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**First-Round Leaderboard**

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Andrew Dorn	63 (-9)
T2	Jake Knapp	64 (-8)
T2	Evan Harmeling	64 (-8)
T2	Kyle Jones	64 (-8)
T2	Mickey DeMorat	64 (-8)
T6	Seven players tied	65 (-7)

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

**Andrew Dorn sets course record, takes first-round lead at Savannah Golf Championship**

**SAVANNAH, Georgia** – In just the second Korn Ferry Tour start of his career, Andrew Dorn set the new course record with a 9-under 63 at the Savannah Golf Championship to claim the first-round lead. Jake Knapp, Evan Harmeling, Kyle Jones and Mickey DeMorat sit one stroke off the pace after posting 8-under 64s on Thursday at The Landings Club – Deer Creek Course.

In his first Korn Ferry Tour start of the season, Dorn began his opening round with three birdies over his first five holes. After a par on No. 15, his sixth hole of the day, he tallied three consecutive birdies on Nos. 16-18 to make the turn at 6-under.

After pars on Nos. 1 and 2, Dorn took advantage of the par-5 third with an eagle to move to 8-under on the round. On the par-4 fifth, the Coastal Carolina University product tallied his seventh birdie of the day to reach 9-under and take the solo-lead. The 28-year-old closed his opening round with four consecutive pars to set a new course record with a 9-under 63.

“I had no idea it was a course record,” Dorn said after the round. “I was fortunate enough to be hitting it really good on the front side. I was able to scramble a little bit coming in. The greens are awesome. It felt great today.”

This week marks Dorn’s first Korn Ferry Tour start since his Tour debut at the 2016 Visit Knoxville Open. On Monday, he attempted to qualify for a spot in this week’s field but had his round postponed until Tuesday due to inclement weather. Despite the delay, Dorn survived the qualifier to earn a tee time on Thursday. After completing his qualifying round on Tuesday, the Cincinnati, Ohio, native only had one day to prepare for his Savannah Golf Championship debut.

“I was just out here and only getting one practice round in, it almost helps you focus even more,” he said. “It gets you super locked in on where to hit it and cautious of where you need to leave it.”

The last two seasons, Dorn spent most of his time competing on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada. With the 2020 Mackenzie Tour season cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dorn turned to the LOCALiQ Series for a place to compete this summer.

The LOCALiQ Series, designed primarily for those who are active members of one of the PGA TOUR’s International Tours, is an eight-tournament series, featuring seven 54-hole stroke-play tournaments and a season-ending 72-hole event.

“All of this year, I’ve been playing the LOCALiQ (Series) events and the way that’s set up, we have one practice round before and three tournament days,” he said. “We’re all pretty comfortable playing one practice round and getting to know the course. I’d say these LOCALiQ events helped me get in the rhythm of just playing one practice round and being ready for the next three or four days.”

Knapp, Harmeling, Jones and DeMorat sit one stroke off the pace at 8-under. Knapp, a rookie on the Korn Ferry Tour, opened his first round with three birdies and two eagles on his first nine holes. After a 7-under 29 on the front nine, the 26-year-old played his final nine holes 1-under to finish with an opening-round 64.

Knapp entered the week ranked 125<sup>th</sup> on the Korn Ferry Tour points list with six made cuts in 17 starts this season. Last year on the Mackenzie Tour, Knapp earned two victories and finished the Order of Merit third behind Paul Barjon and Taylor Pendrith. Entering the week, Pendrith and Barjon ranked second and eighth on the points list, respectively.

“Knowing that we (Barjon and Pendrith) all won last year and were all right around each other and seeing them at the top, it definitely gives me confidence,” Knapp said. “I play practice rounds with Curtis Thompson every week and seeing him win the other week, it lets you know that you can win out here. You need to go in with a mindset of trying to win.”

Harmeling tallied six birdies and an eagle en route to an 8-under 64 on Thursday. The 32-year-old, also in his rookie season on Tour, entered the week ranked 114<sup>th</sup> on the points list and in search of his first Korn Ferry Tour title.

DeMorat, making his first start in Savannah this week, caught fire on his front nine carding seven birdies to post a 7-under 29 before making the turn. On the back nine, the 25-year-old tallied two birdies against one bogey to finish the opening round in a tie for second at 8-under.

Jones, who won earlier this year at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, carded nine birdies against one bogey to post an 8-under 64 on Thursday.

With a victory this week, Jones would join Davis Riley (Panama Championship, TPC San Antonio Championship at the Oaks) and Jared Wolfe (The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar, Wichita Open Supporting Wichita’s Youth) as two-times winners on Tour this season.

Second-round tee times will run from 7:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. on Friday.

**THURSDAY NOTES:**

- \* Thursday’s weather: Sunny with a high of 83. Wind W/SW at 5-10 mph.
- \* 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 first round was played with preferred lies due to heavy rain on Tuesday.
- \* Andrew Dorn hit 13 of 14 fairways, 16 of 18 greens and was 2-for-2 in Scrambling en route to a course record 9-under 63.
- \* This marks the first time that Andrew Dorn has held at least a share of the lead after any round on the Korn Ferry Tour.
- \* Jake Knapp recorded two eagles in his first six holes (No. 3 and No. 6, both par 5s) en route to an 8-under 64 (T2). This marked the third time for the UCLA grad to have two eagles in a round on the Korn Ferry Tour.
- \* In his 20<sup>th</sup> career start on the Korn Ferry Tour, Evan Harmeling carded his career-best round of 8-under 64 (T2).
- \* Seeking a Three-Victory Promotion to the PGA TOUR, Jared Wolfe carded a 5-under 67 (T26) for his lowest score in five rounds at this event.
- \* In his second start at the Savannah Golf Championship, Savannah native Timothy O’Neal posted a 3-under 69 (T67) in his first Korn Ferry Tour start since 2018.
- \* The par-4 10<sup>th</sup> hole (449 yards) played as the hardest hole on Thursday with a scoring average of 4.109.
- \* The par-4 fifth hole (320 yards) played as the easiest hole on Thursday with a scoring average of 3.410.

**\*The Landings Club – Deer Creek Course Scoring Average:**

	<b>Front</b>	<b>Back</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>R1</b>	<b>34.173</b>	<b>35.199</b>	<b>69.372</b>