

Second-Round Notes – Friday, April 16, 2021

Course Setup: Par 72 / 7,112 yards **Media Contact:** Preston Smith – <u>PrestonSmith@pgatourhq.com</u>, (706-844-2100)

Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Adam Svensson	68-64—132 (-12)
2	Kevin Dougherty	66-68—134 (-10)
Т3	Four tied at	135 (-9)

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- <u>Tournament Media Site</u> (interviews and other resources available for download)

Adam Svensson matches course record to take lead at MGM Resorts Championship at Paiute

LAS VEGAS – Canadian Adam Svensson matched the course record on Friday to reach 12-under and take a two-stroke lead at the halfway point of the MGM Resorts Championship at Paiute. Svensson leads Kevin Dougherty by two strokes and four players by three at Paiute Golf Resort's Sun Mountain course.

With calmer conditions, the field averaged more than three strokes lower on Friday (scoring average of 69.455) compared to the first round (73.026) while the cut fell at 3-under 141 with 73 professionals advancing to the weekend.

"A completely different day than yesterday," said Svensson. "Yesterday was cold and windy, but today was more of a relaxed day. I just had the putter rolling whereas yesterday was just a fight to make pars and make a couple of birdies here and there."

Svensson, who broke through with his second Korn Ferry Tour win three weeks ago in Savannah, Georgia, enjoyed an adventurous day on Friday. The 27-year-old scattered 11 birdies, three bogeys and four pars across his 18 holes, including a stretch of eight birdies in 10 holes from Nos. 2-11. The 11 birdies in a single round were the most of Svensson's Korn Ferry Tour career, besting 10 in a round at the 2018 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS.

"I think I've done it one other time in my life, but it was a long time ago," laughed Svensson. "You feel like the hole is big, you're hitting your lines and you're feeling confident. You just have to make good strokes and be feeling it out there."

With his win three weeks ago, Svensson leaped from 40th to 12th in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings. A win this week would guarantee him a return to the PGA TOUR this fall after competing there during the 2018-19 season.



"I learned that you don't have to play perfect golf," said Svensson of his win in Savannah. "I hit a lot of bad shots out there today and a lot of good shots. You just kind of have to make those par saves and those birdies when you can."

Svensson is chased by Dougherty who is seeking his first career victory after three runner-up finishes in his career. Dougherty, an Oklahoma State alum, has earned finishes of 2nd-MC-T36-T16-T10 over his last five starts.

Third-round tee times will run from 6:55 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. on Saturday off of the first tee.

Friday Notes

- Friday's weather: Sunny with a high of 73 degrees and wind E/NE at 8-13 mph
- The cut was made at 3-under 141 with 73 professionals advancing to the weekend; Lee Hodges (-3, T59) entered the week tied with Will Zalatoris for the active made cuts streak (16) and carded a 75 in the first round but rebounded with a 66 on Friday to make the cut and become the consecutive made cuts leader (17)
- The MGM Resorts Championship at Paiute is the fifth event of 2021 and the 28th of the 2020-21 combined season; Svensson would project to move to third in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings with a win and would secure a return to the PGA TOUR this fall; six of 27 second-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this season
- Svensson's 8-under 64 matches the course record originally set by Gary Wise in 1996
- After only one bogey-free round on Thursday in windy conditions (Max Greyserman), there were 27 in the second round
- Harry Hall (-8, T7) and Alex Kang (-7, T16) lead the contingent of Las Vegas residents in the field
- Ethan Marcus (-4, T35) made the cut in his Korn Ferry Tour debut; Seung-Yul Noh (-6, T22) also made the cut in his first Korn Ferry Tour start since 2013; in his last start at the 2013 Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, Noh won to earn his way back to the PGA TOUR; Monday qualifier Lukas Euler also made his first career cut on Tour (in his second start)
- 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-3 8th (3.234)
- Easiest Hole Par-5 16th (4.331)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) 34.792
- Scoring Average (Back 9) 34.662
- Scoring Average (Total) 69.455
- Scoring Average (Cumulative) 71.240