

First-Round Notes – Thursday, November 4, 2021

Course Setup: The Landings Club – Marshwood (Par 71 / 7,000) and Magnolia (Par 70 / 6,954)

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Jonathan Brightwell	64 (-7)
T2	Sam Stevens	65 (-6)
	Patrick Newcomb	65 (-6)
T4	Andy Ogletree	66 (-5)
	Thomas Rosenmüller	66 (-5)
T6	Six players tied	67 (-4)

Quick Links:

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

PGA TOUR University alum Jonathan Brightwell scrambles to first-round lead at Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament's Final Stage

SAVANNAH, Ga. – Jonathan Brightwell looked almost apologetic when his winding 30-foot birdie putt dropped at the par-4 18th. How could anyone blame him? The 23-year-old punched out of the trees and scrambled for pars the majority of his back nine. Brightwell found all the right gaps and birdied three of the final five holes for a bogey-free 7-under 64 on The Landings Club's Marshwood Course, giving him a one-stroke lead at the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament's Final Stage.

"I got away with some shots. I missed two or three tee balls in the woods," Brightwell said. "I grew up playing courses where I was in the trees a lot. If you can find a gap, usually everyone is good enough to try to get near the green. I was fortunate enough to have some gaps. I was able to just get it up near the green, get it up and down, which was nice and kept the momentum going."

While Brightwell birdied Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 14, 16, and 18, one of his momentum-extending saves came at the par-4 17th, where he "snap-hooked" his tee shot into the woods "and made a par somehow."

Brightwell made his way to Final Stage via the Second Stage site in Albuquerque, New Mexico; he flirted with the cut line the first three rounds but closed with a 6-under 65 and finished T2. With a ticket to Final Stage secure, Brightwell made the nine-hour drive home to Edmond, Oklahoma.

Back in Edmond, Brightwell routinely plays friendly matches at Oak Tree Country Club with a contingent of professionals. The group includes 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals graduate Joshua Creel, former PGA TOUR member Michael Gellerman, and TOUR winners Viktor Hovland and Matthew Wolff.

"I learned if you're not around guys who are better than you, or just as good... you're not going to get better," Brightwell. "We all just try to beat each other. It's some really good golf."

A University of North Carolina-Greensboro graduate who played his fifth and final collegiate season at University of Oklahoma, Brightwell was exempt into Second Stage by virtue of his top-15 finish in the inaugural PGA TOUR University class. (The top-five had Korn Ferry Tour status late in the 2020-21 season and were exempt to Final Stage, while Nos. 6-15 had Forme Tour status for the 2021 season and were exempt to Second Stage.) Brightwell logged two top-25s in eight Forme Tour starts across June, July, August, and September.

“It was awesome. I needed to learn how to make a cut,” Brightwell said. “I needed to learn what it was like to play for money.”

The mission of PGA TOUR University is to elevate the path to the PGA TOUR for college golf’s top seniors. It also incentivizes players to stay in school longer and continue to work toward a degree. In Brightwell’s case, it gave him a reason to use the extra season of eligibility granted to NCAA student-athletes because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than turn professional after graduating from UNC-Greensboro, Brightwell transferred to Oklahoma for a fifth season and finished 10th in the PGA TOUR University Class of 2021.

“It’s a huge advantage. It changed my path,” Brightwell said. “I was just going to play four years (of college golf) and try to do Q-School, grind it out at First Stage, Second Stage, and then here. I wind up at Oklahoma, get into Second Stage, and now I’m here. I’m very fortunate.”

Brightwell leads Sam Stevens and Patrick Newcomb, who both posted 6-under 65s on Marshwood. Of the 23 lowest scores to par Thursday, only three came from The Landings Club’s Magnolia Course.

Second-round tee times will run from 8:45-10:57 a.m. ET off the first and 10th tees of both courses. PGA TOUR LIVE will have [live streaming coverage](#) for Sunday’s final round via the NBCA Sports App and GolfChannel.com.

First-Round Notes

- The Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament’s Final Stage determines which players will earn guaranteed starts for the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season.
 - The medalist (and ties) receives fully exempt status for 2022
 - Finishers 2-10 (and ties) are guaranteed entry into the first 12 events of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season
 - Finishers 11-40 (and ties) are guaranteed entry into the first eight events of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season
 - The remainder of the field receives conditional status for 2022
- **Sam Stevens** (T2 / -6), an Oklahoma State University alum, is a third-generation professional golfer; his grandfather, Johnny, made 30 PGA TOUR starts and made 21 cuts (mostly across the 1968 and 1969 seasons), while his father, Charlie, played collegiately at Oklahoma and Texas Christian University before he made two Korn Ferry Tour starts in 1992
- **Patrick Newcomb** (T2 / -6) finished sixth on the 2021 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Order of Merit, winning the final event of the season to jump seven spots and earn an exemption to Final Stage; he last held Korn Ferry Tour status in 2018
- Georgia Tech university alum and 2019 U.S. Amateur champion **Andy Ogletree** (T4 / -5) made seven birdies against two bogeys en route to a 5-under 66 on Marshwood

- **Thomas Rosenmüller** (T4 / -5) made six birdies against one bogey en route to a 5-under 66 on Marshwood; his girlfriend is a professional tennis player who received a late call to compete in a tournament in Orlando earlier this week
- **Tripp Kinney** (T24 / -2 on Magnolia) and **Blake Dyer** (T37 / -1 on Marshwood) led the eight players who made it through all stages of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, beginning with pre-qualifying
- Weather: mostly cloudy, high of 63 degrees, wind N/NE at 8-14 mph
- This week's purse is \$480,000, with \$50,000 going to the medalist

First-Round Course Statistics (Marshwood Course)

- Toughest Hole – No. 13, Par 4, 511 yards (4.378)
- Easiest Hole – No. 15, Par 5, 523 yards (4.473)
- Scoring Average (Front 9 – Par 36) – 35.405
- Scoring Average (Back 9 – Par 35) – 35.041
- Scoring Average (Total – Par 71) – 70.446

First-Round Course Statistics (Magnolia Course)

- Toughest Hole – No. 16, Par 4, 526 yards (4.547)
- Easiest Hole – No. 1, Par 4, 349 yards (3.880)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) – 35.653
- Scoring Average (Back 9) – 36.453
- Scoring Average (Total – Par 70) – 72.107