

Second-Round Notes – Friday, March 18, 2022

Course Setup: Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club (Par 71 / 6,961 yards)

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Shad Tuten	65-66—131 (-11)
2	Braden Thornberry	65-67—132 (-10)
T3	Trevor Werbylo	69-64—133 (-9)
	Peter Uihlein	65-68—133 (-9)
	Mark Hubbard	65-68—133 (-9)

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Shad Tuten closes with back-to-back birdies, takes 36-hole lead at Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS

BROUSSARD, Louisiana – Back-to-back birdies on the final two holes propelled Shad Tuten to the outright 36-hole lead at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS. Tuten’s birdies at the par-4 17th and 18th took him to 11-under par, one stroke ahead of Braden Thornberry, who co-led after the first round and finished T8 at this event last year.

Play was suspended due to darkness at 7:27 p.m., with 16 players still needing to complete the second round, meaning the 36-hole cut will be determined Saturday morning.

Tuten teed off Friday as one of five co-leaders from the first round and followed Thursday’s 6-under 65 with a 5-under 66, highlighted by the aforementioned closing birdies. Tuten’s scorecard in the second round featured just one bogey and six birdies, giving him a field-leading 14 birdies for the week.

“You can’t win it on the second day, but that certainly helps,” Tuten said of his closing birdies, the second of which came after a fortunate break. “A series of fortunate events. I would put it that way. It was 10 out of 10 in the water. A thousand percent. I just got a good break. It made up for a couple little shorty putts I missed, so it feels good to finish that way.”

Tuten’s second round started the same way it ended: with consecutive birdies.

The Augusta, Georgia native birdied the par-5 first and par-4 second, and closed the front nine with a birdie at the par-4 ninth. Tuten recorded his lone bogey of the day on the par-3 11th, but immediately recovered with a birdie at the par-5 12th. The final two birdies came after a run of four consecutive pars at Nos. 13-16.

“Feeling pretty good. I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t,” Tuten said. “I’m not really comfortable being in this position because I haven’t been, but I’m just going to ride it out, have fun with it and keep going.”

Making his 46th career Korn Ferry Tour start in his second season as a member, Tuten holds a 36-hole lead for the first time. The only previous occasion Tuten stood inside the top five through two rounds was the 2020 Orange County National Championship presented by Knight 39, where he was solo second.

Tuten made his way to the Korn Ferry Tour via PGA TOUR Latinoamérica. Although Tuten concluded a collegiate career split between Darton State College and Armstrong State University in summer 2014, he would not turn professional until 2016. Tuten played the 2017, 2018, and 2019 seasons on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, with his highest finish on the Order of Merit being eighth in 2019 – which earned him an exemption for Final Stage of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, where he finished T13 and earned guaranteed starts for what became the 2020-21 combined season.

A 29-year-old who plays out of Aiken, South Carolina, Tuten finished 69th on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, earning him fully exempt status for the 2022 season. Tuten posted six top-25s, including a T2 and T3, across 40 starts as a rookie last season. Tuten also played the 2021 Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS, but missed the cut after a 3-over 74 and 5-over 76.

And while Tuten does not have much experience contending on the Korn Ferry Tour, he emerged victorious at the 2019 66 JHSF Aberto do Brasil on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica.

“That was by far my biggest win,” Tuten said. “That’s what I fall back on, really. (I’m) just reminding myself to go have fun, and really just stay in the moment and enjoy it. It’s not often I get to put myself in this position, so I’m enjoying it and it’s working.”

The second round will resume at 7:30 a.m., while third-round tee times will be determined once the 36-hole cut becomes official. The current projected cut is 2-under par, with 15 players tied for 62nd place. Third-round tee times are expected to run from 9:30-11:30 a.m. off the first and 10th tees.

Second-Round Notes

- **Trevor Werbylo** (T3 / -7) shot the round of the day, a bogey-free 7-under 64; he has 11 birdies and 11 fairways hit this week
- **Braden Thornberry** (2nd / -10) has 13 birdies through two rounds, tied for the second-highest total in the field; he followed Thursday’s bogey-free 6-under 65 with a 4-under 67 Friday
- Thornberry finished T8 at this event last season and fired his career-low round, an 8-under 63, in the second round
 - Thornberry, 24, is in his third season on the Korn Ferry Tour and second consecutive season as a fully exempt member; he was co-medalist at Final Stage of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament for fully exempt status last season, and finished 57th on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List for fully exempt status this season
 - Thornberry [turned pro in December 2018](#) after a standout collegiate career at University of Mississippi; he placed T74 as an amateur at Final Stage of the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament for conditional status and forfeited his remaining college eligibility
 - In three and a half seasons at Ole Miss, Thornberry tallied a school-record 11 victories, including the individual national title as a sophomore at the 2017 NCAA

Division I Championships; he also earned the 2017 Fred Haskins Award, one of three national player of the year awards, and spent numerous weeks at No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, netting him the 2017 and 2018 Mark H. McCormack Medal

- **Peter Uihlein** (T3 / -9) was T1 after 36 holes of the 2021 Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS and eventually finished solo second
- For the second consecutive Korn Ferry Tour event, **Mark Hubbard** (T3 / -9) stands T3 after 36 holes; he primarily plays on the PGA TOUR out of the “Nos. 126-150 in the 2020-21 FedExCup Standings” category, and is a 2019 Korn Ferry Tour graduate
- **Shad Tuten** (1st / -11) has two top-25s this season – a T22 at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, and a T21 at the Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard
- Louisiana State University alums **Luis Gagne** (T12 / -7) and **Brandon Pierce** (T31 / -4) are both currently inside the projected 36-hole cut but have holes remaining in their second rounds
 - Gagne is 5-under through 17 holes while Pierce is 2-under through 15 holes in the second round
- Monday qualifiers and Baton Rouge high schoolers **Boyd Owens** (T117 / +3) and **Luke Haskew** (T140 / +9) will both miss the projected 36-hole cut
 - Owens, a senior at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge, shot a 1-under 70 in Friday’s second round; he is committed to play collegiately at Wake Forest
 - Haskew, a senior at Louisiana State University Laboratory School, shot an even-par 71 Thursday, but stood 9-over par through 14 holes of his second round prior to the suspension of play; he is committed to play collegiately at LSU
- Defending champion **Roberto Díaz** (T77 / -1) is outside the projected 36-hole cut line
- 2018 champion **Julián Etulain** (T12 / -7) and 2010 champion **Fabián Gómez** (T62 / -2) are currently inside the projected 36-hole cut line
- The Chitimacha Louisiana Open is the sixth 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