

## Second-Round Notes – Friday, July 23, 2021

**Course Setup:** Highland Springs Country Club – Par 72 / 7,115

**Media Contact:** Preston Smith – [PrestonSmith@pgatourhq.com](mailto:PrestonSmith@pgatourhq.com), (706-844-2100)

### Second-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Roberto Diaz	64-67—131 (-13)
T1	Alex Kang	66-65—131 (-13)

### Quick Links:

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

### Roberto Diaz, Alex Kang claims 36-hole lead at Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Roberto Diaz and Alex Kang each reached 13-under through two rounds to earn the 36-hole lead at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper. The duo leads four players by one stroke at the halfway point of the tournament at Highland Springs Country Club.

Diaz was 1-under on his round before a stretch of four consecutive birdies from Nos. 6-9 to finish.

“It was great; I made an amazing par on 5,” said Diaz. “I hit a bad wedge in and had a bad lie in the rough, but I hit about a 12-footer for par. That really set me up for the next hole. I just kept hitting my lines with the putts and they started falling in...I haven’t really paid attention to the leaderboard. I had a peek on the ninth tee and saw that I was tied for the lead. But I’m trying to make as many birdies as possible.”

Entering the week 23rd in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings, Diaz is seeking a strong finish to solidify his standing inside the top-25. The top-25 players in the standings at the conclusion of the regular season earn PGA TOUR membership for the 2021-22 season while the top-75 players retain their Korn Ferry Tour status in 2022.

“I’ve been in this position before, I finished 25th a couple of years ago so I know what it feels like to be in this position,” reflected Diaz. “The only thing you can do is not be scared. I don’t think I’m scared. I think good players thrive to be in this position. If you’d have told me a couple of years ago that I would be in 23rd, I would have taken it.”

Earlier this season, Diaz broke through with his maiden Korn Ferry Tour victory, a one-stroke win over Peter Uihlein at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS. The win came three months to the day after the birth of his son, his first child.

“I’ve had a great year so far,” said Diaz. “I had my first win, my kid was born, if nothing else, if I get my card or not, I will be fine. I’ve played great golf so far so I’m just enjoying where I’m at.”

Competing in the third-to-last group of the day, Kang birdied his final two holes to match Diaz's 13-under total. Kang is one of six players without a bogey or worse through the first two days.

"It seems like I haven't hit a lot of greens through the last few tournaments, so I'm trying to hit a lot of greens, give myself more chances, and not get into trouble," said Kang, the brother of LPGA Tour star Danielle Kang. "Instead of being so aggressive, kind of try to win the tournament with the putter."

With uncertain status this season, Kang has made a habit of using local caddies each week. This week he has paired up with a member out at Highland Springs Country Club.

"I've been taking local caddies because I'm not sure if I'm getting into these golf tournaments," said Kang. "I've got this kid, pretty nice kid, I like him a lot. He gives me some good reads and I like him."

Kang entered the week 191st in the points standings with only 10 starts. With only three events remaining in the regular season, he would likely need a win to secure Korn Ferry Tour status for the 2022 season.

Four players sit one stroke off the lead, including 49-year-old Steven Alker and Simmons Bank Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation champion Austin Smotherman.

The third round will run from 7 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. off of the first tee on Saturday at Highland Springs Country Club.

### Second-Round Notes

- Friday's weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 90 degrees and wind SW at 6-12 mph
- The Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper is the 18th event of 2021 and the 41st (of 43) of the 2020-21 combined regular season; Diaz projects to move inside the top-10 and lock up his PGA TOUR return with a win while Kang projects to move to 81st; just 11 of 40 second-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win this season
- Defending champion Max McGreevy opened with rounds of 64-69 to sit T7 after the first round as he looks 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)
- Roberto Diaz (-8, T3) is squarely on the bubble of the top 25 players in the regular season points standings with three events remaining; Diaz entered the week 23rd with 1,375 points
- With a two-way T3 or better, Seth Reeves (-11, T7) would pass the threshold of 1,650 points that the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe number to guarantee a finish inside the top-25 at the conclusion and earn a PGA TOUR card
- Making his Korn Ferry Tour debut, Davis Thompson (-7, T45) made the cut and will play the weekend
- After carding an even-par 72 in the first round, former Dallas Cowboys quarterback and current NFL on CBS analyst Tony Romo missed the cut after a second-round 81; Romo was competing in the event as an amateur on a sponsor's exemption
- Amateur Khavish Varadan (-6, T58) made the cut in his Korn Ferry Tour debut, which also happens to be his debut in any PGA TOUR-sanctioned event; Varadan is a rising sophomore at

the University of Alabama at Birmingham who finished runner-up at the 2021 Conference USA Championship

- The Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper is one of four events from the Korn Ferry Tour's inaugural 1990 season that still remain today with each tournament contested at Highland Springs Country Club
- 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 12th (4.227)
- Easiest Hole – Par-5 11th (4.305)
- Scoring Average (Front 9) – 34.844
- Scoring Average (Back 9) – 34.825
- Scoring Average (Total) – 69.669