

### Third-Round Notes – Saturday, April 3, 2021

**Course Setup:** Par 70 / 6,891 yards

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#### Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Andrew Novak	62-67-67—196 (-14)
2	David Lipsky	68-64-67—199 (-11)
T3	Billy Kennerly	69-67-64—200 (-10)
	Stephan Jaeger	67-67-66—200 (-10)
	Seth Reeves	70-65-65—200 (-10)

#### Quick Links

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Tee Times](#)
- [Tournament Media Site](#) (interviews and other resources available for download)

#### Andrew Novak mitigates double bogey, sets up wire-to-wire bid at Emerald Coast Classic at Sandestin

**MIRAMAR BEACH, Fla.** – Andrew Novak changed accommodations this morning as spring breakers descended upon the panhandle, was called the wrong name by an enthusiastic fan, and made what could have been a disastrous double bogey at the daunting par-4 11th. But through it all, Novak held on to his three-stroke lead Saturday at the Emerald Coast Classic at Sandestin.

Novak entered the third round with a three-stroke lead over his playing partner, David Lipsky. Following a birdie at the par-4 10th, Novak’s fourth of the day, his lead swelled to six shots.

Then came the 522-yard, par-4 11th, which was into the wind and played as the toughest hole of the day. Novak took relief from the cart path before his second shot, but the drop actually cut off his angle to the green and forced him to punch out. Novak double-crossed the shot, hit into the water, and eventually salvaged a double bogey.

“I really wasn’t even thinking about the water,” Novak said. “I was essentially laying up. I had a pretty clean look at the fairway... I just made a bad swing and paid for it. That hole was playing so hard. I think David [Lipsky] hit 3-wood in and was just short of the green. But I like how I recovered.”

Novak, a Wofford College alumnus, rattled off five two-putt pars and drained a 30-foot birdie putt at the par-5 17th to mitigate the damage.

“I knew I wanted to get at least one (birdie) coming in. I had a look at No. 15 and missed it,” Novak said. “I thought my irons were great today. I was hitting my spots, executing shots how I wanted to. Still have to go get a little work with the driver. Knowing I’m playing well is a nice feeling to have going into tomorrow.”

As Novak looks to become the first wire-to-wire winner since Kramer Hickok won the 2018 DAP Championship presented by NewBrick, he will sleep on the first 54-hole lead of his career in a different rental property. When Novak found out a switch was necessary, his wife coordinated with Greyson Sigg, who had a nonrefundable reservation for this week but made the field for the Valero Texas Open on the PGA TOUR.

“He didn’t know he was going to be in the tournament... he wasn’t even in the top 10 until the last day (at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship); he backdoored the top-10,” Novak said. “He thought he was going to be here. It just kind of worked out this way.”

Lipsky will once again join Novak in the final pairing Sunday.

Lipsky, who earned his first career Korn Ferry Tour victory at last July’s TPC San Antonio Challenge at the Canyons, carded a 3-under 67 and his second consecutive bogey-free round. Lipsky’s last bogey came 47 holes ago at the par-3 16th, which was the seventh hole of his opening round Thursday. The Los Angeles, California native also birdied the par-4 18th for a third consecutive day.

Final-round tee times will run from 7:20 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. local time Sunday off the first tee.

#### Saturday Notes

- Six players have held three-stroke leads after 54-holes this season, but only three converted those leads into victories
- Novak projects to jump from 30th to 12th in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings with a win; he is also looking to become the fifth 18-hole leader/co-leader to go on to win this season
- Novak continues to lead the field in putts per round (25)
- After playing his first five holes at 1-over par Thursday, Novak played his next 41 holes at 16-under par before his double bogey at No. 11 Saturday
- Lipsky (10 of 12) and Novak (15 of 19) rank third and fifth, respectively, in scrambling this week
- Stephan Jaeger (T3 / -10) led the field with eight birdies Saturday; he did not make a par from Nos. 7-15 but played the stretch at 4-under par with seven birdies, a bogey, and a double bogey
  - Jaeger played on the PGA TOUR last week at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship; he has five top-10s in his last eight Korn Ferry Tour starts, a run which began with a win (the fifth of his KFT career) at the Albertsons Boise Open last August
- Seth Reeves (T3 / -10) carded a second consecutive 5-under 65; he previously won this season at the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna
- Billy Kennerly (T3 / -10) birdied four of his last seven holes for a 6-under 64; he entered the final round of February’s LECOM Suncoast Classic tied for the lead but played the final four holes of regulation at 4-over par and missed a three-way playoff for the title by one stroke
  - Kennerly is the only member of the T3 trio without a Korn Ferry Tour victory
- Josh Hart (6th / -9) continues to lead the season-high five Monday qualifiers (down from eight) who survived the 36-hole cut
  - Hart is 36 years old, has conditional Mackenzie Tour status, and is making the second Korn Ferry Tour start of his career and the first since the 2008 Miccosukee Championship; his professional career has mostly been spent on the Florida mini-tours
- There were two bogey-free rounds carded Saturday – Lipsky (67), Max McGreevy (64)
- Saturday’s low round was a 6-under 64 carded by McGreevy (T15 / -5), Austin Smotherman (T10 / -6), and Kennerly (T2 / -10)

- Saturday's Weather: mostly sunny, high of 65 degrees, wind E/SE at 7-12 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 Emerald Coast Classic at Sandestin is the fourth event of 2021 and the 27th of the 2020-21 combined season
- The combined 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour schedule will conclude with 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded in August at the 2021 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna, with an additional 25 cards awarded at the conclusion of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals

#### **Third-Round Course Statistics**

- Toughest Hole – No. 11, Par 4, 522 yards (4.530 – three birdies, 25 bogeys, six double bogeys or worse)
- Easiest Hole – No. 7, Par 5, 631 yards (4.500 – two eagles, 35 birdies, five bogeys or worse)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) – 34.258
- Scoring Average (Back 9) – 34.667
- Scoring Average (Total) – 68.924

#### **Cumulative Course Statistics**

- Scoring Average (Front 9) – 35.633
- Scoring Average (Back 9) – 35.036
- Scoring Average (Total) – 70.669