

Second-Round Notes – Friday, February 4, 2022

Course Setup: Panama Golf Club – Par 70 / 7,325 yards

Media Contacts: Hagan Parkman, 817-983-3251, HaganParkman@pgatourhq.com; Gregory Villalobos, gregoryvillalobos@pgatourmail.com

Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Taylor Montgomery	65-67—132 (-8)
T2	Joey Garber	67-66—133 (-7)
	Jimmy Stanger	64-69—133 (-7)
	Carson Young	68-65—133 (-7)
T5	Four Tied	134 (-6)

Quick Links

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

Taylor Montgomery, fresh off another burst bubble, takes 36-hole lead at The Panama Championship

PANAMA CITY, Panama – Taylor Montgomery heard the bubble boy jokes again last week and leaned in to all of them. After 36 holes at The Panama Championship, Montgomery is still laughing, as he followed an opening-round 5-under 65 with a 3-under 67 in the second round and took a one-stroke lead over a trio of pursuers.

Montgomery signed one of the five bogey-free scorecards posted Friday as Panama Golf Club – which finished four Korn Ferry Tour seasons with the highest scoring average relative to par of any course (2004, 2008, 2009, 2019) – showed its teeth. While the field averaged more than a stroke over par in the second round, Montgomery stayed out of trouble and birdied the par-5 fourth, par-4 10th, and par-4 14th.

“I’ve hit a lot of good shots and a lot of bad ones, but I’ve been really good off the tee so far,” Montgomery said. “I’ve got a couple new drills putting and it’s felt really good... I’ve done a really good job the last two days. I have a local caddie this week and he plays out here all the time; he’s helped me a lot with green reading and shots into the green.”

A native of Las Vegas, Nevada, Montgomery is back on the Korn Ferry Tour this week following a T11 at last week’s Farmers Insurance Open, far and away his highest finish in three career PGA TOUR starts. However, a birdie on the 72nd hole by Aaron Rai bumped Montgomery down from T10 position and out of a guaranteed spot in the field for this week’s AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. It was the latest bubble to burst for Montgomery, who finished 26th in both the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season and Korn Ferry Tour Finals Points Standings, one spot out of his first PGA TOUR card.

“I don’t really care,” Montgomery said through laughter and a smile earlier this week. “Everybody back home keeps calling me bubble boy. Mister 26. (I’m) just going to keep on playing golf and having fun, and that’s all that matters.”

All joking aside, Montgomery had a great time last week at Torrey Pines Golf Course in La Jolla, California, where he finished T57 in the 2021 U.S. Open, his major championship debut. The \$180,180 worth of winnings helped in that regard.

“My sister came down from Houston, so I had all my relatives with me,” said Montgomery, whose father, Monte, caddied for him. “It was really an at-home feeling for me. (TaylorMade) helped me find a new iron set, because I’ve been struggling with my irons for a year and a half. First time I used them, I cashed the biggest paycheck I’ve ever cashed, so that was really cool.”

Following last Saturday’s final round, Montgomery drove back to Las Vegas and flew to Panama City, Panama Monday morning. Montgomery’s local caddie for this week, Paul, picked him up.

“I asked for a local caddie here for the first time two years ago, and they gave me Paul,” said Montgomery, who finished T24 at The Panama Championship in 2020 with Paul as his caddie. “I’m staying at his place. He makes it feel like a home event, too.

“I’ve definitely been having fun. There’s been a lot of joking around the last couple days.”

And Montgomery doesn’t really care that some of those jokes came at his expense.

Play was suspended due to darkness at 6:40 p.m., with Tain Lee and Sam Stevens both playing the final hole of their second round, the par-4 ninth. Both are even par and stand T52, right on the projected cut line. There are 17 players are 1-over par and in T66 position, one stroke off the projected 36-hole cut, meaning a bogey or worse by either Lee or Stevens Saturday morning would move the cut line.

Third-round tee times will be determined following the 36-hole cut.

Second-Round Notes

- **Joey Garber** (T2 / -7) climbed 14 spots on the leaderboard with a 4-under 66; he finished No. 72 in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, and previously graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour following a No. 19 finish in the 2018 regular season, which was highlighted by a win at the REX Hospital Open
- **Jimmy Stanger** (T2 / -7), the [outright leader after the first round](#), followed up the first outright 18-hole lead of his Korn Ferry Tour career with a 1-under 69 and a career-high 36-hole position (T2); this week marks his 86th Korn Ferry Tour start
 - Stanger’s previous career-best 36-hole position was T3 at the 2020 Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship, where he eventually finished T5
- Stanger and **Zack Fischer** (T9 / -5) have a field-leading 12 birdies apiece through two rounds
- First-time Korn Ferry Tour member **Carson Young** (T2 / -7), making his 10th Korn Ferry Tour start since turning professional out of Clemson University in 2017, carded the lowest round of the day, a 5-under 65
 - Young was never higher than T47 after 36 holes of a Korn Ferry Tour event prior to Friday

- Making his 57th Korn Ferry Tour start, **Carl Yuan** (T5 / -6) matches the best 36-hole position of his career; he previously sat T5 at the 2019 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper (finished T37), 2021 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation (finished T2), and 2021 Visit Knoxville Open (finished T7)
 - Yuan represented China in the Olympic Men's Golf Competition last summer, which effectively ended his 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season at the 2021 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics last June
 - Following the 2021 Wichita Open, Yuan ranked 27th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, and he finished the regular season ranked 36th
- Yuan was T6 after the second round of the 2019 The Panama Championship; he went on to finish solo third
- **T.J. Vogel** (T5 / -6) is the only player in the field without a bogey through two rounds
- **Zack Fischer** (T9 / -5) snapped a streak of six consecutive missed cuts on the Korn Ferry Tour, a run which dated back to 2017 WinCo Foods Portland Open; he regained Korn Ferry Tour status (and is fully exempt this season) when he [captured medalist honors](#) at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
- In his first PGA TOUR-sanctioned start, **Blake Dyer** (T22 / -3) led the two Monday qualifiers who will survive the 36-hole cut; he played collegiately at University of Florida and was one of eight players who advanced through every stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, including pre-qualifying
- Five bogey-free scorecards were posted in the second round, two more than the opening round
- The Panama Championship is the third 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 2023