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Third-Round Leaderboard

| Pos. | Name | Scores |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Brett Coletta | 68-70-65—203 (-13) |
| | Nelson Ledesma | 65-69-69—203 (-13) |
| 3 | Michael Gellerman | 74-66-64—204 (-12) |
| | John Oda | 69-67-68—204 (-12) |
| 5 | Michael Gligic | 69-69-67—205 (-11) |

Brett Coletta and Nelson Ledesma share 54-hole lead at TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes

Berthoud, Colo. — Brett Coletta and Nelson Ledesma share the third-round lead at 13-under 203 entering the final round at the inaugural TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes. The duo will compete in the final twosome and are set to tee off at 12:50 p.m. on Sunday.

Coletta enjoyed a flurry of birdies down the stretch, tallying six in a seven-hole stretch from Nos. 11-17 for a career-low 65. The Australian capped off the run with a chip-in birdie at the par-4 17th, which played as the hardest hole on the golf course on Saturday.

“I was on that little cut-in where the bunker hits the rough,” said Coletta of the 17th. “I kind of got unlucky with a kick to that spot, and was a little annoyed when I walked up and saw it, but I hit a perfect chip and it went in. Sometimes when it rains it pours.”

The 23-year-old carded a 5-under 31 on the back nine, which is more than 200 yards longer than the front nine and has played three-quarters of a shot tougher this week. Collectively, Coletta has played the back nine at 11-under through the week, compared to 2-under on the front nine.

“It was a good back nine today,” said Coletta. “The birdies were just flowing through the middle there, and then I had a little hiccup on 14, but cleaned it up after that. I’m ecstatic to make the weekend and then play in the final group on Sunday.”

On Thursday, those back-nine numbers were boosted by an ace at the par-3 16th. Coletta is the only player this week to record an ace and the 14th player this year with a hole-in-one. Despite entering the week 66th on the Korn Ferry Tour points list, a win would lock up Coletta’s PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season.

Ledesma, the solo leader after the first and second rounds, carded his second consecutive 3-under 69 to reach 13-under. After giving up the lead for the first time all week during his back nine, he responded with an eagle at the par-5 15th before a late bogey saw him settle for the 54-hole co-lead.

“I felt good about the shot on No. 15,” said Ledesma, who used a 5-iron into the green and left himself a seven-foot putt. “I might have gotten a little lucky with where the flag placement was, but it was a great shot regardless.”

The Argentinian is seeking his second win on the Korn Ferry Tour and his first PGA TOUR card. He would lock up his PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season with a finish of three-way tie for fourth or better on Sunday.

“We all play to get to the PGA TOUR; we all want to get that PGA TOUR card,” said Ledesma. “But I can’t think about that down the stretch, I have to focus. My confidence is good going into tomorrow, but I know I have to go out and play strong to win the tournament.”

Ledesma previously won the 2018 LECOM Health Challenge but finished 42nd in the standings last year with no additional top-10s. This year, the 28-year-old has been more consistent, earning four top-10s and ranking 18th in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings to this point.

Michael Gellerman set the new competitive course record at TPC Colorado with a bogey-free 64 and sits one shot back of Coletta and Ledesma. He will be joined by rookie John Oda, also at 12-under, in the penultimate pairing.

Final-round tee times will run from 6:50 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. off of the first tee on Sunday at TPC Colorado.

SATURDAY NOTES:

* Saturday’s weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 93. Wind SE at 7-14 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.

* Only eight out of 18 54-hole leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win the tournament this year. Ledesma has held the 54-hole lead once in his career (2019 KC Golf Classic) and went on to finish T2. Coletta has never led after a round on the Korn Ferry Tour. The last player to convert his 54-hole lead was Xinjun Zhang at the Lincoln Land Championship.

* Michael Gellerman (-13, T3) was 2-over through his first 20 holes of the tournament before going 14-under over his next 34 holes. He tied for the low round of the day on Friday with a 6-under 66, then set the new competitive course record on Saturday with an 8-under 64. He has not had a bogey over his last 40 holes.

* Michael Gligic’s (-12, 5th) first bogey of the week came on the 12th hole on Saturday, his 48th hole of the tournament. He was the last remaining player without a bogey at TPC Colorado. Gligic didn’t see the course until the day before the tournament after flying in on Tuesday evening.

* Harry Higgs (-9, T6) didn’t make a par until his eighth hole on Saturday. His opening seven holes included six birdies and a bogey at No. 4.

* MJ Maguire (-5, T31) made the cut on the number after Monday qualifying into the event. Maguire rose to T31 with a third-round 68 and leads three Monday qualifiers that made the cut.

* The 7,991-yard course is the longest course the Korn Ferry Tour has played in the Tour’s 30-year history. The 773-yard 13th hole (par-5) is the longest hole ever played on Tour, while the 273-yard 14th is the longest par-3 played on Tour this year. The par-4 18th hole (531 yards) is the longest par-4 hole played on Tour this year as well.

* 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-nine Korn Ferry Tour winners are in the field this week, with a combined 70 victories between them. Eight past PGA TOUR champions are in the field as well combining for 24 victories. Major winner David Duval leads the pack with 13 career TOUR wins.

* The par-4 17th hole (495 yards) ranked as the toughest hole on the course on Saturday with a scoring average of 4.329. The hole yielded five birdies and caused 29 bogeys.

* The par-5 fifth hole (624 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Saturday. The hole played to an average of 4.384 and yielded 39 birdies and four eagles.

* TPC Colorado Scoring Average:

| | Front (36) | Back (36) | Total (72) | Cumulative |
|----|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| R1 | 35.506 | 36.571 | 72.077 | |
| R2 | 36.000 | 36.422 | 72.422 | 72.256 |
| R3 | 34.808 | 35.849 | 70.658 | 71.719 |

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