

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, May 29, 2021

Course Setup: Par 71 / 7,225 yards

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Cameron Young	64-68-67—199 (-14)
2	Nick Hardy	64-69-70—203 (-10)
3	Adam Svensson	65-69-70—204 (-9)
4	Patrick Flavin	69-69-68—206 (-7)

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Cameron Young extends lead at Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank

GLENVIEW, Ill. – Turns out Cameron Young is mortal after all. And the rest of the field still couldn't catch him.

For the first time in two weeks, Young made a costly error and *knew* the position he put himself in was one of the toughest at The Glen Club's links-style course. Young blasted his approach at the par-4 second over the green, left his chip shot off a downhill lie short and in the rough, then chipped on and two-putted for six. The double bogey negated an eagle from the par-5 first, but it was not enough to knock Young off the top spot of the leaderboard at the Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank.

"That's about the only one I've made over the last couple weeks," Young said of the mistake at No. 2. "I've kept it in play, made a lot of smart decisions. That was really the first bad mistake I made, hitting it somewhere where I knew it was really hard to get up and down."

Young logged five birdies and a bogey the rest of the way, carding a 4-under 67 and extending his lead over Northbrook, Illinois native Nick Hardy to four strokes. It is the seventh consecutive Korn Ferry Tour round Young has at least a share of the lead, as well as sixth time in the last seven rounds he leads outright.

The Scarsborough, New York native entered Saturday's third round as the only player with fewer than three bogeys through 36 holes this week. Although Young doubled the second and bogeyed the par-3 11th later in the round, he still has fewer holes played over par than anyone in the field. Young only made five bogeys, tied for the third fewest of the tournament, in last week's wire-to-wire win (solo leader after every round) at the AdventHealth Championship.

In addition to making fewer mistakes than anyone else, Young's three eagles (one in each round) are tied with University of Illinois alum Luke Guthrie for the most in this week's field. Young's round-opening eagle Saturday was a drive in the fairway, followed by a 6-iron from 223 yards out, and a 25-foot putt.

"My goal standing on the first tee was to hit the fairway. That's what I did," Young said. "To make the putt was a bonus and a nice way to start."

A par save off another downhill lie behind No. 3 green gave Young a quick boost, which he turned into birdies at Nos. 4 and 5. The birdie at the par-5 fifth came after Young escaped the trees on his second shot and knocked a wedge to eight feet. Four pars later, Young drove the 333-yard par-4 10th and notched a two-putt birdie. A bogey from the greenside bunker at the 11th cost him a shot, but Young got it back with a tap-in birdie at the par-4 15th. Young capped the round with a two-putt birdie from just left of the green at the par-5 18th.

"I don't think I hit it that great. I made a couple putts early," Young said. "After that, I didn't make much. I think I have a lot more in me."

Four strokes is double what Young's lead was after 54 holes in Kansas City, Missouri a week ago. Even with the added cushion, Young knows he can ill afford to play cautiously, or try to protect his lead Sunday afternoon.

"If I do that, I'll get passed really quickly," Young said. "Nick [Hardy] showed some fire on the back nine."

Hardy, a two-time All-American and the 2018 Big Ten Player of the Year at the University of Illinois, rallied from a 3-over 39 on the front nine with a bogey-free 4-under 31 on the back nine.

Even as Hardy provoked roars from the crowd after a long, double-breaking birdie putt went down at the par-3 11th, as well as dazzling approaches at the par-4 13th and 15th, Young stayed in his own zone.

Scott McKean, Young's caddie, is a major reason why they're able to operate within their own little world. The two were close friends at Wake Forest University. McKean was also the best man at Young's wedding. Young's connection to McKean feels especially important this week, given the fact this event raises funds to support the Evans Scholars Foundation and its efforts to send caddies to college on full tuition and housing scholarships.

When Young needed a caddie for last August's Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron, the third week the four-tournament run which earned him Special Temporary Membership status, McKean picked up the bag. Working for cybersecurity company, McKean took some time off, but also worked remotely while on the road. Young called McKean two weeks later for the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance. Once again, McKean took off work and joined Young in Newburgh, Indiana.

Young made an even bigger ask in late September. He needed a caddie for three straight weeks. McKean asked if he could call back with an answer.



“He called me back an hour and a half later and had quit his job,” Young said. “He’s giving up a lot to be away from home a lot, and not necessarily get to play golf, do other things he likes to do. But we have a great time. We have a lot of fun. It makes the travel and the long days a lot easier.”

Drawbridge, the cybersecurity company McKean left, is embroidered on Young’s polos. It’s an ever-present reminder of what the stakes are, what sacrifices have been made, and what potentially lay ahead.

A victory Sunday would move Young from 26th to 12th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings. More simply, finishing off a second win in as many weeks would take Young to the verge of his first PGA TOUR card.

“Very thankful to be where I am. I knew what it felt like to be missing Monday qualifiers and making \$50 in mini-tour events,” Young said. “I’m most of the way to where I want to go. I want that last little bit to be soon. That’s where I have my eyes set.”

Final-round tee times will run from 6:54 a.m. to 1 p.m. local time Sunday off the first tee.

Saturday Notes

- In 33 events this season, 18 leaders / co-leaders after 54 holes went on to win the tournament
- 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 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
- Prior to last week’s wire-to-wire win, Young never held a lead after a Korn Ferry Tour round
- Young is tied for first in the field in greens in regulation percentage (42 of 54 / 77.8 percent) and scrambling (10 of 12 / 83.3 percent); he entered the week ranked 65th and 93rd, respectively, on Tour this season
- Young was one of five players who shot 67 or better Saturday, with the low round of the day being a 5-under 66 from **Chandler Blanchet** (T5 / -6), **George Cunningham** (T14 / -4), and **Tag Ridings** (T5 / -6)
- Prior to Saturday, **Nick Hardy**’s (2nd / -10) best 54-hole position in 41 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour was T3 at the 2020 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar; he finished the tournament T3, which remains his best finish on the Korn Ferry Tour
- **Patrick Flavin** (4th / -7), who won the 2017 Illinois Open Championship at The Glen Club as an amateur, shot a 3-under 68 and carded one of Saturday’s two bogey-free rounds
 - Prior to this week, Flavin never finished a Korn Ferry Tour round ranked higher than T27, and missed four cuts in five career Korn Ferry Tour starts
 - 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
- **Vince India** (T8 / -5), 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

- **Luke Guthrie** (T8 / -5), a Quincy native and University of Illinois alum who snapped a streak of 23 consecutive missed cuts this week, sits in the top 10 after 54 holes for the first time since he was T10 at the 2019 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank
- **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
- **Chris Naegel** (T25 / -1) continues to pace 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
- Weather: Sunny, breezy (NE at 12-20 mph, gusts up to 25 mph), high of 60 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

Third-Round Course Statistics

- **Toughest Hole** – No. 11, Par 3, 218 yards (3.240 – 10 birdies, 20 bogeys, four double bogeys)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 1, Par 5, 559 yards (4.373 – two eagles, 44 birdies, one bogey)
- **Scoring Average (Front 9)** – 36.040
- **Scoring Average (Back 9)** – 34.773
- **Scoring Average (Total)** – 70.813

Cumulative Course Statistics

- **Toughest Hole** – No. 7, Par 4, 475 yards (4.385 – 22 birdies, 119 bogeys, 21 double bogeys or worse)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 1, Par 5, 559 yards (4.491 – 11 eagles, 185 birdies, 14 bogeys)
- **Scoring Average (Front 9)** – 36.613
- **Scoring Average (Back 9)** – 35.486
- **Scoring Average (Total)** – 72.098