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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Will Zalatoris	67 (-5)
T1	Lee Hodges	67 (-5)
T1	Davis Riley	67 (-5)
T1	J.T. Griffin	67 (-5)
T1	Paul Peterson	67 (-5)
T1	Ben Kohles	67 (-5)
T1	Stephen Franken	67 (-5)
T8	Four players tied	68 (-4)

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

Seven players tied for lead at TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes

BERTHOUD, Colorado – Seven players claim a share of the lead after the first round of the TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes at 5-under 67. The tie is the largest 18-hole co-lead of the Korn Ferry Tour season and just one off the all-time record, last accomplished in 2012.

Pacing the field is recent leaderboard mainstay Will Zalatoris—who has finished inside the top six in all three events in the Tour’s Return to Golf—and Paul Peterson, who celebrated his 32nd birthday Wednesday. Joining them are Lee Hodges, Davis Riley, J.T. Griffin, Ben Kohles and Stephen Franken.

Peterson was 7-under through his first 11 holes before bogeys at Nos. 14 and 17. But it was enough to continue a solid stretch for the St. Simons Island, Georgia, resident, who has finished inside the top 20 each of the last two weeks after first gaining entry via open qualifier to The King & Bear Classic at World Golf Village.

“I hit my irons really close on the front nine. I had some good numbers in all day, but I didn’t hit it outside of 10 feet too often on the front and was able to convert some,” Peterson said. “I felt like I hit some really good shots coming in, but No. 17 is a tough one today into the wind. Fourteen, I think, is going to be a tough one for guys. I felt like I played pretty solid all day.

“It was a good birthday present for myself, so I just wanted to go out there and have fun on my birthday.”

Meanwhile it was business as usual for Zalatoris, who has shot 68 or better in 12 of his 13 rounds since play resumed. The Wake Forest product, who is No. 4 in The 25, went bogey-free on the day and eagled the par-5 fifth before adding three birdies in a four-hole stretch at Nos. 12 through 15.

It was a strong start after a bitter finish last week at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, where the 23-year-old saw a putt lip out at the last that would have put him into a playoff.

“I watched it probably 20 or 30 times just hoping it would actually lip in, but that’s golf,” he said. “It’s kind of motivating because I’ve said it a bunch, and I’m not trying to be arrogant, but I know I’m going to win one eventually. I’ve just got to keep putting myself in position, and so far since the restart, I feel like I’ve done a pretty good job of that.”

Riley, who is No. 2 in The 25, also opened with a bogey-free round. The Alabama product, who won the Panama Championship earlier this season, started on the back nine with birdies at Nos. 10 and 12 before adding two more at Nos. 15 and 16. He closed with one more birdie on the front at the par-5 fifth.

“It was pretty stress free; I just kept the ball in front of me and kept it in play,” he said. “Lots of fairways and greens, so that was kind of the key today, simple. Made a few putts here and there. It was a nice day.”

Hodges—a fellow Alabama alum—is also in contention again after finishing 13th here a year ago, while Franken, a rookie out of North Carolina State University, carded one of the best rounds of his young career. The 23-year-old has made four cuts in eight starts with a season-best finish of T36 at the El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA.

The 33-year-old Griffin rounds out the list of first-round co-leaders. The former Georgia Tech standout carded three top-10 finishes in four starts prior to the hiatus but has finished no better than T62 since the Return to Golf.

“I gave some online lessons (during the break) and it was good to get some rent paid, but I don’t know if looking at golf swings is a great idea if you want to play professionally,” he said, laughing. “It got me thinking about my own swing a little more. It was really fun to talk to some people and try to help them as much as I can. But I hope I don’t have to do that in the long run.”

WEDNESDAY NOTES:

* Wednesday’s weather: Sunny with a high of 87. Wind S/SE at 12-17 mph with gusts up to 22 mph.

* The seven players tied for Wednesday’s 18-hole lead is the most on the Korn Ferry Tour this season and most since the 2012 Chiquita Classic where eight players shared the first-round

lead. Eight players have shared the 18-hole lead three other times in Korn Ferry Tour history (2001 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper: 2007 Oregon Classic: 2009 Panama Championship).

* This marks Paul Peterson's fourth start of his Korn Ferry Tour career. He finished T16 at The King & Bear Classic at World Golf Village after earning a spot in the field through open qualifying. Last week, he finished T18 at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. Wednesday also marked Peterson's 32nd birthday.

* In the 13 rounds of the Tour's Return to Golf, Will Zalatoris has finished 12 of those rounds inside the top 10. His lone exception came after the first round of last week's Utah Championship where he sat T12 after 18 holes.

* Zalatoris also opened the 2019 TPC Colorado Championship with a 5-under 67. He went on to finish the week T37 at 4-under 284.

* Of the seven players tied for the first-round lead, only Ben Kohles and Davis Riley have won Korn Ferry Tour titles.

* Riley entered the week ranked second in The 25 with 742 points. Mito Pereira (T117, +3) leads The 25 with 796 points.

* Brett Coletta sits T8 after a first-round 4-under 68. Coletta finished solo-second last year at the inaugural TPC Colorado Championship.

* Nick Hardy (T12, -3) carded a first-round 69 on Wednesday. The round was good for his 13th consecutive round of 70 or better since the Korn Ferry Tour's Return to Golf.

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

* The 7,991-yard course is the longest course the Korn Ferry Tour has played in the Tour's history. The 773-yard 13th hole (par-5) is the longest hole ever played on Tour.

* The par-5 13th played as the fifth-hardest hole on Wednesday with a scoring average of 5.084.

* The par-3 14th hole (273 yards) ranked as the toughest hole on the course on Wednesday with a scoring average of 3.439.

* The par-5 fifth hole (624 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Wednesday with a scoring average of 4.400.

*** TPC Colorado Scoring Average**

	Front	Back	Total
R1	35.632	36.832	72.465

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