



First-Round Transcripts | BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX | Thursday, June 9, 2022

Nelson Ledesma (-9, 1st)

City Plays From: Tucuman, Argentina | Turned Pro: 2007

Exempt Status: Tournament Winner (thru 2022)

On his round...

"I played really solid during the whole round. I hit it really well from the tee and since it's a short course, I took advantage with short irons and I played really well on the greens."

On how it feels to open up with a 63...

"I've been playing really well for the last two to three weeks and I've been expecting a round like this one for a while. The idea is to keep going and play well for the rest of the week."

On starting his season with four missed cuts to playing well this week...

"I had surgery on my left shoulder this past December and my first tournament back was [Veritex Bank Championship] in Dallas. I was so excited to play that I came back a little too early. Even my doctor told me that I should have waited one more month. I started playing when I wasn't feeling totally back to 100 percent with my game, and I think that the last month I've started to feel a lot more confident with my body and my swing. I'm getting a tempo again with my swing and my game."

On the set up of a pro-am tournament...

"It's not the first time that I've played a tournament of this format. I played [AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am] many times and I've played this tournament many times. In the beginning, since I didn't speak English very well, it wasn't my favorite tournament to play, but now I feel more confident with the amateur and it's a nice tournament to play."

On what he did before coming to play in the states..

"I turned professional really young. I was lucky to get my exemption into playing the Argentinian Tour, but at that time I didn't have the money to play outside of Argentina, and that's the reason I didn't play in [PGA TOUR Canada] until 2011. Since then I've played PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR and my career has started to grow."



Zack Fischer (-8, T2)

City Plays From: Texarkana, Texas | Turned Pro: 2011 | College: University of Texas Arlington
Exempt Status: Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying School Medalist (thru 2022)

On his round...

"I got on a really significant run from No. 9 to No. 14. The putter got hot. I haven't made any putts the whole year and it's been really frustrating but today, [the hole] was like a basket. I just couldn't miss. I still have a few things that I need to definitely work on, but when they start going in it's a lot of fun."

On the environment of the week and his mindset...

"I'm playing with Ozzie Smith, the legend, the 'Wizard of Oz.' He's awesome and such a nice guy. I watched him to see how he was interacting with people and it was really cool just to be in the presence of greatness like that. It's a lot of fun. I've never played with a celebrity like that so it was a blast."

On his interactions with Ozzie Smith...

"He was riding the golf cart so I didn't have a chance to. He's in better shape than like 90 percent of the pros out here, including me, so I don't know why he was in the golf cart. He said that his knee was bothering him, but he was just a blast. He's such a nice guy and it was really, really cool. He was giving me fist bumps and smiling. He's got an awesome smile."

On his season up to this point..

"[I'm in] the best place I've ever been on this tour. I played 2014-2017 and I've never been in this position, so I'd say that it's definitely successful so far. I'm going to keep trying to play how I'm supposed to play and try not to think about any of the numbers or anything like that. I'm just trying to... I don't want to use that thing 'stay in the moment,' I hate the clichés, but I am just trying to have fun. That's the biggest thing, just going out there and not thinking about, 'I'm trying to make birdie here. I'm trying to make par make par here.' It's so much easier to execute when you're not thinking about numbers and you're just trying to hit the next shot and that's how I've been going about it."

On his the main difference between this season and previous years on Korn Ferry Tour...

"Having a little girl and having perspective is just different. She gave me a lot of perspective this year in Dallas. Whenever I'd had a bad last three holes and I saw her on the green and she's so excited to see me. I instantly realized that it doesn't matter if I shoot 85 or 63, or whatever it may be; she's going to love me no matter what. I figured out that the people that care about you the most, they're the ones who don't care. If you think about other people that's how you put pressure on yourself and anxiety and expectations and I'm trying to eliminate all that stuff."

On how it felt to play a competitive round with amateur...

"I love the pro-am. The fact that I make a putt and help the team and then get the fist pump, it's just really cool. It's cool having somebody out there who is pulling for you inside the ropes, so that's one of the cool things about it."

Paul Haley (-7, T4)

City Plays From: Dallas, Texas | Turned Pro: 2011 | College: Georgia Tech

Exempt Status: Top 75 on 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List (thru 2022)

On his round...

"I played really solid. I started off with birdies on three out of my first four holes, so that was good to start off with. I've been pretty tired lately because it's my seventh week in a row, but I rested the last couple days. I like the golf course because it has Bermuda grass, and I like putting on Bermuda. I hit the ball well and gave myself a lot of chances and made a few putts, so it was good."

On if he plans to take a week off anytime soon...

"After Wichita next week I'm going to because, I can fly back to Dallas after this, have a day off and then drive up to Wichita, Kansas. I'll play that one and take Maine off. Then after that I'll probably play them all."

On playing Thornblade tomorrow...

"I would say Thornblade is a little tougher. In the practice round, the greens were kind of firming up, so as long as we don't get some rain it should play a little more challenging than it did out here today. Teeing off at 7 a.m. this morning made it a lot easier, so I'll go home, hydrate and get ready to go tomorrow."

On coming off a top-10 last week...

"I played really well last week. The last round didn't go as well as I would've liked but I've been playing really good and things that me and Randy Smith (coach) have been working on have started to take flight. I'll go work on that, go work on my wedges and my lag putting and get ready to go tomorrow."

On this week's pro-am format...

"Luckily for me, I played with one of my partners last year and he's a really good guy, so it definitely makes it easier. I like the guys we're playing with and Roberto (Diaz) is a great guy that I got paired with today. These guys are really good guys so it makes it pretty easy."

On last season finishing near The 25 but coming up short and what he learned...

"To be honest, not really because last year if it was just a yearlong of points, I would've made it easily. The only thing I didn't do last year was win a tournament. It's more just getting ready to go this year and if I played like I did last year, it'll all work out because I played good at the finish last year, too. Guys that were behind or right next to me also played well. As bad as I wanted it, it wasn't like I played terrible at the end and didn't get it because I played bad. It was more of the guys around my position all played really good."

On being a veteran player among younger players...

"We all really want this, right? But at the same time, the tournaments don't know how old you are. Yeah the guys that are young, they all hit it really far but luckily for me, I've picked up a lot of distance off the tee, too. It's not like I'm playing from crazy far back compared to them. I've played very consistently and played really well. Only thing I haven't done is won, but I've been around the lead a decent amount. I just have to wait my turn and I want to be where some of those guys are in the next couple weeks. Hopefully that happens."