

Second-Round Notes – Friday, February 19, 2021

Course Setup: Par 71 / 7,113 yards (R2 Scoring average: 71.494)

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Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Brent Grant	65-66—131 (-11)
2	Brett Coletta	63-69—132 (-10)
T3	Billy Kennerly	66-67—133 (-9)
T3	Hayden Buckley	68-65—133 (-9)

Quick Links:

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

Brent Grant earns 36-hole lead at LECOM Suncoast Classic

LAKEWOOD RANCH, Fla. – Brent Grant fired a flawless 5-under 66 during a windy second round at the LECOM Suncoast Classic to take a one-stroke lead over Brett Coletta after 36 holes. Grant finished at dusk just as play was suspended due to darkness at Lakewood National Golf Club. One player elected to wait until Saturday morning to finish their round.

“I don’t know [playing partners] Jack and Callum all that well, but I looked at both of them on the tee of the eighth and was like ‘We’re all going to finish, right?’” laughed Grant. “I’m really thankful for that, I really didn’t want to come back when it was 45 degrees tomorrow morning.”

After a sparkling 65 in his first Tour round of 2021, Grant backed it up with four birdies on his first nine (back nine) to turn in 4-under 31. He added a birdie at the par-4 fourth and parred out to reach 11-under at the halfway point of the tournament.

“Yesterday I hit the ball really well and controlled distance well,” said Grant, a 24-year-old who grew up in Hawaii. “My caddie Tony and I were really dialed in. My short game was a little off with that one bogey yesterday. But then today it saved me. I had some pretty crazy shots that I had to hit and I pulled them off. My putter was really solid.”

The lead after a round is the first of his career in his 20th tournament. Grant is best known for qualifying for the 2014 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship – a team event – by himself at 18 years old. Grant’s partner, a doctor, was called into surgery at the last minute so Grant went at it alone and shot a 63.

Grant is in the midst of an extended rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour due to the combined 2020-21 season induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 19 starts he has collected five top-25s and a career-best T8 finish at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. He also ranks second on Tour in driving distance with an average of 325.5 yards per drive.

“The offseason was really lengthy, four or five months,” said Grant. “But I’ve been ready to go for a few weeks. I’ve been working...I probably worked the hardest I’ve ever worked in my life [this offseason].”

After an opening 8-under 63, Brett Coletta followed it up with a 2-under 69 to reach 10-under through 36 holes. The Australian opened with two rounds in the 60s for the fifth time in his 17th start during the combined 2020-21 season. He finished inside the top-20 in the previous four instances, including a season-best T3 mark at the Club Car Championship at The Landings Club.

“It’s really nice to come out of the gates running hot,” said the 24-year-old Coletta. “And I finished well last year too. I know it was a four-month break, but you still get the same feel from being in contention and being around the top of the leaderboard. It’s a feeling that is hard to replicate in any other form of practice or playing with your mates. I’m ecstatic to be back in contention out here.”

Grant leads Coletta by one and each of Billy Kennerly and Hayden Buckley by two. Buckley was the last player to gain entry into the field after earning a spot through the alternate list after a withdrawal on Thursday morning.

The second round will resume at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Third-round tee times will run from 8:15 a.m. to 12:17 p.m. off of the first tee on Saturday and will be finalized after the conclusion of the second round.

Friday Notes

- Friday’s weather: Scattered showers with a high of 77 degrees and wind NW at 15-20 mph
- Under windy conditions and dropping temperatures, the scoring average rose from 68.972 in the first round to 71.494 in the (unfinished) second round
- While the round was suspended due to darkness with one player remaining on the course, the projected cutline is 3-under 139; defending champion Andrew Novak will miss the cut after rounds of 67-73
- The LECOM Suncoast Classic is the first event of 2021 and the 24th event of the 2020-21 combined season; Wake Forest University alum Will Zalatoris leads the points standings entering the week and has led for the past nine weeks; Grant currently projects to move to 26th in the points standings with a victory while also looking to become the sixth 36-hole leader/co-leader to go on to win this season
- Albin Choi, who caddied for PGA TOUR star Sungjae Im last year, completed his first round on Friday morning with a birdie to earn the solo first-round lead at 9-under 62; the 62 matched the course record (set by Robert Garrigus in 2020) and set a new low round of his Korn Ferry Tour career; Choi carded a 76 in the second round to sit T42
- After there were seven bogey-free rounds in the first round, there were four in the second round, highlighted by Hayden Buckley’s 6-under 65; other players with bogey-free rounds were Brent Grant, Austin Smotherman and Rafael Campos
- Entering the week No. 2 in the points standings, Taylor Pendrith (T9) is one of four players who could overtake leader Will Zalatoris in the standings this week; he is the only player who could overtake Zalatoris without a win as a solo runner-up finish (300 points) would also accomplish the feat
- 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 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 – Par-4 2nd (4.404)
- Easiest Hole – Par-4 fourth (3.426)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) – 36.083
- Scoring Average (Back 9) – 35.411
- Scoring Average (Total) – 71.494