

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 12, 2020

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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Curtis Thompson	68-65-68—201 (-15)
T2	Mito Pereira	74-64-66—204 (-12)
T2	Theo Humphrey	69-67-68—204 (-12)
T2	Paul Barjon	70-66-68—204 (-12)
T2	Trey Mullinax	66-70-68—204 (-12)
T2	Stephan Jaeger	70-65-69—204 (-12)

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

Curtis Thompson takes three-stroke lead after third round at Evans Scholars Invitational

WESTCHESTER, Ill. – Entering the day one stroke off the lead, Curtis Thompson carded a 4-under 68 to take the 54-hole lead at the Evans Scholars Invitational. Thompson leads five players by three strokes entering the final round.

The third round was delayed due to weather for almost four hours early in the day, one hole into Thompson's round. After the extended wait, Thompson bogeyed the fourth, but rebounded with birdies at the sixth, seventh and ninth holes to turn in 2-under 34. He added two more on the back nine at Nos. 12 and 18 to reach 15-under for the tournament.

"You knew going in today that it was going to be tough," said Thompson, who ended up finishing his round more than nine hours after it began. "It was 100 percent chance of rain with 15 miles-per-hour wind. There wasn't really lightning forecasted, so you didn't know if you were going to play all day or if it was going to flood the course. I just went out there and tried to be patient."

Thompson, a former standout at Louisiana State University, will seek his first career Korn Ferry Tour victory in his 103rd start on Sunday. He has tallied two top-10s thus far this season, highlighted by a T3 finish at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar. The 27-year-old has made eight consecutive cuts over the past two months.

"It would mean a lot; two years ago I was basically thinking about quitting golf and doing something else," reflected Thompson who had resorted to caddying two years ago. "No matter how tomorrow ends up, I've come way farther than I thought I was going to be able to from two years ago. I'm blessed and happy to be here, and if tomorrow doesn't go my way then so be it."

Thompson is the brother of fellow Tour pro Nicholas Thompson and LPGA Tour star Lexi Thompson, who is currently T3 at the ANA Inspiration going into the final round. Nicholas Thompson is one of the longest hitters on the Korn Ferry Tour, ranking fifth in driving distance on the season with an average drive of 326.4 yards. He ranks third in distance off the tee this week.

“I think I’ve only made three bogeys,” said Thompson. “On a golf course like this where the ball can roll away from you and you can get pretty far from the hole, that’s huge. I shot 4-under today but only had to get five birdies. And there are four par-5s out there that are gettable.”

A quintet of players sit three strokes back, including Mito Pereira, who has tied the low round of the day in each of the past two days after a first-round 74. The Chilean tied the competitive course record with a 64 on Friday and backed it up with a 66 during a rain-soaked third round. Other players tied for second include Paul Barjon, Trey Mullinax, Stephan Jaeger and rookie Theo Humphrey. Of the top-six players on the leaderboard, only Pereira, Jaeger and Mullinax have previously won on Tour.

Tee times for Sunday’s final round will run from 9-11 a.m. off of the first and 10th tees.

SATURDAY NOTES:

- * Saturday’s weather: Showers throughout the day with a high of 71 degrees and wind SE at 6-12 mph. Lift, clean and place was in effect in Saturday’s round. The third round was suspended due to weather at 9:35 a.m. and resumed at 1:30 p.m. for a total of three hours and 55 minutes.

- * The 54-hole lead marks the second third-round lead of Thompson’s career. He previously led after the third round of the 2016 Panama Championship before finishing T3. Eight of the 19 champions thus far this season have converted a 54-hole lead.

- * Thompson, Pereira and Humphrey will make up the final group on Sunday. Thirteen of the 19 champions this season have come from the final group.

- * Thompson is 13 of 15 in scrambling opportunities thus far this week, which ranks third. He has hit 39 of 54 greens in regulation and tallied 81 total putts through three rounds.

- * A day after setting a new competitive course record with an 8-under 64 (alongside Brad Brunner), Mito Pereira carded a 66. The 25-year-old led the points list for six weeks following his victory at the Country Club de Bogota Championship earlier this year but has since slipped to eighth in the standings.

- * Jaeger is seeking his third top-five finish in his last four starts after a victory and a T5 finish over the last month. He has already jumped from 64th to 11th in the points standings during that span and will look to continue his rise tomorrow.

- * Chicago resident Brad Hopfinger is the highest local player through three rounds at T11.

- * Monday qualifier Chris Naegel sits T7 entering the final round in bid to finish top-25 and earn another start on Tour. Naegel qualified into last week’s tournament as well but missed the cut.

He then qualified again with a 66 at Sunset Valley Golf Club on Monday to gain entry into this week's event.

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

* The combined 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour schedule will conclude with 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded at the 2021 WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz, with an additional 25 cards awarded at the conclusion of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

* The par-4 15th hole (519 yards) played as the hardest hole on Saturday with a scoring average of 4.515.

* The par-5 12th hole (576 yards) played as the easiest hole on Saturday with a scoring average of 4.485.

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	35.705	36.199	71.904	
R2	35.013	35.390	70.409	71.156
R3	35.559	35.574	71.132	71.146

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