

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 15, 2020

CONTACTS:

Preston Smith – PrestonSmith@pgatourhq.com, (706-844-2100)

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Tyrone Van Aswegen	66 (-6)
T1	Austin Smotherman	66 (-6)
T3	Five tied at	67 (-5)

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

**Tyrone Van Aswegen, Austin Smotherman share first-round lead at
TPC San Antonio Championship at the Oaks**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Tyrone Van Aswegen and Austin Smotherman each carded seven birdies and a bogey for matching 6-under 66s to share the first-round lead at the TPC San Antonio Championship at the Oaks. The duo leads five players by one stroke entering Thursday's second round at the Oaks Course, annual host of the PGA TOUR's Valero Texas Open.

Roughly a month ago, Van Aswegen was going under the knife. Doctors had discovered an "aggressive growth" on his thyroid during an MRI for back pain and, after monitoring it for a couple of months, it doubled in size. While the growth was benign, it was large enough that it had to be removed.

"I went on an anesthetic and the first week I felt terrible," reflected Van Aswegen, a 38-year-old originally from South Africa. "It was my first surgery ever. But after that I felt good mentally, but I couldn't do anything for two weeks because of the cut and the stitches."

He returned to the golf course last week on TPC San Antonio's Canyons Course but missed the cut after having to "knock off a bit of the cobwebs." Van Aswegen birdied the par-5 second and the par-3 seventh on the front nine to turn at 2-under. He responded to a bogey at the 10th with back-to-back birdies at 11th and 12th before capping his round with birdies on his final three holes.

"That was a nice finish; I think last week I bogeyed my last three holes," said Van Aswegen. "It was nice to finish strong as opposed to the opposite."

Van Aswegen competed full time on the PGA TOUR from 2014-2019 but lost his card after finishing outside the top-125 in the FedExCup standings last fall. In four previous starts on the Oaks Course for the PGA TOUR's Valero Texas Open, he had never broken 71.

Coming off a week off back home in Dallas, Smotherman was 1-over through four holes, but carded seven birdies over his final 14 to reach 6-under on the day.

“This is a legit TOUR course,” said Smotherman. “The best of the best play here and it tests your stuff. It wasn’t playing easy, but I stayed patient out there...It’s always great playing in Texas. I’m used to the Texas heat and the Texas wind. You just have to execute.”

The 26-year-old switched back to a claw grip while putting this week and tallied just 28 putts on the day, crediting a successful two-putt from 75 feet as jumpstarting his day. Smotherman has made six of 10 cuts thus far, including three top-25.

“I’ve had a few top-20s this year and those are all weeks that I can look back and see five or six shots that I can clean up,” noted Smotherman. “It’s nice to see that not playing my best golf I can still finish 15th. So definitely excited to play four days like I did today. It starts with resting this evening.”

Smotherman was teammates with current PGA TOUR pros Bryson DeChambeau and Harry Higgs at Southern Methodist University and enjoyed a chance to revel in DeChambeau’s most recent win last week.

“I actually did have dinner with him, we were back home last week celebrating his win,” said Smotherman of his long-hitting teammate. “It was generous, he treated us to dinner and had the trophy on the table and everything. It was motivation for me...It’s hard not to bring him up. He’s literally changing the game as we speak.”

Van Aswegen and Smotherman lead four players by a stroke: Ollie Schniederjans, Martin Piller, Paul Barjon, Max McGreevy and Max Greyserman. Six of the top-seven players on the leaderboard all have ties to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Smotherman, Piller and McGreevy all live in Dallas now, while Schniederjans was born there. Barjon lives in Fort Worth, while Van Aswegen is in McKinney, a suburb north of Dallas.

Second-round tee times will run from 7:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday.

WEDNESDAY NOTES:

* Wednesday’s weather: Mostly sunny with a high of 103 degrees and wind S/SE at 7-16 mph with gusts up to 25 miles per hour.

* The 18-hole lead is Van Aswegen’s first since holding the 36-hole lead at the 2019 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. He went on to finish T14 that week and has not finished higher in 10 starts since on the Korn Ferry Tour. Smotherman had never sat better than T3 following a round on the Korn Ferry Tour entering the week.

* Martin Piller has previously made three out of four cuts competing at the Valero Texas Open, including a T4 finish in 2016. His lowest competitive round on the Oaks Course was previously a

4-under 68 (Rd. 2/2016). With six career wins on the Korn Ferry Tour, the former Texas A&M star is one short of Jason Gore's record for victories on Tour.

* After going 1-over through his first seven holes, Ollie Schniederjans went 6-under over his next 11 for an opening 67. Once ranked as high as 77th in the Official World Golf Ranking, Schniederjans is competing on the Korn Ferry Tour this year after failing to finish inside the top-125 in the FedExCup standings last year. Schniederjans broke through with a win and a runner-up finish on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2016 before spending the last three seasons on the PGA TOUR.

* Max McGreevy earned his status on the Korn Ferry Tour this season after an outstanding season on PGA TOUR Series-China in 2019. The former Oklahoma Sooner finished top-25 in 11 of 13 events, including one win, four top-five finishes and nine top-10s. This season he has made just two of 10 cuts but capitalized with finishes of T3 and T14.

* Paul Barjon, originally from the small French island of New Caledonia in the South Pacific, continued his streak near the top of the leaderboard. The 27-year-old former TCU star has led/co-led in three out of 15 competitive rounds since the restart of the season after the three-month hiatus.

* 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 newly created 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 fourth hole (481 yards) played as the hardest hole on Wednesday with a scoring average of 4.391.

* The par-5 14th hole (567 yards) and the par-4 17th hole (347 yards) tied as the two easiest holes on Wednesday with scoring averages of 4.756 and 3.756, respectively.

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	37.083	35.897	72.981	

For the latest information and updates on the Korn Ferry Tour visit www.pgatourmedia.com

Scores available at www.pgatour.com or on the Associated Press wire

Follow the Korn Ferry Tour on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/kornferrytour> on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kornferrytour/ and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/kornferrytour/?hl=en>