

## Second-Round Notes – Friday, August 6, 2021

**Course Setup:** Par 71 / 7,045 yards

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### Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Bobby Bai	67-62—129 (-13)
2	Peter Uihlein	65-65—130 (-12)
3	Joshua Creel	63-68—131 (-11)
T4	Six Tied	132 (-10)

### Quick Links

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

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## **Bobby Bai goes from one stroke out of PGA TOUR Monday qualifier playoff to a one-stroke lead at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank**

**FARMINGTON, Utah** – Monday qualifier regular Bobby Bai carded a career-low 9-under 62 and moved to 13-under par across his first two rounds, taking a one-stroke lead at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. Bai, a native of Shantou, China who moved to the United States as a junior in high school, holds his first 36-hole lead in the 31st start of his rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour.

Bai closed a 6-under 29 on the back nine with four consecutive birdies, turned to the front nine and two-putted for birdie at the par-5 second, and drained a 34-footer for eagle at the par-5 seventh for the outright lead. Bai's 62 marked both his career-low round and career-low score to par, beating the 6-under 64 he shot at the 2021 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics this past June.

"(I) was aggressive off the tee and had a lot of wedges in. I took my chances and hit them close," Bai said. "My driver is pretty good off the tee. Wedges are getting better. These two days the wedges have been pretty good."

Bai estimated he played 20 PGA TOUR Monday qualifiers before he earned co-medalist honors and a spot in the Barbasol Championship field last month. At this week's Barracuda Championship Monday qualifier, the 23-year-old missed a playoff by one stroke; he boarded a flight to Utah that evening.

"Yeah. I've been trying Korn Ferry (Tour) Mondays and PGA (TOUR) Mondays since 2019 when I turned pro," Bai said. "It's been like this traveling for Mondays. You get used to it."

Bai's most remarkable Monday qualifier story involves the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. In 2019, Bai's first professional season following a decorated collegiate career at University of Central Florida, he won his third start on PGA TOUR China. Following the win, Bai flew directly to Utah for the

tournament's Monday qualifier; he missed a playoff by one stroke and returned to the PGA TOUR China circuit a month later.

"I started to play pre-qualifiers since college as an amateur," Bai [told China Daily](#) following his successful Monday qualification for the Barbasol Championship. "I also played a few Monday qualifiers when I traveled over from China, like arriving on site in the morning and then taking a two-hour nap in the men's locker room before teeing off."

In 10 Korn Ferry Tour starts following a career-high solo sixth at the 2021 Huntsville Championship this past May, Bai missed five missed cuts and logged just one top-45. The recent slump dropped Bai to 128th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings, leaving him well off the Korn Ferry Tour Finals bubble. Bai knows exactly what he needs to move into the top 75 over the next two weeks.

"I just need a win," Bai said. "It doesn't help making the cut, or top-10. I have to try to win it."

Spoken like a golfer who's played more than a couple Mondays.

Third-round pairings will run from 7:45 a.m. through 1:55 p.m. local time off the first tee.

#### Friday Notes

- The 36-hole cut was made at 5-under par, with 75 professionals advancing to the weekend
- **Bobby Bai** projects to jump from 128th to 63rd in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings with a win
- Bai's previous high position after 36 holes in a Korn Ferry Tour event was T6 at the 2021 Huntsville Championship, where he logged the only top-10 (solo sixth) of his rookie season
- **Peter Uihlein** (2nd / -12) has split time between the PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry Tour this season; he is making his 17th Korn Ferry Tour start of the 2020-21 season and ranks 30th in the points standings
- **Joshua Creel** (3rd / -11) matched his second-highest 36-hole position on the Korn Ferry Tour; he was T2 after the second round of the 2019 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank (finished solo second), and T3 after the second round of the 2021 Live and Work in Maine Open (finished solo second) this past June
- **Anders Albertson** (T10 / -9) is the only player in the field without a bogey through 36 holes
- **Nathan Stamey** (T18 / -8) followed an even-par 71 with an 8-under 63 and leads the two Monday qualifiers who survived the 36-hole cut; he is making his seventh Korn Ferry Tour start, with his only other made cut being a T74 at the 2021 Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank
- **Patrick Fishburn** (T56 / -5), an Ogden, Utah native who played collegiately at Brigham Young University, birdied the 18th hole to make the cut
- After 12 bogey-free scorecards were recorded in the first round, there were seven bogey-free scorecards posted in the second round
- Weather: Patchy haze and smoke, high of 85 degrees, wind W at 3-14 mph (gusts up to 20 mph)
- 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 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank is the 19th event of 2021 and the 42nd of the 43-event 2020-21 combined regular season

- The combined 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour schedule will conclude with 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded next week 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** – No. 10, Par 4, 517 yards (4.346 – 13 birdies, 39 bogeys, 13 double bogeys or worse)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 15, Par 5, 547 yards (4.301 – nine eagles, 95 birdies, five bogeys or worse)
- **Scoring Average (Front 9 – Par 36)** – 34.529
- **Scoring Average (Back 9 – Par 35)** – 34.569
- **Scoring Average (Total)** – 69.098

#### Cumulative Course Statistics

- **Toughest Hole** – No. 10, Par 4, 517 yards (4.338 – 20 birdies, 80 bogeys, 21 double bogeys or worse)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 15, Par 5, 547 yards (4.305 – 21 eagles, 184 birdies, nine bogeys or worse)
- **Scoring Average (Front 9 – Par 36)** – 34.513
- **Scoring Average (Back 9 – Par 35)** – 34.504
- **Scoring Average (Total)** – 69.017