

COMPLETED First-Round Notes – Friday, July 16, 2021

Course Setup: Panther Creek Country Club – Par 71 / 7,228

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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Rick Lamb	62 (-9)
T2	Chad Ramey	63 (-8)
T2	Erik Barnes	63 (-8)

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

Rick Lamb leads after first round at Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – After only players in the morning wave finished their rounds on Thursday, the first round was completed on Friday morning and was highlighted by a late surge by Rick Lamb. Lamb birdied his final four holes for a first-round 9-under 62 to lead by one entering the second round at the Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS.

After play was called due to heavy rain at 3:29 p.m. on Thursday, the first round resumed at 8 a.m. on Friday before eventually concluding at approximately 11:45 a.m. Second-round tee times were adjusted to run from 10:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. on Friday at Panther Creek Country Club.

“I’ll take four birdies in a row anytime, it’s nice to finish the round that way,” laughed Lamb after completing his last seven holes on Friday morning. “But there’s a lot of golf left and it’s going to be a long weekend with all of this rain, a lot of stopping and starting.”

Lamb is coming off a puzzling missed cut last week in Colorado after rounds of 78-75 over the first two days but tallied nine birdies and no blemishes on his scorecard for his opening round in Springfield.

“The game feels good,” said the 30-year-old. “Pretty good bounce-back after last week. Last week was weird for me. I thought my game was in a pretty good place and then I went out and played terribly. It’s good to come back strong after that.”

Lamb, a University of Tennessee alum, credited a fellow Volunteer with an improved mindset this week.

“I had a conversation with Brennan Webb, he’s the coach at Tennessee right now,” said Lamb. “He gave me some good advice, just sticking to what I’m trying to do versus getting caught up in the results. That seemed to work today.”

Lamb leads Chad Ramey and Erik Barnes by one stroke. With a win, Ramey would overtake Stephan Jaeger for the top spot in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings and be in position to claim full exempt status on the PGA TOUR next season.

T.J. Vogel, Charlie Wi and John VanDerLaan carded the low rounds of the Thursday morning wave with a trio of 7-under 64s.

First-Round Notes

- Friday's weather: Cloudy with isolated showers, a high of 78 degrees and wind W at 5-10 mph
- The Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS is the 17th event of 2021 and the 40th (of 43) of the 2020-21 combined regular season; Rick Lamb projects to move inside the top-60 in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings; just eight of 39 first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this season
- Lamb has accumulated five top-25s in 27 starts this season with a top finish of T8 at the 2020 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics
- With a win, Chad Ramey would surpass Stephan Jaeger for the top spot in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings after an 11-week stretch of Jaeger at the top; the top player in the regular season points standings earns full exempt status on the PGA TOUR for the 2021-22 season and a spot in the 2022 PLAYERS Championship
- Defending champion Brett Drewitt (-6, T8) is looking to become the first player in the Korn Ferry Tour's 32-year history to successfully defend his title; five players have finished runner-up as they attempt to defend their title (most recent: Lanto Griffin/2018 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation)
- New Zealand native Steven Alker (-5, T17) is bidding to become the oldest champion in the history of the Korn Ferry Tour at 49 years, 11 months and 21 days on Sunday; the current record for the oldest champion is Kirk Triplett at 49 years, 4 months, 29 days at the 2011 News Sentinel Open
- Chicago product and former University of Illinois star Nick Hardy opened with a 66 (T17)
- 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

First-Round Course Statistics

- Toughest Hole – Par-4 first (4.179)
- Easiest Hole – Par-5 16th (4.256)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) – 34.513
- Scoring Average (Back 9) – 34.167
- Scoring Average (Total) – 68.679