

First-Round Notes – Thursday, June 24, 2021

Course Setup: Falmouth Country Club – Par 71 / 7,326

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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Steve LeBrun	64 (-7)
T1	Brett Stegmaier	64 (-7)
T1	Brent Grant	64 (-7)
T1	Jim Knous	64 (-7)

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- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Tee Times](#)
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Four tied atop leaderboard at Live and Work in Maine Open

FALMOUTH, Maine – Steve LeBrun, Brett Stegmaier, Brent Grant and Jim Knous each carded opening-round 7-under 64s to co-lead after the first round of the inaugural Live and Work in Maine Open. The quartet leads 57 players under par entering the second round at Falmouth Country Club.

LeBrun, Stegmaier and Grant each went low in the morning wave while Knous led the scoring in the afternoon wave. Stegmaier led the field with nine birdies in the first round, including at his first two holes of the day (Nos. 10-11) and last three holes of the day (Nos. 7-9).

“I hit it really well and I made putts,” said Stegmaier matter-of-factly. “I don’t feel like I’m pressing out there and I just want to enjoy myself and finish the last five events strong and maybe find some way to sneak into the Finals.”

Stegmaier, a 37-year-old who grew up in nearby Connecticut, entered the week just 134th in the points standings with two top-25s and no top-10s in 28 starts. Similarly, Steve LeBrun entered the week without a top-25 finish this season and 149th in the points standings. The 43-year-old from southern Florida turned professional in 2000 and was honest when asked about his standing with only six events remaining in the Korn Ferry Tour season.

“It’s been a brutal year or two years; I’m not going to lie,” said LeBrun. “But I’ve been preparing for a week to win, whether it’s here or on the PGA TOUR, for a long time. It’s been a lot of years. I’ve been off and on this Tour since 2004. You’d like to think that all of the stuff that you’ve gone through would prepare you for that time when you have a putt on the last hole.”

In contrast to Stegmaier and LeBrun, 25-year-old Brent Grant is in the midst of his rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour. He entered the week off of back-to-back top-10 finishes, but those finishes sandwiched a five-week break to rest an aggravated wrist injury.

“I had a tear in my TFCC joint on the side of my wrist,” explained Grant. “But the surgeon told me they didn’t want to touch it if it wasn’t always in pain, they basically told me to suck it up and go play...I did not touch a club for three weeks.”

Currently at 71st in the points standings, Grant is looking to retain his Korn Ferry Tour membership by finishing inside the top 75 or earn his first PGA TOUR card by finishing the season inside the top 25. With a win, Grant projects to move to 30th in the standings.

With a 64, Knous carded the lowest round in the afternoon by two strokes. The Colorado School of Mines alum birdied two of the three toughest holes on the course (Nos. 2 and 8) to reach 64.

“I made probably four or five putts in that 10-15-foot range, a few long two putts, and then I made a bomb on No. 2,” said Knous. I think that was 40 feet and it was one of the hardest holes on the course, so that’s a plus.”

Second-round tee times will run from 6:30 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. on Friday off of the first and 10th tees at Falmouth Country Club.

First-Round Notes

- Thursday’s weather: Sunny with a high of 75 degrees and wind S/SE at 8-14 mph
- The Live and Work in Maine Open is the 15th event of 2021 and the 38th (of 43) of the 2020-21 combined season; Stegmaier and LeBrun each project to move inside the top-75 with a win, while Brent Grant projects to move inside the top-30....Knous projects to move to 81st; just eight of 37 first-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this season
- Grant had one of 12 eagles at the course on Thursday at the par-5 17th hole
- With a win, LeBrun would become just the second player in his 40s to win on the Korn Ferry Tour this season, joining Tommy Gainey (44)
- Shawn Warren, the head professional at the host facility of Falmouth Country Club, opened in 2-under 69 (T27)
- In his first round as a professional, Josh McCarthy opened with a 67 (T9)
- Hoke Carlton (+2, T97) had an ace in his debut round on the Korn Ferry Tour; the Davidson alum made the hole-in-one at the 201-yard 11th hole
- 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 10th (4.400)
- Easiest Hole – Par-5 sixth (4.316)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) – 37.794
- Scoring Average (Back 9) – 37.084
- Scoring Average (Total) – 71.877