

### Third-Round Notes – Saturday, May 1, 2021

**Course Setup:** Par 70 / 7,118 yards

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#### Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Paul Barjon	65-67-64—196 (-14)
T2	Mito Pereira	69-65-65—199 (-11)
	Brandon Wu	68-65-66—199 (-11)
T4	Cameron Young	71-66-63—200 (-10)
	Davis Riley	68-66-66—200 (-10)

#### Quick Links

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

#### Paul Barjon takes three-stroke lead, eyes breakthrough win at Huntsville Championship

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** – If anyone at the Huntsville Championship is due for a Sunday breakthrough, it's Paul Barjon.

The Frenchman has been here a handful of times this season. He took a share of the lead into the weekend multiple times. He led after 54 holes. He even came from behind and played his way into a playoff. Maybe this time around a three-stroke lead atop "Huntsville Mountain" will be what Barjon needs to summit a Korn Ferry Tour leaderboard for the first time in his career.

Playing in the final pairing, Barjon carded a 6-under 64. Only one player went lower than Barjon Saturday at The Ledges. The former Texas Christian University golfer made seven birdies, including one at the par-4 2nd, statistically the toughest hole of the third round. Barjon also shot a bogey-free 3-under 32 on the course's challenging back nine.

The lone blemish on Barjon's scorecard came at the par-3 4th, where his tee shot plugged in a greenside bunker. Barjon left his second shot in the bunker, but got up and down for bogey and minimized the damage; he birdied three of the next five holes to take the outright lead, then padded it with birdies at Nos. 14 and 17.

"This course looks like you can really take it low. Then you miss the green and you're in the canyon," Barjon said. "Tomorrow I'll be patient, follow the game plan and see where it takes me."

Barjon found the winner's circle three times in three seasons on the Mackenzie Tour, winning twice in 2016 and once more in 2019, when he finished atop the Tour's Order of Merit and regained Korn Ferry Tour status. This is Barjon's second stint on the Korn Ferry Tour, and a win Sunday would move him to the brink of securing a PGA TOUR card.

Good results have come in bundles this season for Barjon, who has three T2 finishes, a T3 finish, and another top-10 finish in 24 starts. But a win continues to elude him.

Barjon entered the final round of the 2020 El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA three strokes off the lead. He lost in a three-man playoff. In his first start following the COVID-19 pandemic hiatus, Barjon carried a share of the lead into the weekend at the Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass. He played the next three rounds at 1-over par and finished T14. A month later, Barjon co-led the TPC San Antonio Challenge at the Canyons after 36 holes, only to finish T3 as David Lipsky ran away from the field with weekend rounds of 10-under 62 and 6-under 66. Barjon started the following Sunday in T2 position, and ended it in the same place. Three weeks later, Barjon had a share of the 54-hole lead at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz. A final-round 2-over 73 meant another T2 for Barjon.

“I’ve been able to get over all of them,” Barjon said. “Finishing second is finishing second. It’s not like you don’t win and you finish 50th. It’s still a good result. Sometimes you play really good and finish in the top five. You did your best, and you didn’t win. In Mexico, I lost in a playoff. That’s always a bummer. But it’s still a good learning experience.

“It was hard on the Mackenzie Tour to win. It’s hard here. It’s a goal of mine to win here and on the PGA TOUR, play in the Ryder Cup. But you have to trust the process, and if it happens, it happens.”

Barjon struggled in the early part of the calendar year, but a putter switch ahead of last week’s Veritex Bank Championship brought him back to form. Following an even-par opening round, Barjon tied the Texas Rangers Golf Club tournament course record with a 9-under 62. Barjon rode that round to a T15 finish, and the momentum he built is still rolling this week in Huntsville.

“I putted with my old putter for 3.5 years,” Barjon said. “It’s one of these things, sometimes you need a change to kick things off. Maybe it will last in the bag. Who knows? The old one is still in the car.”

New putter, new Paul Barjon? Sounds like a winner.

Final-round tee times will run from 6:56 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. local time Sunday off the first tee.

#### Saturday Notes

- Barjon projects to jump from 15th to 7th in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings with a win; he would be the 16th player (in 30 events) to win after being a 54-hole leader/co-leader this season
- University of Alabama alum **Davis Riley** (T4 / -10) shot a second consecutive 4-under 66 and made five birdies in his first 10 holes; he could earn an immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR with a win Sunday, which would be his third of the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season
- **Mito Pereira** (T2 / -11) collected his first career Korn Ferry Tour win in the second event of the season, the Country Club de Bogota Championship in February 2020; he has four top-10s this season, but his last one came 10 starts ago at the Evans Scholar Invitational last September
  - Sunday will be the first time Pereira is in the final pairing since the 2020 El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA last March
- **Brandon Wu** (T2 / -11), No. 7 in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings, shot a 4-under 66 for his second consecutive round of 66 or better, a feat he last accomplished five starts ago

- Wu's best finish in four KFT starts in 2021 is a T14 at the LECOM Suncoast Classic, but he ended 2020 with four top-10s in six starts, including a win at the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance
- **Cameron Young** (T4 / -10) tied the lowest round of the tournament with a 7-under 63; he made seven birdies (three of which came in his first three holes) and eagled the par-5 10th
  - Young entered the week with four consecutive missed cuts and just one top-50 finish in his 10 Korn Ferry Tour starts since back-to-back top-10s last August
  - Young tied **Adam Svensson's** (T42 / -2) second-round 63 for the low round of the week
- **J.T. Griffin** (T13 / -6) carded a 3-under 67 for Saturday's only bogey-free round
- **Lee Hodges** (T67 / +3) shot a 5-over 75 and slipped down the leaderboard; Hodges was born in Huntsville, grew up in nearby Ardmore, and played at UAB and Alabama
- Monday qualifiers Joseph Winslow (-5) and Sahith Theegala (-3) sit T20 and T31, respectively
- Weather: Mostly sunny with a high of 80 degrees and wind E/NE at 5-10 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 Huntsville Championship is the seventh event of 2021 and the 30th 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. 2, Par 4, 425 yards (4.357 – 12 birdies, 18 bogeys, 9 double bogeys or worse)
- Easiest Hole – No. 10, Par 5, 548 yards (4.400 – 6 eagles, 34 birdies, 4 bogeys)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) – 34.886
- Scoring Average (Back 9) – 35.143
- Scoring Average (Total) – 70.029

### Cumulative Course Statistics

- Toughest Hole – No. 15, Par 4, 491 yards (4.375 – 23 birdies, 108 bogeys, 26 double bogeys or worse)
- Easiest Hole – No. 10, Par 5, 548 yards (4.420 – 22 eagles, 203 birdies, 25 bogeys or worse)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) – 35.058
- Scoring Average (Back 9) – 35.021
- Scoring Average (Total) – 70.079