Challenge

Findley Lake, N.Y. — New York native Matthew Campbell carded an opening-round 64 – one stroke off the course record – to take a one-stroke lead at the LECOM Health Challenge on Thursday. After fog and inclement weather delays totaled three and a half hours, play was suspended due to darkness at 8:58 p.m. at Peek’n Peak Resort.

Campbell grew up in Rome, New York, around four and a half hours away from Findley Lake. Despite making his debut at Peek’n Peak Resort, the 30-year-old referenced feeling at home in the Empire State.

“My dad’s here who hasn’t seen me play in a long time, and if I make the weekend, then a lot of my friends are going to come out,” said Campbell. “It’s definitely comfortable being in the home state, even though this place is a lot different than where I grew up. It has a little bit of Adirondack [mountains] feel out here, and I’ve played out there before.”

The Newberry College alum carded nine birdies in the opening round, offset by one bogey, for his 8-under 64. He shot a 6-under 30 on the back nine, including four out of his final five holes.

“I had a lot of wedges in and I hit those close, so I guess the course played to my strengths,” said Campbell. “I was knocking them pretty close on the back nine and made a few 10- and 15-footers. I was actually between putters today. I wasn’t sure which putter I was going to use, so I had them both in the bag. I ended up just using one and sticking with it.”

Campbell made his Korn Ferry Tour debut three weeks ago at the Lincoln Land Championship after getting in as an alternate the week of the tournament. A T11 finish there in addition to a T25 last week in Utah has allowed him to set his schedule for the remainder of the Regular Season. After playing state opens and mini-tours for several years, Campbell had considered retirement from professional golf as recently as this year.

“There’s been two or three times that I can remember contemplating retirement,” said Campbell. “This year has definitely been one of them. I was going to potentially get into the teaching side of things, but now I’m going to keep riding this wave. This was very close to being my last year before Springfield.”

The 64 was one stroke off the 18-hole tournament record. Rick Lamb (2016) and Kyle Jones (2018) have each carded a 63 at Peek’n Peak Resort.

New Zealander Tim Wilkinson sits one shot back at 7-under 65. The 40-year-old posted seven birdies during a bogey-free round, one of five completed bogey-free rounds on Thursday.

“I hit a lot of greens today,” said Wilkinson, after hitting 17 out of 18 during the first round. “If I was ever in between clubs I just hit it to the middle of the green to about 25 feet away. It was a pretty stress-free round overall.”

Six players are tied for third at 6-under. The suspended first round will continue on Friday morning beginning at 7:15 a.m. The second round will commence following the conclusion of first-round play.

THURSDAY NOTES:

* Thursday's weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 86. Wind SW at 7-14 mph. Two fog delays occurred on Thursday morning. The first delayed the start of play from 6:50-7:20 a.m., while the second ran from 8:01-9:00 a.m. An inclement weather delay suspended play at 2:59 p.m. Play resumed at 4:58 p.m. The three delays totaled three hours and 28 minutes. The first round was suspended due to darkness at 8:58 p.m. and will resume at 7:15 a.m. on Friday.

* A win or runner-up finish for Matthew Campbell would secure Korn Ferry Tour status for the 2020 season. Campbell has never had a full season on the PGA TOUR or Korn Ferry Tour. He competed in seven PGA TOUR Latinoamérica events in 2018.

* Tim Wilkinson currently sits 33rd in the season-long Korn Ferry Tour points standings. A win would lock up his return to the PGA TOUR for the 2019-20 season. He last competed full-time on the PGA TOUR during the 2016-17 season.

* Defending champion Nelson Ledesma opened with a 5-under 67 (T9). Ledesma is looking to become the first player in the Korn Ferry Tour's 30-year history to successfully defend his title. Five players have finished T2 or better while attempting to defend their title, most recently Lanto Griffin at the 2018 Nashville Golf Open (T2).

* With a victory, Robby Shelton (-4, T19) would become the 12th player in Korn Ferry Tour history to earn the "Battlefield Promotion" immediately advancing him to the PGA TOUR after three wins in one season on the Korn Ferry Tour. The last player to earn the promotion was Wesley Bryan in 2016.

* Maverick McNealy (-6/T3) sits 28th on the Korn Ferry Tour points standings, highlighted by a runner-up finish at the LECOM Suncoast Classic in February. He was followed on Thursday at Peek'n Peak by girlfriend and LPGA star Danielle Kang.

* Harrison Endycott leads the contingent of 12 Monday qualifiers thus far at the LECOM Health Challenge. Endycott was T9 at 5-under through 11 holes when his round was suspended. He shot a 66 and advanced in a playoff on Monday to gain entry into the field.

* This week's purse is \$600,000, with \$108,000 going to the champion. The winner will also receive 500 Korn Ferry Tour points.

* Forty-eight Korn Ferry Tour winners are in the field this week, with a combined 67 victories between them.

* The par-4 sixth hole (460 yards) ranked as the toughest hole on the course on Thursday with a scoring average of 4.204.

* The par-5 11th hole (523 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Thursday. The hole played to an average of 4.421.

*** Peek'n Peak Resort – Upper Course Scoring Average:**

	Front (36)	Back (36)	Total (72)	Cumulative
R1	35.562	34.852	70.432	

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



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