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### Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Mickey DeMorat	68-65—133 (-11)
2	Scott Gutschewski	68-66—134 (-10)
T3	Will Wilcox	71-64—135 (-9)
T3	Curtis Thompson	70-65—135 (-9)

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

### Mickey DeMorat uses torrid second-round start to take 36-hole lead at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar

**NASSAU, The Bahamas** — Playing his first full season on the Korn Ferry Tour, Mickey DeMorat birdied seven of his first nine holes during Monday's second round at Baha Mar's Royal Blue Golf Course for a 7-under 65, good for an 11-under 133 total and a one-shot lead heading into Tuesday's third round. Two players on No. 9 have yet to finish their second rounds due to darkness. They will resume play tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. ET.

DeMorat opened his week at Royal Blue Golf Course with a 4-under 68 to sit T9, two shots back of overnight leaders Drew Weaver and Jack Maguire. Starting round two on the front nine, the 24-year-old caught fire early, posting birdies on Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 to turn in 7-under 29 and atop the leaderboard at 11-under par.

"I kind of started off shaky on the first hole. I hit it in the right bunker and nearly topped it out of the bunker but made a nice par save to settle down. After that, I made short putts on Nos. 2 and 3 and played aggressively, hitting driver pretty much everywhere I could," he said. "It's always nice to get away from the cut line as early as possible in the second round, so that helped."

After flirting briefly with thoughts of 59 in his head, DeMorat bogeyed the downhill par-3 10<sup>th</sup>, which may have been a blessing in disguise.

"I started thinking about it (59) late on the front nine, because I knew No. 11 was coming up and there were other birdie holes. The bogey on 10 brought me back to reality, though. You just have to look at the bigger picture and say, 'I'm in the hunt, I'm where I want to be,'" said DeMorat.



DeMorat went birdie-bogey on 15 and 16 but closed with a birdie at the docile par-5 18<sup>th</sup> for a second-round 65 and the first overnight lead of his Korn Ferry Tour career.

“This course has a little bit more room to hit it off the tee, so I’m basically hitting driver as hard as I can off of every hole to give myself as many wedges as I can,” he said.

At last week’s Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay, DeMorat was T16 through the first round after a 1-under 71 but bogeyed two of his last three holes in the second round to post 7-over 79, missing the cut by one shot.

The Merritt Island, Florida, native made five starts on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2019 with four made cuts, including a season-best T7 at the Panama Championship in February. At Q-School in December, he finished T5 to lock up a guaranteed 12 starts to open up the season, which is a gamechanger for any young player looking to settle down and prepare like a professional.

“Last year I had to finish top-25 to get into the next week, otherwise I had to go to a Monday qualifier. This year, I can set my schedule and get to the courses early and practice on Mondays. I know that I can compete when I’m playing well, like I did last year, so hopefully I can draw on that,” he said.

As a junior golfer, DeMorat was home-schooled and played on the Merritt Island High School golf team. He started his college career at Eastern Florida State College before transferring to Liberty University, where he played three seasons and finished with a 72.92 scoring average.

After finishing at Liberty in 2018, he made it through local and sectional U.S. Open qualifying to wind up playing against the game’s best at famed Shinnecock Hills Golf Club. DeMorat made headlines when – without a single sponsor on him – he posted rounds of 72-72—144 to sit T14 through 36 holes. He eventually finished T57.

Scott Gutschewski, making the 192<sup>nd</sup> start of his Korn Ferry Tour career this week, birdied four of his final five holes for a second-round 66 to sit one back of DeMorat at 10-under. The 43-year-old was tied for the lead for a time late Monday afternoon, but fell to second place when DeMorat birdied the final hole.

Gutschewski is no stranger to Korn Ferry Tour golf, having won the 2003 Monterey Peninsula Classic and 2008 REX Hospital Open. He is a three-time Korn Ferry Tour graduate (2004, 2008, 2010) and made it through the PGA TOUR Qualifying Tournament in 2006.

Will Wilcox and Qualifying Tournament co-medalist Curtis Thompson are tied for third, two shots back at 9-under 135. Wilcox recorded a second-round 64 (later matched by Sean O’Hair),



which broke the previous Royal Blue course record of 65, set by 2018 FedExCup Champion Justin Rose.

Thompson, a long-hitting former standout at LSU, played the Korn Ferry Tour full-time from 2015 through 2018, but quit playing in 2019, opting instead to caddie for sister and LPGA star Lexi Thompson when he wasn't securing loops as a club caddie. With his T1 finish at Q-School, Thompson is fully exempt for the entire 2020 season.

#### **MONDAY NOTES:**

- \* Monday's weather: Mostly sunny, high of 78, winds W/SW 5-10 mph.
- \* This week's purse is \$600,000 with \$108,000 going to the winner. The champion will also receive 500 Korn Ferry Tour points.
- \* Four-time PGA TOUR winner Camilo Villegas posted a 5-under 67 on Monday to reach 8-under 136, T5 through 36 holes. The native of Colombia is playing the 2019-20 TOUR season on a Major Medical Extension and has 13 starts to earn 287.683 FedExCup points and secure full status.
- \* Villegas suffered through a shoulder injury and has not played a TOUR event since the 2018 Houston Open. He made his return to competition at last week's Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay, where he missed the cut with rounds of 79-75—154.
- \* Billy Kennerly notched rounds of 70-66—136 (8-under) to sit T5 at the tournament's halfway point. The former Clemson University golfer finished the 2019 season at No. 50 on the Regular Season points with six top-25 finishes in 22 starts, including season-best sixth-place finishes at the LECOM Suncoast Classic and Visit Knoxville Open.
- \* Kennerly, who finished T50 at last week's season-opening event, posted T17 and T12 finishes in each of the Korn Ferry Tour's Bahamas tournaments last year.
- \* Harkins, who finished T27 in Exuma last week, was 2-over through five holes on Monday before birdieing eight of his last 13 holes (including his final four) for a 6-under 66. He is currently T5 heading into the third round.
- \* Harkins secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2017-18 season via the Korn Ferry Tour, finishing 21<sup>st</sup> on the Regular Season money list thanks to four top-10 finishes. The former California State University-Chico golfer was one of eight rookies to make the 2018 FedExCup Playoffs but lost his status last season after finishing No. 165 in the FedExCup standings.
- \* Sean O'Hair's second-round 64 tied the low round (to par) of his career in PGA TOUR-sanctioned events: 2008 Sentry Tournament of Champions (Rd. 4, 8-under 65), 2013 Hotel Fitness Championship (Rd. 3, 8-under 64), 2013 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (Rd. 3, 8-under 63).

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

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