



## First-Round Notes – Thursday, February 10, 2022

**Host Course Setup:** Country Club de Bogota (Lagos) – Par 71 / 7,237 yards)

**Satellite Course Setup:** Country Club de Bogota – Pacos (Par 70 – 6,249 yards)

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### Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Ryan McCormick (Pacos)	61 (-9)
	Trevor Werbylo (Pacos)	61 (-9)
3	Trace Crowe (Pacos)	62 (-8)
4	MJ Daffue (Pacos)	63 (-7)
T5	Nine Tied	-6

### Quick Links

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

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### Ryan McCormick, Trevor Werbylo share lead at Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard

**BOGOTA, Colombia**– The Korn Ferry Tour’s Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard opened Thursday morning on the Lagos and Pacos courses at Country Club de Bogotá. The duo sitting atop the leaderboard, Ryan McCormick and Trevor Werbylo, do not have much in common, aside from carding matching 9-under 61s as playing partners on the Pacos course.

McCormick, a Middletown, New Jersey resident, played his first five holes at his day 3-under par as he made four birdies and one bogey. The 30-year-old McCormick recorded his first par of the day at the par-4 15th, his sixth hole, and rounded out his front nine with another birdie at the par-4 16th. McCormick played bogey-free across his final nine holes, birdied Nos. 1, 5, and 9, and eagled the 516-yard par-5 seventh for the highlight of his round.

“Just a lackadaisical three-putt (bogey) on No. 11,” McCormick said. “You have to take advantage of the conditions. Made some nice 15-footers on No. 13 and No. 14. It was nice to get the ball rolling in the hole early, see that the rest of the round.”

Thursday marked a pair of career accomplishments for McCormick, a St. Johns University alum. The 9-under 61 was a career-low round for McCormick, eclipsing the two rounds of 7-under 64 he posted last season. Making his 52nd Korn Ferry Tour start, McCormick’s share of the 18-hole lead also marked his first lead of any kind on Tour.

“I actually hadn’t played all the holes on the course,” said McCormick, who is making his first start at the Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard. “We got rained out of the pro-am yesterday in the

afternoon, so I'd probably only seen four or five holes. The [Lagos] course is where we are going to be playing the next three rounds, and it's quite a bit longer. Fortunately, I have played a couple practice rounds on that course, so I'm a little more comfortable over there. Looking forward to the challenge."

A different course is in the cards for McCormick tomorrow, but what will remain are his playing partners, Werbylo and Robby Shelton.

"Trevor [Werbylo] is a great player," McCormick said. "It was fun that he was playing well early and we fed off each other a little bit. To be honest with you, I had no idea where he stood. I just knew we were both playing well. Always nice when another guy in the group is taking it low as well."

In his fourth Korn Ferry Tour start, Werbylo turned in a bogey-free 9-under 61, his first bogey-free scorecard of the 2022 season. The University of Arizona alum opened his round with a birdie on the par-4 10th, added another at the par-5 12th, and rattled off seven more across his final 12 holes.

"It was a good way to start," Werbylo said. "We played the shorter course today, and it was definitely gettable. Everything felt good off the tee, in my iron game, and I was putting it well, too."

Werbylo won the 2021 Forme Tour Order of Merit, largely off the strength of a win, a runner-up, and a T6. Finishing atop the Order of Merit awarded Werbylo fully exempt status for the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season, and the 23-year-old native of Tucson, Arizona already has a top-10 this year, a T7 at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club.

"I knew playing today, the shorter course, you're going to have to shoot a good score to keep pace with some of the guys," Werbylo said. "I felt good about my game and was confident. I feel comfortable having to go low to win a golf tournament"

Second-round tee times will run from 7:30-9:30 a.m. ET off the first and 10th tees of both the Lagos and Pacos courses.

#### First-Round Notes

- Eleven of the 13 lowest scores relative to par Thursday came from the Pacos course; the exceptions were **Justin Suh** (T5 / -6) and **Patrick Fishburn** (T5 / -6), who shot matching 6-under 65s on the Lagos course
- Eight bogey-free rounds were posted, with four coming from each course
  - Lagos – **Justin Suh** (T5 / 64), **Brandon Matthews** (T20 / 66), **T.J. Vogel** (T20 / 66), **Ben Griffin** (T36 / 67)
  - Pacos – **Trevor Werbylo** (T1 / 61), **Ryan Ruffels** (T20 / 66), **Erik Compton** (T20 / 66), **Sangmoon Bae** (T54 / 68)
- In his first Korn Ferry Tour start, **Trace Crowe** (3rd/ -8) carded an 8-under 62, featuring nine birdies and one bogey, a five at the par-4 18th, on the Pacos course; he is one stroke off the lead
  - Crowe was the sixth-to-last player in the 156-player field this week, as he finished T91 at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, leaving him without guaranteed starts for the 2022 season
  - Crowe was a two-time All-Southeastern Conference Second Team selection at Auburn University; his only other PGA TOUR-sanctioned starts were missed cuts at the 2021 The Fuzzy Zoeller Classic at Covered Bridge Golf Club on Forme Tour and 2017 Barbasol Championship

- **MJ Daffue** (4th / -7) was 8-under through his first 12 holes before bogeying the par-4 14th and par-3 17th
  - Sandwiched between his pair of bogeys, Daffue posted his ninth birdie of the day at the par-4 15th and finished the round at 7-under 63, two shots behind the leaders
- **Michael Kim's** (T5 / -6) 6-under 64 marked his lowest round in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play since the first three rounds of his win at the 2018 John Deere Classic in July 2018
- Medellin, Colombia native **Nicolas Echavarria** (T14 / -5) posted the lowest round among the five Colombians in the field, a 5-under 65 on the Pacos course
- The Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard is the fourth 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