

Second-Round Notes – Friday, February 18, 2022

Course Setup: Lakewood National Golf Club – Commander (Par 71 / 7,113 yards)

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Zecheng Dou	64-64—128 (-14)
2	Davis Thompson	66-64—130 (-12)
T3	10 Tied	131 (-11)

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

Zecheng Dou takes 36-hole lead with second consecutive 7-under 64 at LECOM Suncoast Classic

LAKEWOOD RANCH, Florida – Back-to-back 7-under 64s put Zecheng Dou atop the leaderboard at the LECOM Suncoast Classic. Play was suspended due to darkness with one player still finishing the second round, but Dou secured a two-stroke lead over Davis Thompson (12-under par) and a three-stroke advantage over 10 players tied at 11-under par.

The round of the day was carded by LECOM ambassador, Callum Tarren, who broke the 18-hole tournament scoring record and course record Friday with a 10-under 61 on Lakewood National Golf Club’s Commander course.

Dou, a Henan, China native who plays from Beijing, opened his second round with a birdie on the par-5 10th, and followed it with two more at the par-3 13 and par-4 18th prior to the turn. On his back nine, Dou made five birdies (Nos. 1, 4, 6, 7 and 9) against one bogey at the par-4 second.

“Solid tee shots and my iron shots are great,” Dou said of his play this week. “I made some good putts. One three-putt today, one-three putt yesterday, but it was just those mistakes that you would have leaving yourself a couple 50-footers, but I’ve been playing really consistent.”

A two-time past champion on the Korn Ferry Tour, Dou has fully exempt status for a third consecutive season after he finished 33rd in the 2020-21 Regular Season Points Standings.

In four starts this season, Dou already has two top-fives, including a solo second at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, where he [held the outright 54-hole lead](#) but played the final three holes of regulation at 2-over par and ultimately lost to Brandon Harkins on the [second hole of a sudden-death playoff](#).

“It was a good experience,” Dou said. “Getting into a playoff is a good week. You finish solo second, it's not like something bad came up. From the beginning, if you know you're going to finish second alone, you're going to be happy.”

Dou bounced back and secured a T5 the following week at The Panama Championship. The hot streak cooled off a few days later as Dou missed the cut at the Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard, but he took advantage of the unexpected extra time off.

“I flew back right after I missed the cut on Saturday,” Dou said. “It was going to be a really tough flight after you've played four rounds in Bogota, and I was going to be taking the redeye on Monday. I changed it to Saturday and got in [to Lakewood Ranch] really early, and I'm staying at my friend's place this week right by No. 9 green. I feel really comfortable coming out here. I know it's the fifth week, but after those couple of days it feels like I'm back to the start.”

A comfortable Dou found his sixth round of 64 or better across 284 career Korn Ferry Tour rounds. Three of the four previous tournaments where Dou shot a 64 or better, he finished top-10, including his first win at the 2017 Digital Ally Open. The win propelled Dou to a top-25 finish in the regular season standings, enabling he and countryman, Xinjun Zhang, to become the first mainland Chinese golfers in history to earn PGA TOUR cards.

Dou's second victory came at the 2019 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay. At the end of that season, however, Dou found himself outside The 25 after 15 missed cuts in his other 23 starts.

Hoping to find a third win this weekend, Dou feels it's close with the confidence he holds in his game.

“This year has been a little different for me. I come out here and feel like I'm really confident in my game,” Dou said. “In past years, I'd have one good finish then stay off for a couple of weeks and then another good finish. It was like bumping back and forth. This year, I just feel like my game is ready to go. Every week has been the same for me and good golf is coming out. I just want to keep it that way.

“Heading into the weekend, I'll be more relaxed and comfortable... nothing much on the mind, just play like usual and hopefully they'll be some good scores coming out.”

Norman Xiong, a Monday qualifier and the only player without a complete second round, will resume play at 7 a.m. ET. Third-round tee times will run from 7:45 a.m. through 12:15 p.m. ET.

Second-Round Notes

- While **Norman Xiong** (T69 / -5) is the only player still completing his second round, the 36-hole cut will be made at 6-under par, and there are currently 68 players who will make the cut
 - Xiong has two holes remaining in his second round, which he will complete Saturday
 - Xiong is the only remaining (of eight) Monday qualifiers with a chance to make the cut
- **Callum Tarren** (T3 / -11) broke the 18-hole tournament scoring record and course record with a 10-under 61, breaking the previous record of 9-under 62 shared by **Albin Choi** (2021, Round 1) and Robert Garrigus (2020, Round 2)
 - Tarren's bogey-free round consisted of eight birdies (Nos. 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16) and an eagle on the par-5 sixth

- Tarren's previous career-low round was an 8-under 63 in the third round of the 2021 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank
- Four players tied the previous 18-hole tournament scoring record and course record with 9-under 62s Friday – **Eric Cole** (T3 / -11), **Mark Hubbard** (T3 / -11), **Brandon Harkins** (T3 / -11), and **Heath Slocum** (MC / -3)
- **Davis Thompson** (2nd / -12) shot a 7-under 64, his career-low round on the Korn Ferry Tour, but his second-lowest round in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play, as he shot a 9-under 63 at the 2021 Rocket Mortgage Classic
 - Thompson, a former No. 1 player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, finished on the number for guaranteed starts at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (T39); he is making his fifth career Korn Ferry Tour start (and fourth of this season), as he debuted at the 2021 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper via a No. 2 finish in the inaugural PGA TOUR University presented by Velocity Global Class of 2021
- **Albin Choi** (T3 / -11) sits inside the top 10 after 36 holes for the second time in 113 career Korn Ferry Tour starts; the previous occurrence was a T3 at the 2018 REX Hospital Open
 - Choi, who Monday qualified into the 2021 LECOM Suncoast Classic, is playing this week via Korn Ferry's sponsor exemption
 - Choi was the 2013 Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year and 2013 All-America Second Team selection as a junior at North Carolina State University, where he won nine individual titles
 - Across seven years (2013-19) and 110 starts, Choi had just six top-10s and lost Korn Ferry Tour status following the 2019 season, leaving him financially unable to continue his career; he quit professional golf and caddied six days a week (oftentimes 36 holes per day) at Old Palm Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
 - Choi caddied for Sungjae Im, who he'd befriended in their 2018 season together on the Korn Ferry Tour, at the 2020 Honda Classic, Im's first PGA TOUR win, and remained on the bag until the 2020 BMW Championship, after which Choi resumed his own playing career
- Choi played the final three holes of his first round Friday morning, making a bogey at the par-4 16th and birdie at the par-4 18th to cap a 7-under 64; his opening round featured three eagles (par-4 fourth, par-5 ninth, par-5 10th), making him the first Korn Ferry Tour player this season with three eagles in the same round (five players made three eagles in the same round across the 46-event 2020-21 season)
 - Choi was also the first Korn Ferry Tour player with back-to-back eagles this season (there were 12 instances from 10 players across the 46-event 2020-21 season)
- **Chad Ramey** (T3 / -11) is the only player without a bogey through the first 36 holes
- Playing predominately on the PGA TOUR prior to this season, **Byeong Hun An** (T3 / -11) made four consecutive FedExCup Playoffs appearances from 2017-2020; he's making his sixth career Korn Ferry Tour start and third of the season
 - An moved from South Korea to the United States in 2005 to attend the David Leadbetter Golf Academy in Florida
- The solo 18-hole leader, **Thomas Walsh** (T3 / -11), carded a second-round 3-under 68; his previous career-high 36-hole position in five Korn Ferry Tour starts was T57 at last week's Astar Golf Championship presented by Mastercard

- Playing the LECOM Suncoast Classic via a sponsor exemption for the third consecutive year, Bradenton, Florida native **Philip Knowles** (T17 / -9) shot a 5-under 66 in the second round and secured his first made cut in his third career Korn Ferry Tour start
- Thirteen bogey-free rounds were recorded in the second round, compared to six in the first round; Norman Xiong is also bogey-free through 16 holes of his second round
- The LECOM Suncoast Classic is the fifth 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