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**First-Round Leaderboard**

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Harry Hall	63 (-8)
T1	Shad Tuten	63 (-8)
T3	Nine tied at	64 (-7)

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

**Harry Hall and Shad Tuten claim 18-hole co-lead at Orange County National Championship presented by Knight 39**

**WINTER GARDEN, Fla.** – Rookies Harry Hall and Shad Tuten each carded opening 8-under 63s to tie atop the leaderboard as first-round play was suspended due to darkness at the Orange County National Championship presented by Knight 39. The pair leads nine players by one stroke with nine groups still on the golf course.

Hall, an Englishman and UNLV product, began his round at the 10<sup>th</sup> hole and parred his first three before birdieing seven of his next 10, including four in a row from Nos. 13-16. He capped the day with a closing birdie at the par-4 ninth for a bogey-free 63.

“I drove the ball really well compared to last week,” said Hall off a T8 finish last week in Savannah. “I hit my irons close and I’ve been putting well for most of the year. When you hit it close you’re naturally going to make more putts.”

Hall has made just eight starts in his rookie season after a poor finish at the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, also held at Orange County National. He finished T114 for low conditional status and didn’t make a start this year until June.

“I’ve gained a lot of speed since last year; I’m hitting the balls 20 yards further,” reflected Hall, who lowered the loft of his driver to eight degrees this week. “To come back a year later and take an early first-round lead is nice. It’s great to see where my game is at compared to last year.”

On the flip side, Shad Tuten enjoyed one of his career highlights at Q-School last December. He carded four rounds in the 60s en route to a T13 finish to earn guaranteed status on Tour in 2020.

“I took pictures all around this place after Q-School last year,” laughed Tuten. “I just really like Florida golf and love Bermuda grass; I’ve always been comfortable on it. It helps that I played well that week. It helped me to stay focused coming into this week. I know the course so I know when to be aggressive.”

Tuten spaced three birdies over his first 13 holes before closing with a string of five consecutive birdies at Nos. 14-18. He credited his improved play with a patient approach and a strong day off the tee.

“All year I’ve been struggling with my driver, just getting nothing out of it,” said Tuten, who ranks 152<sup>nd</sup> in driving distance with an average drive of 289.4 yards. “I’ve made a few tweaks and this week I’ve got a new driver in the bag and it’s really clicking. I’m a good putter and my short game is sharp all of the time but getting off the tee is huge for me because I don’t hit it as far as some of these guys. Having that extra 10-15 yards is a big deal for me.”

Nine players sit one stroke off the lead: Tommy Gainey, Stephan Jaeger, George Cunningham, Stephen Franken, Kevin Roy, Justin Lower, Chase Wright, Ben Kohles and Callum Tarren (through 16 holes).

The first round will resume at 7:45 a.m. on Friday morning. Second-round tee times will run from 7:20 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. off of the first and 10<sup>th</sup> tees on Friday.

#### **THURSDAY NOTES:**

- \* Thursday’s weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 92 degrees and wind E at 5-10 mph. Preferred lies were used in Thursday’s round on the Panther Lake course at Orange County National.
- \* The Orange County National Championship presented by Knight 39 is the 23<sup>rd</sup> and final event of 2020, though the season will continue through the fall of 2021. Wake Forest University alum Will Zalatoris leads the points standings entering the week and has led for the past eight weeks. Hall and Tuten would each project to move inside the top-25 with a win while also looking to become the fifth 18-hole leader/co-leader to go on to victory this season.
- \* The 8-under 63 sets a new career-low round for Tuten, surpassing a 64 he carded in the second round of the Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass earlier this year. He eventually finished T2 that week, his lone top-10 to date.
- \* Stephan Jaeger carded two eagles during his round on Thursday (Nos. 2 and 10), one of three players in the field to card multiple eagles in the first round (Brandon Harkins, Jim Knous). Jaeger is one of 13 players in the Tour’s history with at least five victories, and with a win this week, would become one of six with at least six. Jason Gore holds the Tour’s all-time record with seven wins.
- \* North Carolina State University alum Stephen Franken (-7, T3) is seeking his first top-10 in his 22<sup>nd</sup> career start. His current top finish is a T11 mark at the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna.

\* 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 third hole (505 yards) played as the hardest hole on Thursday with a scoring average of 4.154.

\* The par-5 second hole (515 yards) played as the easiest hole on Thursday with a scoring average of 4.346.

	<b>Front</b>	<b>Back</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>R1</b>	<b>34.060</b>	<b>34.713</b>	<b>68.773</b>	

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