



**First-Round Transcripts | NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank  
Thursday, May 26, 2022**

**MICHAEL KIM (-8, Leader)**

City Plays From: Dallas, Texas | Turned Pro: 2013 | College: California-Berkeley

Exempt Status: Former Fully Exempt PGA TOUR Member for at least five consecutive seasons

*On having the solo 18-hole lead*

Everything was really working well for me. I got off to an awesome start, five birdies in a row. I hadn't done that in a while. I just kept hitting the right shots, kept hitting fairways and greens and just rolled a bunch of putts in.

*On his five birdies to start the round*

Starting on 10, it's a pretty simple hole. It was a three-wood and a little chip lob wedge. I made a nice little 10-footer. Eleven was probably the most unexpected one. I made probably a 40-footer or something like that. Just kind of got the ball rolling and kept hitting some really good drives and really good iron shots and making some putts.

*On where his golf game is at now*

I've been telling my caddie and my team, my coach, that I've been trending. I got a new swing coach, Sean Foley, at the end of last year. It's been great what we've been working on and it's clearly working.

*On why he feels comfortable on this course*

I was talking to the pro-am partners yesterday that I've played in, I think, four Western Amateurs which are all in the Chicago area. I haven't been here in a few years but I had some good vibes and good memories coming in so I'm looking to continue the trend.

*On having his support system here this week*

My girlfriend's here. She got in Monday and so did I. It's nice not to think too much about the golf course and just spend time with her off the course.

## **NICK HARDY (-7, T2)**

City Plays From: Northbrook, Illinois | Turned Pro: 2021 | College: Illinois  
Exempt Status: PGA TOUR: Top 50 from 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour (thru 2021-22)

### *On getting off to a good start today*

Yeah, especially today. I knew I had to get off to a good start. Tomorrow's going to be a north wind and it's going to be a lot trickier than today. Playing catch-up with a little more difficult conditions tomorrow is tougher.

### *On the course conditions and key holes*

Today was a little warm morning, a little breezy to start. I made a bogey on 13 today, my fourth hole of the day. Missed the green with a wedge, 118 yards missed the green. But I kept my composure and hit a great 5-iron the next hole to make par on 14. Then I got up and down on 15 for birdie and that kind of started my run. I'm just happy with how level headed I was out there and how focused I was out there. After a long layoff like that, it can be tough to stay sharp mentally, but I was sharp out there.

### *On returning from a wrist injury*

It was more minor last year. This year, it was a different injury but the same wrist. I basically partially dislocated a tendon and I had to wait for it to heal so three or four weeks of just ice and compression. So I didn't get to do much the last month or so, but I started hitting balls a few days ago and it feels good, so I'm going to keep on hopefully feeling good.

### *On his wrist affecting play recently*

Not at all. I feel like my game was pretty good. I just haven't had the best year. The last 365 days just haven't been my best golf. I don't feel like I'm playing that poorly and I know I'm not hitting my standard out there, but I know I'm close. Sometimes it's just a game. You go through peaks and valleys. I feel like I was becoming a better player even though I wasn't seeing the results and hopefully that shows soon.

### *On playing well but not seeing results*

On the PGA TOUR, you can play well and miss the cut. That's just the reality of it. I definitely had a couple tournaments where I did that but I also had tournaments where I didn't play well. Just wasn't really playing as well as I could, obviously. I don't really see it as a struggle, I think it's just been a lot of growing pains, a lot like my 2019 season where I had no status. Just a lot of learning. I think it's good though.

### *On playing in this tournament*

When I got hurt, I was circling this. I know I'm not going to get into Schwab, so I know if I could play at home, that'd be awesome. I was hopeful the whole time while I was rehabbing to be back here. It was kind of nice. I knew from the time I got hurt that the doctor said I'd be out a month so I targeted this the whole time and I kind of knew I'd be playing here from the start.

### *On playing in a Korn Ferry Tour event at home*

I feel fresh. I feel ready. I've been out a month, so it's certainly nice getting to come back home for that restart. It's just good feelings all around, good vibes. I'm seeing a lot of people I haven't seen in awhile. It's just good to be home.

## **STEPHEN FRANKEN (-7, T2)**

City Plays From: Raleigh, North Carolina | Turned Pro: 2019 | College: North Carolina State  
Exempt Status: Top 75 in 2020-21 Regular Season Standings (thru 2022)

### *On his bogey-free first round*

It was a great day. It was the first day all season that I felt like things were clicking and I had control of my game. I've been working really hard on my game all year and it's just been a real terrible year so far. I finally felt this week like I'd worked really hard on a lot of the things I needed to work on. I just really feel comfortable in what I'm doing now and I feel like my game's in a really good spot to content on a regular basis for the rest of the year.

### *On what he improved to bounce back this week*

My ball striking just needed a lot of work. I'm starting to hit the shots that I see and then getting it into position to make putts for birdie as opposed to par really. Just hitting a lot of greens now. It felt good today.

### *On the course conditions and being thankful to have a morning tee time*

Yeah, definitely a relief with the morning tee time. It looks like a good draw. The course was playing pretty gettable I felt like. Greens are pretty receptive. There are a couple wedges on that back nine so you can kind of get it going. I felt like I played the front better. It's playing well, it's going to be a good week for scoring both ways. It'll be fun.

### *On his strongest start of the season*

I had a great week off last week. I just feel comfortable. I'm staying with family this week. I don't know, I feel very refreshed this week and very content in my circumstances for one of the first times all year. I just feel very free to go play, compete and contend. Thankful to have a good first day. There's a lot of work left for the rest of the week, but I'm excited to be in a good spot after one day.

### *On staying with his family this week*

I'm staying with my aunt and they live about 20 minutes away. My wife's coming in tomorrow. It's a fun week. A lot of people are coming out to support, so very thankful for a lot of things this week.

### *On playing with family here*

It's funny, because I've played pretty much every year in Chicago and I've always played terrible. So this is the first week that I've gotten off to a good start. It's comfortable. I feel very relaxed and I'm just excited to be playing and competing and feeling like my game's in a spot where I can play golf instead of hoping I play golf.