

First-Round Notes – Thursday, June 9, 2022

Course Setup: Thornblade Club (Par 71 / 7,062 yards),

Satellite Course Setup: The Carolina Country Club (Par 72 / 6,929 yards)

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Nelson Ledesma (CC)	63 (-9)
T2	Zack Fischer (TC)	63 (-8)
	Ryan Ruffels (CC)	64 (-8)
T4	Four Tied	65 (-7)

Quick Links

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

Nelson Ledesma fires career-low round to lead BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX

GREENVILLE, South Carolina – The Korn Ferry Tour’s BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX opened Thursday at Thornblade Club and The Carolina Country Club, with two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner Nelson Ledesma playing his last eight holes at 6-under par at The Carolina Country Club to take the outright 18-hole lead with a 9-under 63. Ledesma’s 63 marks his career-low round on the Korn Ferry Tour and ties his career-low round in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play.

Thursday marked the third time Ledesma held the lead the 18-hole lead on the Korn Ferry Tour. The last occurrence was at the 2019 Ascendant presented by Blue, where he eventually collected his second career Korn Ferry Tour win.

Ledesma, a native of Tucuman, Argentina, started on No. 10 and rattled off four birdies in a row on Nos. 13, 14, 15, and 16, followed by one of his two bogeys, a five at the par-4 18th. Ledesma birdied the par-4 second, posted the highlight of his round with an eagle at the par-5 fourth, played Nos. 5 and 6 even par with a birdie and bogey, and closed with three consecutive birdies on Nos. 7-9.

“I played really solid during the whole round,” Ledesma said. “I hit it really well from the tee and since it’s a short course, I took an advantage with short irons and I played really well on the greens.”

At just 17 years old, Ledesma turned professional in 2007 and played majority of his early career on the Tour de Profesionales de Golf in Argentina, winning six times before making his way to PGA TOUR Canada in 2011 and PGA TOUR Latinoamérica in 2012.

Ledesma was a stalwart on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, playing the circuit every year until he finished No. 5 on the 2017 Order of Merit, largely off the strength of his first win, and earned Korn Ferry Tour membership.

"I turned professional really young," Ledesma said. "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."

As a Korn Ferry Tour rookie in 2018, Ledesma won the LECOM Health Challenge but ultimately finished No. 33 on the regular season money list and missed out on a PGA TOUR card. The following year, Ledesma won The Ascendant presented by Blue, logged another pair of top-3 finishes and earned his first PGA TOUR card as he finished No. 8 on the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List.

The last two seasons on the PGA TOUR, Ledesma finished No. 217 and No. 192 in the FedExCup Standings, bringing him back to the Korn Ferry Tour.

Second-round tee times will from 6:45 a.m. through 1:34 p.m. local time off the first and 10th tees at Thornblade Club and The Carolina Country Club.

First-Round Notes

- Of the 17 lowest scores relative to par Thursday, 12 came from the Carolina Country Club, with the exceptions being **Zack Fischer** (T2 / -8), **Nicolas Echavarria** (T4 / -7), **Peter Kuest** (T8 / -6), **Kevin Yu** (T8 / -6) and **Alex Weiss** (T8 / -6)
- Nine bogey-free rounds were posted, with six coming from The Carolina Country Club
- **Nelson Ledesma's** (1st / -9) previous career-low round on the Korn Ferry Tour was a pair of 64s, and his 9-under 63 matched his career-low round in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play, a 63 from the 2014 Aberto do Brasil on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica
- **Zack Fischer** (T2 / -8) stands T2 or higher after the first round for the sixth time in his career and fourth time this season
 - 2022 Huntsville Championship – T1 through Round 1 (finished T26)
 - 2022 The Panama Championship – T2 through Round 1 (finished T5)
 - 2022 LECOM Suncoast Classic – T2 through Round 1 (finished T22)
- **Ryan Ruffels** (T2 / -8) stood inside the top 10 through the first round of six events in the 2020-21 season (all in the 2020 calendar year), but stands better than T20 after the first round for the first time this season
- The BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX is the 16th of 23 regular season events on the 26-event 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule; the first set of 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded at the regular season finale, the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna (August 11-14), and an additional 25 TOUR cards will be awarded following the three-event Korn Ferry Tour Finals, which conclude with the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance (September 1-4)
- This week's purse is \$750,000, with \$135,000 going to the champion; the champion will also receive 500 Korn Ferry Tour points
 - All 2022 Korn Ferry Tour regular season events feature a minimum purse of \$750,000, a 25 percent increase from last season, and will boast minimum purses of \$1 million in 2023 for a [total increase of 66.7 percent](#) from 2021 to 2022

Thornblade Club Course Statistics

- Scoring Average (Total - Par 71): 69.925 [-1.075]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine - Par 35): 34.875 [-0.125]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine - Par 36): 35.050 [-0.950]
- Toughest Hole: No. 6, Par 3, 182 yards – 3.250 [+0.250]
- Easiest Hole: No. 16, Par 5, 542 yards – 4.250 [-0.750]

Carolina Country Club Course Statistics

- Scoring Average (Total - Par 72): 69.763 [-2.238]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine): 34.550 [-1.450]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine): 35.213 [-0.788]
- Toughest Hole: No. 17, Par 3, 218 yards – 3.250 [+0.250]
- Easiest Hole: No. 9, Par 5, 515 yards – 4.138 [-0.863]