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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Chase Wright	71-67-62 – 200 (-10)
2	Davis Riley	67-70-64 – 201 (-9)
	Grant Hirschman	65-69-67 – 201 (-9)
4	Three tied at	202 (-8)

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

Chase Wright cards third-round 62 to take 54-hole lead at Panamá Championship

PANAMÁ CITY, Panamá — Chase Wright erupted on Saturday at the Panamá Championship carding an 8-under 62 to claim the 54-hole lead at 10-under 200. Davis Riley and Grant Hirschman sit T2 at 9-under 201.

Wright, who played in the first group off No.1 Saturday morning, found his rhythm early converting birdies on three of his first four holes. After a par on No. 5, the Indiana University product kept his foot on the pedal adding birdies on Nos. 6, 8 and 9 to post a 6-under 29 on his front nine.

After birdies on Nos. 10 and 13, Wright reached 8-under for the round and 10-under for the tournament. The 30-year-old stumbled with a bogey at the par-4 14th but rebounded immediately with a birdie at No. 15. He closed with pars on the final three holes to claim a one-stroke lead heading into Sunday's final round.

"I've been striking the ball so well," Wright said. "Even the misses have been in the center of the club face. I've been hitting the right distances and have been lag putting well. It was just kind of steady and the ball kept going in the hole."

Wright found himself T36 at the start of the third round. He opened the week with rounds of 71-67 but something seemed to click for the 30-year-old on Saturday.

"I was just free, it's hard to explain," he said. "There wasn't a whole lot of tension or hanging on. It was just picking your spot and going. You hit quality iron shots and the ball doesn't curve as much. It's kind of like what they call 'being in the zone.' It's a pretty good feeling."

Wright is making his 100th start on the Korn Ferry Tour this week. He last played a full season on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2018. That year, he earned a victory at the Rust-Oleum Championship and finished ninth in The 25 securing him a PGA TOUR card.

“Obviously, I should have a lot of confidence going into tomorrow,” he said. “I’ve been in this position a few times and I’ve gotten it done before, so I’ll give it my best.”

Davis Riley and Grant Hirschman sit T2 at 9-under 201. After a slow start on the front nine, Riley caught fire with birdies on Nos. 10, 12, 13 and 14 to reach 7-under for the week. The University of Alabama product carded birdies on Nos. 16 and 17 en route to a 6-under 29 on the back nine during Saturday’s third round.

“I hit a bunch of good shots on the front but just couldn’t really make any putts,” Riley said. “I might’ve been forcing things a bit early and then I just started playing good golf. I just stayed patient and it came together on the back nine.”

In 2019, Riley entered the Korn Ferry Tour season with no status. Despite not recording a top-10 last year, he missed just five cuts throughout the season. He went on to record five top-25s in 18 starts last year and finished 70th on the Regular Season points list. His outstanding play led to full status for the 2020 Korn Ferry Tour season.

“Last year I was playing tournament-by-tournament,” Riley said. “I felt, when I was playing last year, I would just get myself in the top-25 and then just hold on. This year, having a full schedule, I can just go play golf and have another week to play. It’s nice to have a much more relaxed kind of feel and to just go play instead of trying to live by top-25s.”

Like Riley, Hirschman also experienced a slow start on Saturday. He carded a 1-over 36 on his front nine that featured eight pars and one bogey. After a bogey on the par-4 11th, the 24-year-old finally settled in. Hirschman nearly holed his tee shot on the par-3 13th and tapped in for his first birdie of the day. He went on the birdie four of his final five holes to reach 9-under for the week.

“I just had a slow start. I was hitting the ball really good and just got some bad breaks,” Hirschman said. “I hit a close shot in there on No. 13 and tapped in for birdie. After that, I just flipped the switch and was able to birdie five of the last six.”

Last season, Hirschman made 13 cuts in 18 starts on the Korn Ferry Tour and recorded two top-10s. The University of Oklahoma product held the 54-hole lead at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper and eventually finished T4.

Despite not earning the victory, the 24-year-old knows he can draw on his experience from a year ago during tomorrow’s final round.

“It’s definitely going to help,” Hirschman said of his 2019 season. “Last year, I think I had the lead in Springfield (Missouri) heading into the final round. I definitely learned a lot there and I’m looking forward to carrying those experiences into tomorrow.”

Final-round tee times will run from approximately 6:50 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. with players teeing off No. 1.

SATURDAY NOTES:

- * Saturday's weather: Partly cloudy, high of 88, winds N/NW 9-18 mph with gusts up to 25 mph.
- * This week's purse is \$625,000 with \$112,500 going to the winner. The champion will also receive 500 Korn Ferry Tour points.
- * Chase Wright holds the 54-hole lead on the Korn Ferry Tour for the first time of his career.
- * Last season on the PGA TOUR, Wright made 11 cuts in 26 starts and recorded two top-10s.
- * Ryan Armour set the tournament scoring record in 2011 with a second-round 9-under 61 at the Club de Golf de Panamá.
- * Grant Hirschman leads the field in birdies having made 16 over the first three rounds.
- * Taylor Pendrith, who led after the first two rounds, sits T10 at 6-under after a third-round 73.
- * In 2019, the Club de Golf de Panamá ranked as the hardest course on the Korn Ferry Tour. The par-70 layout played to a scoring average of 72.012.
- * The par-3 sixth (215 yards) played as the most difficult hole on Saturday with a scoring average of 3.303.
- * The par-3 17th hole (174 yards) played as the easiest on Saturday with a scoring average of 2.882.

Club de Golf de Panamá Scoring Average:

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	35.292	35.285	70.576	
R2	34.674	35.549	70.222	
R3	35.632	34.987	70.618	70.472

For highlights from today's round, or any 2020 event visit [this link](#).

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