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CONTACTS:

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

Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Steven Alker	68-65—133 (-9)
T1	Charlie Saxon	69-64—133 (-9)
T3	Ryan Ruffels	71-63—134 (-8)
T3	Lee Hodges	70-64—134 (-8)
T5	Four tied at	135 (-7)

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

**Steven Alker, Charlie Saxon share 36-hole lead
at WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz**

NORTH PLAINS, Oregon – Charlie Saxon carded six consecutive birdies on Friday on his way to a second-round 7-under 64 and a share of the lead with Steven Alker at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz. Saxon and Alker sit 9-under through 36 holes at the Witch Hollow course at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club.

“I think my previous best [this year] going into this week was two birdies in a row, so I’ll definitely take six,” laughed Saxon. “It was fun. I was hitting good golf shots and the putter got going a little bit. It’s kind of the stretch I’ve been waiting on all year.”

Beginning at the 10th hole, Saxon bogeyed his first and last holes but tallied nine birdies in between to record his lowest round of the year. He became the sixth player this season to count six birdies in a row with circles on Nos. 14-1.

“[a highlight was] Probably my shot on 18,” said Saxon of the risk/reward par-5 hole. “I hit a not-so-great second shot and left it in a weird spot in the rough above a bunker. But I hit a sweet little pitch in there for a tap-in, which was my fifth birdie in a row and made the next one for six.”

Saxon entered the week 76th in the Korn Ferry Tour points during an up-and-down season. The former University of Oklahoma star missed his first four cuts of the season but has earned two top-20 finishes in his last four starts. The 27-year-old has competed full time on the Korn Ferry Tour over the past two seasons after winning twice on PGA TOUR Series-China in 2018. With four wins in China, he is the all-time leading money winner on that Series.

While Saxon enjoyed his own fireworks in the second round, New Zealand native Steven Alker was looking for some stability. After an opening-round 68 that included an ace, five birdies and four bogeys on the scorecard, Alker carded a bogey-free 65 on Friday to grab a share of the lead at 9-under.

“I kept bogeys off the card today and made some nice saves,” said the 49-year-old. “That always keeps the round going. Yesterday was sort of topsy-turvy; I threw a hole-in-one in there but also had a couple of sixes. It was quite a mixed bag. But today I was more committed to the shots and putted well.”

While Alker has made the cut in two-thirds of his starts this year, he has been unable to capitalize with any high finishes. Over his last four events he’s finished T52-T50-67th-T44 and entered the week 138th in the points standings.

“It’s just confidence building; I haven’t had a great year,” remarked Alker. “I’ve made a bunch of cuts but finishing 40th or 50th doesn’t get it done. I’ve just been picking my targets and firing at them. I think today was good for me because I made some nice saves and kept the bogeys off the card.”

In four previous starts at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz, Alker has finished T5-T50-MC-T60.

Saxon and Alker lead Ryan Ruffels and Lee Hodges by one stroke heading into moving day.

FRIDAY NOTES:

- * Friday’s weather: Mostly sunny with a high of 79 degrees and wind N/NW at 4-8 mph.
- * The 36-hole cut fell at 1-under 141 with 69 professionals advancing to the weekend. The cut is three strokes higher than last year’s tournament (4-under 138).
- * The top-five players on the Korn Ferry Tour points list at the conclusion of the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz will receive exemptions into the 2020 U.S. Open at Winged Foot. The top-five players on the points list entering the week, in order, were Davis Riley, Will Zalatoris, Taylor Pendrith, Dylan Wu and Mito Pereira. A U.S. Open berth would be the first for Pendrith and Wu, while Riley (2015), Zalatoris (2018) and Pereira (2019) would each be making their second start.
- * This marks the fifth lead/co-lead Steven Alker has held after a round. Alker has won four times on the Korn Ferry Tour, most recently in 2014. Saxon has never held the 36-hole lead on Tour, though he co-led after the first round of the 2019 Albertsons Boise Open. Only two of 14 36-hole leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this season.
- * Charlie Saxon set a new career-best with six consecutive birdies on Nos. 14-1 on Friday. His previous best was four straight birdies at the 2019 Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco. He had not recorded more than two birdies in a row this season in 37 competitive rounds entering the day.

* Australian Ryan Ruffels (-8, T3), who held the 54-hole lead last week before finishing T2, tied the low round of the tournament thus far with an 8-under 63 to skyrocket from T52 to begin the day to T3. Rick Lamb (-6, T9) also carded a 63 in the second round.

* Lee Hodges (-8, T3) birdied five of his first six holes en route to a back-nine 29 after starting at the 10th hole. Hodges has finished top-20 in five straight events (and seven of his last eight) entering the tournament.

* This week's purse is \$800,000 with \$144,000 going to the champion. The champion will also receive 550 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 par-3 fifth hole (185 yards) played as the hardest hole on Friday with a scoring average of 3.441.

* The par-5 fourth hole (533 yards) played as the easiest hole on Friday with a scoring average of 4.309.

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	36.878	35.192	72.071	
R2	36.132	34.263	70.395	71.233

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