

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, May 30, 2021

Course Setup: Par 71 / 7,225 yards Media Contact: Zach Dirlam – <u>ZachDirlam@pgatourhq.com</u>, (517-262-5109)

Lead	lerboard	

Pos.	Name	Scores	
1	Cameron Young	64-68-67-67—266 (-18)	
2	Adam Svensson	65-69-70-67—271 (-13)	
3	Taylor Dickson	66-74-68-64—272 (-12)	
4	Ollie Schniederjans	71-69-72-62—274 (-10)	
T5	Three Tied	275 (-9)	

Quick Links

- Leaderboard
- <u>Tournament Media Site</u> (interviews and other resources available for download)

Cameron Young completes back-to-back victories at Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank

GLENVIEW, III. – Is Cameron Young the best golfer in the world right now? It's certainly a fascinating conversation.

The Scarborough, New York native finished off a five-stroke victory at the Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank with a 4-under 67 Sunday, totaling an 18-under 266 at The Glen Club. And for a second consecutive week, Young was atop the leaderboard the whole way.

Since Young shared first place with Northbrook, Illinois native Nick Hardy after Thursday's opening round, this week's victory does not technically qualify as a wire-to-wire win, a feat Young accomplished last week at the AdventHealth Championship. By holding at least a share of the lead for all eight rounds the last two weeks, however, Young set a Korn Ferry Tour record for consecutive rounds with at least a share of the lead; he led outright in seven of those eight rounds.

Young became the 10th player in the Korn Ferry Tour's 32-year history to win back-to-back tournaments, as well as the first player to do so since Michael Putnam in 2013.

Player	Year	Events Won	Dates Won
Tommy Armour III	1994	Dayton Open Greater Cleveland Open	June 5 June 12
Jerry Haas	1994	Tri-Cities Open Sonoma County Open	September 25 October 2
Chris Smith	1997	Siouxland Open Cox Classic presented by Lexus of Omaha	August 3 August 10



Pat Bates	2001	Hibernia Southern Open Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance	October 21 October 28
Jason Gore	2002	Oregon Classic presented by Kendall Automotive Group Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron	September 15 September 22
Jason Gore	2005	Korn Ferry Tour Players Cup Scholarship America Showdown	July 10 July 17
J.J. Killeen	2011	Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank Cox Classic presented by Lexus of Omaha	July 31 August 7
Ben Kohles	2012	Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship Cox Classic presented by Lexus of Omaha	July 29 August 5
Luke Guthrie	2012	Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron WNB Golf Classic	September 16 September 23
Michael Putnam	2013	El Bosque Mexico Championship presented by INNOVA Mid-Atlantic Championship	May 26 June 2
Cameron Young	2021	AdventHealth Championship Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank	May 23 May 30

"I feel like my good has always been good enough to win," Young said. "I drive the ball a lot better than I have previously. It's something that's improved dramatically over the last year or two. You can look back and say I missed a bunch of cuts early this year, but it wasn't that different. It's just a little bit here and there and not being as comfortable on the greens, and that really has changed how I feel out here and has dramatically changed my scoring. Just that little bit of confidence in making one or two more a day is adding up a lot."

Although Young carried a four-stroke lead into the final round, he consistently took extremely aggressive lines both off the tee and into the green. It resulted in the largest margin of victory since Tom Lewis' five-stroke win at the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance.

Young's opening tee shot found the heather well right of the first fairway, but he was hardly concerned. It was the exact same spot he drove the ball Thursday. Young just blasted his second shot through the fringe at the back of the green, then made a delicate up and down for birdie.

An approach inside 10 feet led to another birdie at the par-4 second, and a 20-footer fell for a third consecutive birdie at the par-4 third, putting the tournament firmly in his grasp.

"I knew that if I got off to a slow start, that (Nick Hardy) was going to be right there in a heartbeat, and if it wasn't him, it was going to be somebody else," Young said. "If you get out 1-over through eight, you'll have been passed at some point, and that's something I wasn't interested in doing today."

Young's aggression got the better of him at the par-5 fifth. Firing at a tucked pin with water left of the green, Young found the penalty area and opened the door for the field with a bogey. It was the only glimmer of hope the field had all afternoon.



"Just a juvenile mistake. I was mad at myself for that one," Young said. "I wish I had that one back, but I was going to make a mistake somewhere, so that just happened to be it."

When a lengthy birdie putt to the upper level of the par-4 seventh hit the flagstick and fell in, Young took a commanding six-stroke lead. Although runner-up Adam Svensson pulled within three shots down the stretch, Young slammed the door with birdies at the par-3 17th and par-5 18th, once again playing without an ounce of fear, and with no regard for the water protecting those pins.

"I pulled it a hair," a smiling Young said of his tee shot at the 17th, which he put to eight feet. "The last thing I was going to do there was push something right, which is probably exactly why I hit it in the water on No. 5, but it worked out a little better there."

While no player in Korn Ferry Tour history has won three consecutive events, the stars may be aligning for Young. At next week's REX Hospital Open in Raleigh, North Carolina, Young, who played collegiately at Wake Forest University, will have plenty of fan support with family and friends in town.

Another victory would immediately send Young to the PGA TOUR via a three-win promotion.

"That's what I want. To win again," said Young, who jumped from 26th to 13th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings. "I think there would be something wrong with me if I didn't say that. I do want to be (on the PGA TOUR) as fast as I can be, and if it means winning again, it's winning again."

So after two consecutive victories, after sitting atop the leaderboard for eight straight rounds, after going from Monday qualifier status, to Special Temporary Membership, to the verge of a PGA TOUR card, with a caddie who <u>quit his job</u> to carry the bag full-time, and after the season's most dominant performance, is Cameron Young the best golfer in the world right now?

"I don't know about that," Young said. "I haven't proven that over a period of time, so I don't think I'm there yet. I think I have a long way to go."

His answer could be different come next Sunday.

Sunday Notes

- Young is the 14th player to win consecutive Korn Ferry Tour starts (not necessarily consecutive tournaments), and this marks the 15th time a player won consecutive Korn Ferry Tour starts
 - The Korn Ferry Tour record for wins in consecutive starts is three, held by Jason Gore, who won the 2005 Korn Ferry Tour Players Cup (July 10), Scholarship America Showdown (July 17), and Cox Classic presented by Lexus of Omaha (August 7)
 - $\circ~$ Gore is also the only player in Korn Ferry Tour history to win consecutive starts and tournaments multiple times
- Paul Barjon (T38 / -2) crossed 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
- Ollie Schniederjans (4th / -10) tied the course record with a 9-under 62; he tied D.A. Points (2004), Jim Rutledge (2005), and Kris Mikkelsen (2002)
 - Schniederjans also tied the second-lowest score of his career on the Korn Ferry Tour, and it marked his lowest round on Tour since a 9-under 61 at the 2016 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics



- Adam Svensson (2nd / -13) recorded his first top-10 since winning the Club Car Championship at The Landings Club in March; he now has one runner-up finish and two wins in 113 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour
- **Taylor Dickson** (3rd / -12) logged his first top-10 in his 25th career start on the Korn Ferry Tour; his career-high finish prior to Sunday was a T11 at the Huntsville Championship earlier this month
- Nick Hardy (T5 / -9), a Northbrook native and two-time All-American while at the University of Illinois, recorded his third top-five (and fourth top-10) in his last six starts; he posted back-to-back top-fives for the first time in his 42 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour
 - Hardy's 1-over 72 Sunday was his first over-par round since a 2-over 72 on April 30, the second round of the Huntsville Championship
- **Patrick Flavin** (T5 / -9), who won the 2017 Illinois Open Championship at The Glen Club as an amateur, logged his first top-25 in his sixth career start on the Korn Ferry Tour; his top-25 qualifies him for next week's REX Hospital Open
 - Prior to this week, Flavin only made one cut in five Korn Ferry Tour starts, with his highest finish being a T49 at the 2019 Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS
 - 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 (T12 / -6), a Chicago resident and Deerfield native who won the 2018 Illinois Open Championship at The Glen Club, posted back-to-back top-15s for the third time this season
 - India came into this week fresh off a T6 finish his first top-10 since August 2020 at last week's AdventHealth Championship
- Luke Guthrie (T18 / -5), a Quincy native and University of Illinois alum who snapped a streak of 23 consecutive missed cuts this week, had his first top-25 since the 2020 Panama Championship
- **Chris Naegel** (T24 / -4) led the three Monday qualifiers who survived the 36-hole cut, and posted his first top-25 and highest Korn Ferry Tour finish since a solo fourth at the 2019 WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz
 - Naegel's top-25 finish qualifies him for next week's REX Hospital Open
- There were 11 bogey-free rounds Sunday, four more than the first three rounds combined
- Weather: Sunny, high of 69 degrees, with wind E at 6-15 mph
- This week's purse is \$600,000 with \$108,000 going to the champion, Cameron Young; he also receives 500 Korn Ferry Tour points
- The Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank was 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

Final-Round Course Statistics

- Toughest Hole No. 7, Par 4, 475 yards (4.173 seven birdies, 14 bogeys, three double bogeys)
- Easiest Hole No. 1, Par 5, 559 yards (4.507 three eagles, 37 birdies, two bogeys or worse)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) 35.027
- Scoring Average (Back 9) 33.973
- Scoring Average (Total) 69.000