

## Second-Round Notes – Friday, May 28, 2021

**Course Setup:** Par 71 / 7,225 yards

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### Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Cameron Young	64-68—132 (-10)
2	Nick Hardy	64-69—133 (-9)
3	Adam Svensson	65-69—134 (-8)
4	Rob Oppenheim	68-69—137 (-5)

### Quick Links

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

### Cameron Young leads for sixth consecutive round at Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank

**GLENVIEW, Ill.** – Nine men in the Korn Ferry Tour’s 32-year history rattled off back-to-back wins. One of them is playing this week’s Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank, and enters the weekend in a much different place than Cameron Young, who sits atop the leaderboard for a sixth consecutive round.

Last week, Young battled rain-soaked conditions and emerged with a wire-to-wire victory (solo leads in all four rounds), a feat last accomplished on the Korn Ferry Tour by Kramer Hickok at the 2018 DAP Championship presented by NewBrick. This week at The Glen Club, Young is 10-under par through two rounds, one stroke ahead of Northbrook, Illinois native Nick Hardy.

Bidding to become the 10th player in Tour history with consecutive wins, Young shot a bogey-free 7-under 64 in cool, rainy weather Thursday afternoon, and followed it with a 3-under 68 as the wind chill bordered on freezing Friday morning.

The only player in the field with fewer than three bogeys through 36 holes, Young’s lone mishap was a three-putt bogey at the par-4 10th, the opening hole of his second round.

“It’s been pretty easy this week to focus on this week and each day at a time, just because it is so hard, and it’s cold and windy and wet,” Young said. “If you start thinking about other stuff, you don’t have much of a chance out there. You just have to tell yourself you love it the whole way around. If you admit you’re cold, or you admit your toes hurt, you’re going to start hitting worse shots and have a lot less fun. As soon as you start doing that, it gets harder to tell yourself you love it. It sounds sarcastic, and it sounds stupid out there sometimes, but we were going around the whole day saying what a nice day it was and that we couldn’t be happier.”

After the opening bogey, Young made eight consecutive pars and turned to the par-5 first.

The Scarborough, New York native hit a 5-wood from 256 yards out and drained a 22-foot eagle putt from the back fringe. Young made 8-footers for birdie at the par-5 fifth and par-4 eighth, but missed a 5-footer for birdie at the par-3 ninth.

“It’s tricky out there,” Young said. “I felt like I was hitting it better than yesterday. The difference between yesterday (and today) was I didn’t miss anything and I holed out a wedge. Today, I missed some and didn’t hole out a wedge. Had a nice chance for birdie on No. 10, and as it got a foot short of the hole it caught a downwind gust and went five feet by, and I missed the one coming back. Didn’t really do anything wrong on the first hole (of the round) to make a bogey, but it’s just going to happen here. I have no complaints with how I played.”

Current projections have Young moving from 26th to 12th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings with another win. Prior to last week’s victory, Young ranked 70th.

A rookie who started the year with no status, earned Special Temporary Membership with an unforgettable four-week run in August after a Monday qualifier, and never led after a single round on Tour until this current run of *six in a row* has a PGA TOUR card in his sights. Life is moving pretty fast for Young, and he’s soaking in every bit of it.

“When I started the year, the goal was to get to the PGA TOUR as fast as I could,” Young said. “I love it out here, and I love playing the Korn Ferry Tour, but it’s not where I want to be for the rest of my career. I don’t think the goals have changed. I’m just closer to them.”

Quincy, Illinois native Luke Guthrie made a miraculous run of his own back in 2012.

A two-time All-American out of University of Illinois, Guthrie debuted as a professional at the FedEx St. Jude Classic, finishing T19 in his first PGA TOUR start. Guthrie followed up with a T5 at the John Deere Classic, a T18 at the True South Classic, and made his way to the Korn Ferry Tour by late July. After top-10s in each of his first four Korn Ferry Tour starts, Guthrie rebounded from a missed cut with back-to-back victories at the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron and the Sanderson Farms Championship.

Guthrie finished the season ranked second on the Korn Ferry Tour money list (with a mere 10 starts) and earned his PGA TOUR card. He stayed there until the end of 2016, when he lost his card and dropped back down to the Korn Ferry Tour.

After maintaining some form of status the last four seasons, Guthrie entered the week with 23 consecutive missed cuts. A pair of 1-under 70s have Guthrie in T12 position as he prepares for his first weekend tee time since February 2020.

“It’s been by far the most difficult time in golf. The least amount of fun in golf I’ve had in my whole life,” Guthrie said. “Feeling close, people telling you you’re close, it’s right around the corner, and you keep shooting the same score every day. And it’s not for lack of hard work. You convince yourself it’s going to be the day every day. It just kept building and building and became its own little animal.”

“My wife, Kaitlyn, has encouraged me every step of the way. If this was me a decade ago, when golf defined me a little more... if I had a bad day on the course, I wasn’t happy until I had a good day. I can confidently say that’s not been the case. I was still a happy individual. It’s just not fun to be bad at your job.

“It felt good to get a few in front of (the cut line) for the first time ever, it feels like, and think about other things.”

Like weekend plans. And anything warm.

“A nice deep dish pizza sounds about right on a day like today,” Guthrie said of his post-round plans. “And a seat warmer in the car and pumping 80 degrees in my face.”

Welcome back to the weekend, Luke Guthrie.

Third-round tee times will run from 7:24 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. local time Saturday off the first tee.

### Friday Notes

- The 36-hole cut was made at 2-over par; 74 professionals and an amateur will play the weekend
- While only eight 36-hole leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this season, two of the last three Korn Ferry Tour tournaments were won by 36-hole leaders/co-leaders
- Young’s 3-under 68 tied the second-lowest score posted Friday, only trailing **Jonathan Randolph** (T5 / -4), who shot a 4-under 67
  - The only other 68s were shot by **Chandler Blanchet** (T22 / -3) and **Brian Richey** (T22 / -3)
- Zero bogey-free rounds were recorded Friday
- Young could become the first back-to-back winner on the Korn Ferry Tour since Michael Putnam in 2013 (El Bosque Mexico Championship presented by INNOVA, Mid-Atlantic Championship)
  - There are 10 occurrences of a player winning consecutive Korn Ferry Tour events, with Jason Gore being the only player to accomplish the feat two different times
- Young – who played collegiately at Wake Forest – entered the 2020-21 season with zero status, but Monday qualified into the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna last July and posted consecutive finishes of T11, T14, T6, T2 to earn Special Temporary Membership status
- **Nick Hardy** (2nd / -9), a Northbrook native and two-time All-American at University of Illinois, is in the top five after 36 holes for the second time in his Korn Ferry Tour career
  - Hardy was T3 through two rounds of the Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics last September
- One of Hardy’s five birdies came at No. 7, the toughest hole on the course through two rounds
- **Patrick Flavin** (T5 / -4), who won the 2017 Illinois Open Championship at The Glen Club as an amateur, made his second cut in six career Korn Ferry Tour starts; he previously made the weekend at the 2019 Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS and finished T49
  - Prior to Friday, Flavin never finished a Korn Ferry Tour round ranked higher than T27
  - Flavin played the 2019 season on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica and finished sixth in the Order of Merit, one spot out of earning Korn Ferry Tour status for the 2020-21 season
- **Andy Pope** (T8 / -3), a Glen Ellyn native, missed three consecutive cuts entering this week and is inside the top 10 after 36 holes for the sixth time in his Korn Ferry Tour career
  - Pope’s only top-10 positioning after 36 holes since the start of 2018 was when he stood T8 at the 2020 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper last July

- **Vince India** (T12 / -2), a Chicago resident and Deerfield native who won the 2018 Illinois Open Championship at The Glen Club, is coming off a T6 finish – his first top-10 since August 2020 – at last week’s AdventHealth Championship
  - India finished T19 in 2019, when this event was last hosted by The Glen Club
- **Brad Hopfinger** (T22, -1), a Chicago resident who won the 2014 Illinois Open Championship at The Glen Club, had eight missed cuts, a withdrawal, and a T44 in his last 10 starts
  - Hopfinger was T4 at this event last September, and followed it with a T3 the next week
- **Chris Naegel** (T8 / -3) paces the three Monday qualifiers who survived the 36-hole cut; his last Korn Ferry Tour start came at this event last September, when he finished T37
- **Paul Barjon** (T50 / +2) needs to complete the tournament to cross the 1,700-point threshold the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe number for players to finish inside the top 25
- Weather: Mostly cloudy, windy (NE at 20-28 mph, gusts up to 35 mph), high of 48 degrees
- 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 Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank is the 11th event of 2021 and the 34th 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

#### **Second-Round Course Statistics**

- **Toughest Hole** – No. 7, Par 4, 475 yards (4.554 – four birdies, 55 bogeys, 13 double bogeys or worse)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 1, Par 5, 559 yards (4.581 – five eagles, 61 birdies, nine bogeys)
- **Scoring Average (Front 9)** – 36.932
- **Scoring Average (Back 9)** – 36.074
- **Scoring Average (Total)** – 73.007
  - Fifth round of the 2020-21 season which played two-plus strokes over par

#### **Cumulative Course Statistics**

- **Toughest Hole** – No. 7, Par 4, 475 yards (4.454 – 14 birdies, 103 bogeys, 21 double bogeys or worse)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 1, Par 5, 559 yards (4.520 – nine eagles, 141 birdies, 13 bogeys)
- **Scoring Average (Front 9)** – 36.899
- **Scoring Average (Back 9)** – 35.842
- **Scoring Average (Total)** – 72.741