

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, August 7, 2021

Course Setup: Par 71 / 7,045 yards

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Taylor Montgomery	67-66-62—195 (-18)
	Peter Uihlein	65-65-65—195 (-18)
3	Joshua Creel	63-68-65—196 (-17)
4	Callum Tarren	69-65-63—197 (-16)

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Bubble showdown set at Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank as Taylor Montgomery, Peter Uihlein share 54-hole lead

FARMINGTON, Utah – The final pairing Sunday at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank will feature Taylor Montgomery and Peter Uihlein, both of whom would secure a PGA TOUR card if they come away with a victory. The two are 29th and 30th, respectively, in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings, with a mere 10 points separating them. After 54 holes at Oakridge Country Club, Montgomery and Uihlein find themselves tied atop the leaderboard at 18-under par.

Montgomery came within a stroke of the course record Saturday evening, but settled for a career-low 9-under 62 after a three-putt bogey at the par-4 18th. Uihlein shook off a double bogey at the par-4 10th and rallied to a third consecutive 6-under 65 with an eagle and two birdies in his final four holes.

Montgomery, a Las Vegas native, birdied the par-4 first, drained a 15-footer for eagle at the par-5 second, and birdied the par-3 fourth to play his first four holes at 4-under par. On the back side, Montgomery birdied Nos. 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 17 to flirt with the course record.

“I hit a lot of good shots today with wedges and some irons,” Montgomery said. “Yesterday I didn’t hit it as well and still shot 5-under. Today I hit it a lot better, and I knew it was going to be a good one if I could get it around the hole. I changed my irons out this week. The 6- and 7-iron were the biggest difference. It’s been hurting me this whole year. This week has been really good with a 6- or 7-iron. It saved me probably five to six shots this week alone.”

Irons were not the only thing Montgomery changed this week. The University of Nevada-Las Vegas alum has his father, Monte, the general manager of Shadow Creek Golf Course, caddying for him. Montgomery wanted a little vacation time in Colorado, and finally took it when the Korn Ferry Tour was idle last week. With the two traveling together, the caddie swap made sense for Montgomery.

“Just rode four-wheelers and got away from golf a little bit. I think it’s helped a lot,” Montgomery said. “He caddied for me last year in a TaylorMade event at Pebble Beach. But he didn’t have to do much; he rode in a cart the whole time. I’m surprised he’s made it this far. I think it’s because I’m playing well. A little adrenaline rush for him.”

This season is Montgomery’s first on the Korn Ferry Tour, and he’s been just outside the winner’s circle on two occasions. There a T2 at the 2020 Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship last August, then a loss in a three-man playoff at the 2021 LECOM Suncoast Classic this past February.

Uihlein, on the other hand, has already won on the Korn Ferry Tour this season, taking home the MGM Resorts Championship at Paiute this past April. The win was a key moment for Uihlein, who earned full membership and the option to choose whether to play the Korn Ferry Tour, or wait for his priority number to be called at the coinciding PGA TOUR event.

After 12 PGA TOUR starts, Uihlein determined last month the most sensible pathway to a TOUR card was through the Korn Ferry Tour. This week is only his 17th start on Tour this season, but he’s made the most of them with a win, a solo second at the 2021 Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS this past March, and two other top-10s.

For perspective, the only players ranked 86th or higher in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings with fewer than 20 starts this season are Uihlein and Will Zalatoris (eighth with 16 starts).

“Limbo,” Uihlein said Friday, describing the feeling of playing both tours. “Before (winning Vegas), I couldn’t just play down here when I wanted to if I was in a PGA TOUR event. After Detroit – I missed the cut (at Rocket Mortgage Classic) – I made a decision to focus out here and try to get my (PGA TOUR) card that way. It’s tough. I’m dealing with two years of points. It’s put me in a very difficult position, but I’ve been fortunate when I’ve played down here, I’ve played well.”

Uihlein tumbled out of a tie for the lead and into a deep pack of chasers following his double bogey at the 514-yard 10th, far and away the statistically toughest hole this week. The Oklahoma State University alum tried to hit a cut and pulled his drive out of bounds. Uihlein drew the second tee shot, salvaged double, and countered it with a tap-in eagle at the par-5 15th.

“Just hit a loose drive on No. 8. Stubbornly tried to hit the same shot on No. 10, and same result,” Uihlein said. “Then was able to battle in. I felt like from No. 11 on, if I could give myself looks at birdie, I could convert at least three or four of them. That was my thought process after No. 10. I was able to execute some good short wedges.”

Tight wedge shots into Nos. 16 and 17 led to two more birdies and pulled the 31-year-old Uihlein even with the 26-year-old Montgomery.

When Uihlein won in Las Vegas earlier this year, he carried a one-shot lead into the final round, played the first seven holes at 4-under par for a sizable lead, and held on down the stretch as windy conditions led to higher scores. Uihlein won by four strokes.

This time around, Uihlein knows he will not have the luxury of building a lead with pars. Not with Oakridge Country Club playing more than two strokes under par this week. And not with Montgomery gunning for a PGA TOUR card alongside him.

“Vegas, when I had a lead, my mindset was to shoot the lowest score,” Uihlein said. “Guys are going to make birdies. I’m going to go out, try to shoot as low as I can, and hope that’s enough.”

Final-round pairings will run from 7:50 a.m. through 2 p.m. local time off the first tee.

Saturday Notes

- **Taylor Montgomery** projects to jump from 29th to 15th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings with a win, while a victory for **Peter Uihlein** projects to take him from 30th to 16th
- Montgomery’s previous career-low round in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play was a 64 – which he shot three times; his previous career-low score to par was an 8-under 64 in the final round of the 2020 LECOM Suncoast Classic
- Montgomery’s highest 54-hole position prior to Saturday was T2 at the 2020 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics; he finished T16
- Uihlein is a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts who played predominantly on the European Tour from 2013-17; he was the 2013 European Tour Rookie of the Year, and earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2017 Korn Ferry Tour Finals, when he won the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship
- **Nathan Stamey** (T23 / -11) continues to lead 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
- **Anders Albertson**’s (T23 / -11) bogey-free streak ended at 39 holes after a bogey at the par-3 fourth
- Bogey-free rounds this week: 12 Thursday, seven Friday, nine Saturday
- Weather: Sunny with patchy haze and smoke, high of 88 degrees, wind WNW at 4-12 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

Third-Round Course Statistics

- **Toughest Hole** – No. 10, Par 4, 517 yards (4.240 – 12 birdies, 16 bogeys, six double bogeys or worse)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 15, Par 5, 547 yards (4.267 – eight eagles, 43 birdies, three bogeys or worse)
- **Scoring Average (Front 9 – Par 36)** – 34.040
- **Scoring Average (Back 9 – Par 35)** – 33.800
- **Scoring Average (Total)** – 67.840

Cumulative Course Statistics

- **Toughest Hole** – No. 10, Par 4, 517 yards (4.319 – 32 birdies, 96 bogeys, 27 double bogeys or worse)
- **Easiest Hole** – No. 15, Par 5, 547 yards (4.298 – 29 eagles, 227 birdies, 12 bogeys or worse)

- **Scoring Average (Front 9 – Par 36) – 34.355**
- **Scoring Average (Back 9 – Par 35) – 34.269**
- **Scoring Average (Total) – 68.625**