

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 8, 2019

CONTACT: Preston Smith, prestonsmith@pgatourhq.com, 706-844-2100

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Robby Shelton	61 (-10)
2	Jimmy Stanger	63 (-8)
3	David Lingmerth	64 (-7)
	Greg Yates	64 (-7)
	Tyson Alexander	64 (-7)
	Vince India	64 (-7)

Robby Shelton leads after first round of WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz

NORTH PLAINS, Ore. — A year after missing the cut in his tournament debut, Robby Shelton tied the tournament record with a 10-under 61 in the first round of the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft Heinz. Shelton’s 10 birdies led the field on an overcast day at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club’s Witch Hollow course.

“I don’t really think about a number out here,” said Shelton. “I just think about birdies, knowing these other guys are going to go low. Everybody here wants to win, so that’s the main goal this week, but there are still three rounds left.”

Shelton is no stranger to the top of the leaderboard. The 23-year-old has won twice on Tour this year, led the points standings for four weeks earlier in the year and locked up his PGA TOUR card in early May. He is currently second in The 25, 232 points behind leader Xinjun Zhang.

“Hitting that No. 1 spot is definitely the goal for me,” said Shelton of the coveted top spot and fully exempt status that comes with it. “I think it’s going to help anyone who wins it, as far as taking a lot of pressure off and not having too much to worry about your schedule throughout the year...And getting into THE PLAYERS would be amazing.”

After three pars to begin his round, Shelton went on a tear, birdieing eight of his next 10 holes before tacking on two more at the 16th and 18th to reach 10-under. The 61 ties a tournament record originally set by Ted Potter, Jr. in 2016 and again by Derek Ernst in 2018. Shelton’s previous low round on Tour was a 63 (twice).

While he was already 4-under entering the hole, he credited the ninth hole as a confidence booster midway through the round.

“My shot of the day was at the ninth today,” said Shelton, referring to the third-toughest hole on the course on Thursday. “I hit a 5-iron in after having 206 yards to the hole. That’s one of the toughest holes out there and I hit it four or five feet right of the hole and made that.”

Shelton is a former All-American at the University of Alabama and claimed the 2014 Phil Mickelson Award as the nation’s top freshman. He was also the top-ranked junior in the country entering college. He finished second in the Order of Merit on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada in 2017 and competed full-time on the Korn Ferry Tour each of the past two years.

Jimmy Stanger sits two shot back with a first-round 8-under 63. The 63 sets a new low round on Tour for Stanger and was especially meaningful coming back to Pumpkin Ridge.

“I still remember leaving this place in tears last year,” said Stanger, who finished 78th on the money list to just miss out on fully exempt status in 2019. “Just to finish bogey-par to lose your card by one stroke was really tough. I definitely have some déjà vu standing here right now knowing last year I had to finish one stroke better, so it helps that this year I already have a job for next year.”

Stanger entered the week 41st on the points list with a spot in the Finals already locked up, along with full status next season on Tour. While projections vary throughout the week, the University of Virginia alum would likely need a runner-up finish or better to finish inside The 25 and earn his PGA TOUR card.

Four players are T3 at 7-under 64 after the first round: David Lingmerth, Greg Yates, Tyson Alexander and Vince India.

The second round will run in two waves on Friday from 7 a.m. to 2:26 p.m. off of the first and 10th tees.

THURSDAY NOTES:

* Thursday’s weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 71. Winds mostly light and variable throughout the day.

* The first-round lead marks the 10th round that Robby Shelton has led this year, the most on Tour. Xinjun Zhang has led the second-most rounds on Tour with eight. No other player has led more than five rounds on Tour. Through 23 events thus far this season, only six first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win the tournament. One of those six was Shelton at the Nashville Golf Open.

* Greg Yates (-7, T3) entered the week squarely on the bubble to secure full Korn Ferry Tour status for next year at No. 75 on the points list. The Texas A&M product likely needs to at least make the cut to finish inside the top 75, but would need a win to earn his first PGA TOUR card.

* Nicolas Echavarria (-6, T7) finished second on the PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Order of Merit in 2018 after leading the money list for the previous five tournaments. He was surpassed by Harry Higgs by \$64 during the final event of the season. Higgs has already earned his PGA TOUR card through the Korn Ferry Tour this year, while Echavarria (No. 84 in the standings) would need a win this week to earn his card.

* Marty Dou (-6, T7) won the first tournament of the year and was inside The 25 for each week of the Regular Season until this past week, when he dropped to 26th after the Ellie Mae Classic. Dou made history as the first Chinese player to win on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2017 and topped the Order of Merit on the PGA TOUR Series-China in 2016.

* Paul Haley II (-3, T46) had an ace at the par-3, 213-yard fifth hole. The ace is the sixth in tournament history and the second at the fifth hole. The ace was also the 16th of the year on Tour.

* Since the movement to have all 50 PGA TOUR cards come from the Korn Ferry Tour in 2013, the most players to move in and out of The 25 in Portland stands at four (in 2013). Last year only one player moved into The 25, and in 2017, The 25 remained unchanged after the event for the first time.

* The highest opening-round score by an eventual champion in this event was an even-par 71 by Brice Garnett in 2017. One hundred and twenty-three players are currently at even-par 71 or better.

* Bubble Watch: *The 25*

Entered the Week	Player (Points)	Score	Position	Projected
21	Tim Wilkinson (775)	73 (+2)	T135	23
22	Vincent Whaley (761)	73 (+2)	T135	24

23	Tyler McCumber (741)	70 (-1)	T85	25
24	Chris Baker (718)	70 (-1)	T85	26
25	Brett Coletta (713)	72 (+1)	T124	27
26	Marty Dou (689)	65 (-6)	T7	22
27	Joshua Creel (640)	71 (E)	T107	29
28	Brian Campbell (631)	68 (-3)	T46	30
29	Dan McCarthy (631)	71 (E)	T107	31
30	Joseph Bramlett (609)	70 (-1)	T85	32

* Bubble Watch: *The 75*

Entered the Week	Player (Points)	Score	Position	Projected
71	Paul Haley II (347)	68 (-3)	T46	75
72	Brad Hopfinger (338)	73 (+2)	T135	80
73	Max Greyselman (337)	78 (+7)	T153	81
74	Andres Gonzales (336)	73 (+2)	T135	82
75	Greg Yates (334)	64 (-7)	T3	49
76	Grant Hirschman (333)	67 (-4)	T26	74
77	Callum Tarren (330)	68 (-3)	T46	79
78	Erik Barnes (322)	66 (-5)	T13	70
79	Brian Richey (322)	71 (E)	T107	84
80	Michael Miller (322)	70 (-1)	T85	85

* This week's purse is \$800,000, with \$144,000 going to the champion. The winner will also receive 600 Korn Ferry Tour points.

* Fifty-five Korn Ferry Tour winners are in the field this week, with a combined 82 victories between them. Six past PGA TOUR champions are in the field as well combining for 10 victories.

* The par-4 third hole (475 yards) and the par-3 fifth (213 yards) tied as the toughest holes on the course on Thursday with a scoring average of 4.284 and 3.284, respectively.

* The par-5 fourth (533 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Thursday with an average of 4.394.

* **Pumpkin Ridge – Witch Hollow Course Scoring Average:**

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)
R1	35.684	33.600	69.284



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

For the latest information and updates on the Korn Ferry Tour visit www.pgatourmedia.com

Scores available at www.pgatour.com or on the Associated Press wire

Follow the Korn Ferry Tour on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/kornferrytour> on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kornferrytour/ and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/kornferrytour/?hl=en>