

**First-Round Transcripts | Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna | Thursday, August 11, 2022**

**PHILIP KNOWLES (-6, Leader)**

City Plays From: Jacksonville, Florida | Turned Pro: 2019 | College: University of North Florida  
Exempt Status: Additional Qualifying Tournament Finishers

*On his round today...*

"It was really good, it felt easy. Golf feels easy when you're playing well for the most part. I feel like I've been playing a lot of good golf these last few weeks, just plagued by whatever it was, bad bounce here, lip out there. Today it was just pretty solid from beginning to end."

*On the course this week...*

"I think it's the fairest test of golf maybe that we play all year. I played well today, but the margins are so thin. A couple of balls of mine that bounced in the fairway could have bounced in the rough and that's a half a shot difference. We're a quarter of the way through this thing. I played nice today but there's so much golf left to be played, and on golf courses like this it's not over until it's over."

*On an overview of his season...*

"I had conditional (status) at the beginning of the year and then played well at LECOM [Suncoast Classic]. I think I made more birdies than anyone else in the field at LECOM [Suncoast Classic] and I lost by five or six. I just made bogeys and then a double or two. I had a few weeks like throughout the rest of the season, and as a guy who played two of the first of eight events then took Wichita [Open Benefitting KU Pediatrics] off, so I don't have as many starts as a lot of guys do. To be in the position that I am, I'm pretty happy but golf is so much about your good finishes and making your good finishes really good finishes. I've had a couple of finishes in that 10 to 15 area, and those finishes need to be more like 2 to 5 on those good weeks. That could be the difference in maybe two bogeys, the margins are so thin out here. All in all, it's the first full season that I've played out here, so there are a lot of positives but there's a little work to be done."

*On being No. 88 in the Points List Standings...*

"The goal doesn't change, 156 guys in this field are here to win. The process doesn't change whether I'm No. 1 on the [Points] List or No. 88 in the [Points] List, I still have to get it in the fairway, I still have to get it on the green and I still have to hole putts. It's a great start but so much golf to be played and if I continue to accomplish the little goals that I have set for myself for the week then I feel like that will take care of where I need to be on the Points List."

*On his professional career...*

"It's been a pretty steady incline. I relate it to my college years. I had four years of college and in my first year I was not good, second year I was a little better, then third year and fourth year I was All-American. It gradually got better but it seems that I take a few years for myself to get my feet under myself. My first year in Canada, I played okay. I played really well in the last event to keep my card, then got conditional (status) for a couple of years out here. I won on [PGA TOUR Canada] last year, but even that was kind of an underwhelming season. I got COVID in the middle of the season with only eight events, a short season, but I won the second event. I felt like I underachieved in that season. Even coming to Q-School this year I was very excited, game was in great shape and then finished outside of the top 40. It feels like I've incrementally been getting better and I've seen that in my game and I see that in the

scores I've been shooting, but you need a platform. Out here, I've been able to show some good golf but I'm also able to look back and see where I still need to get better."

*On his ability to stay patient...*

"Yeah, definitely I mean that's a huge part of it. At the end of the year, with how many events we have 25 or 24 events, the first event is the same as the last event. Golf is weird. You don't really know when those good weeks are going to come and if it comes in the first week, great. If it comes in the last week, great. As long as there are tournaments left to be played, there's good golf yet to be played as well. It's great that it's the last event and certainly it means something because there aren't any events after this if you're not inside the top 25, but that stuff aside it's just golf. It's the same as every other week."

*On Andrew Kozan's win and the margins to win on Korn Ferry Tour...*

"It's ridiculous. I played with Andrew [Kozan] the first two days last week and if you wouldn't have known that he missed however many cuts he had missed coming into that week, you would have thought he was a top-25 player on the Tour. Guys are so good out here, Nos. 1-156. You just never know when it's coming, even when you're missing 12 out of 14 cuts, or whatever he did, it's that far. You might have missed 10 or 8 of those cuts by a shot. You never know. If you make the cut and play well on the weekend, you could change your missed cut into a 10th because of a putt that lips in instead of lips out. The margins are so thin and good golf can be played by anyone at any moment, you just need things to go your way."

*On how it's sometimes things you can't practice...*

"I say it all the time, 'You have to get good breaks to play good golf and you have to be lucky to play good golf.' Some days you just hit it right where you're looking and make the putts you want to make, you don't have any mistakes and it seems like there's not luck involved. There's always something that you can look back on from your day and say 'Man, I was very fortunate and that was a big moment in my round and that went from me shooting 4-under to 7-under,' so much of it is out of your control."

*On if he had any lucky breaks today...*

"On No. 12, there's water right and wind was blowing straight down. I ended up hitting driver while a lot of guys were hitting 3-wood or iron. I pushed it just a touch but because the wind was blowing so hard straight down, the ball straightened out and I ended up being in the fairway where no one else would have been all day. I was 85-90 yards from the hole. That was a good break. Two holes later I had an eight footer for birdie and I hit a great putt and I went to pick it up out of the hole then it just lips out... at perfect speed. On the next hole I pulled out driver and I think it will be in the left rough, a par-5, and I end up being miles down in the middle of fairway and just had a 5-iron in. That could have very easily clipped a tree and ended up in the trees or very easily could have taken a bad bounce in the rough, but that one ended up in the middle of the fairway. I couldn't have placed it in a better spot."

*On expecting a baby...*

"I have a little baby girl on the way in January. We found out we were pregnant the Sunday of Nashville, actually on Mother's Day. We found out the gender in Wichita [Open Benefitting KU Pediatrics] week. I took that week off so I could be home for the doctor's appointment and find out the gender."

*On if his wife will come watch this week...*

"I don't know. She's at home, she's a nurse... bless her soul. She's working a few days this week so we will see, on the weekend maybe."



## **ROBBY SHELTON (-5, T2)**

City Plays From: Wilmer, Alabama | Turned Pro: 2016 | College: University of Alabama  
Exempt Status: Tournament Winners

### *On No. 7...*

"On No. 7 the par 5, my third to last hole, I hit a good drive down the middle and had 3-wood in but I was trying to take a lot off of it and hit a little cut and I hit it so far right. I haven't hit a shot that far right in my whole life. It landed in the middle of the water and I just had to laugh. I got a drop then hit it on the green and made like a 50-60 footer for par. It was a crazy hole, but I was lucky to get out of there with par."

### *On the rest of his round...*

"It was solid. I hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens. Out here if you hit it in the middle of the greens you're in good shape. I had the putter working. I made some good par saves and made six birdies so it was a nice day."

### *On the course this week...*

"It's really nice to finally play one that's long for us, with thick rough and fast greens. It's a really good course and they do really well. It separates the boys from the men I guess, it's a little more challenging and a great layout."

### *On his mindset entering the week with a TOUR card...*

"[My game] is trending. Just knowing that it's locked up has helped a lot. My games been trending and been playing really well the past few months. Last week I didn't feel real well and missed the cut by one, but this week it feels good. I want to win again but I'm pretty happy with where I'm at."

### *On how important the No. 1 spot is for this season...*

"It's huge. My first year out there I was on the 'Korn Ferry Tour status' and I had a good year but I didn't get into everything that I wanted to. I kept my [PGA TOUR] card and was full status the next year. It's just a lot easier. You can set your schedule and get into those big events."

## **ADNREW YUN (-5, T2)**

City Plays From: Scottsdale, Arizona | Turned Pro: 2013 | College: Stanford University  
Exempt Status: **Reordered With Points Finishers 2-10 & Ties Previous Years QT**

### *On his round today...*

"It's a tough course. I hit a lot of good wedge shots and good iron shots today. I had a lot of good looks all day today, especially the first 12 or 13 holes and then the last few holes the breeze picked up so I just hung in there and made a couple of good par putts coming in. Overall it was a great day."

### *On the course this week...*

"[The course] is a little bit longer so you don't really have that many wedge shots, so you have to take advantage of the ones that you do. The rough here is probably the thickest rough that we play all year. There's a really big difference in hitting it in the fairway and hitting it in the rough, so you have to hit fairways out here. It's not a short course so you have to take advantage when you can."

### *On an overview of the season...*

"My game has felt better than what my scores have shown. My season overall has been inconsistent and I've missed a lot of cuts, but I had that great finish... I finished second or T2 at the REX Hospital (Open). My game has been trending in the right direction and I've worked on a few things, I was working really hard on distance control with my wedges earlier this week and I think it's been paying off.."

### *On what else has felt good in his game...*

"I had my caddie start reading my putts for me, so I think just having another set of eyes looking at the putts just gives you a little more confirmation and validation over the reads that you have. I felt like I was missing a lot of putts from the edges and I think having Eric on the bag and having him read the putts helped a little bit today."

### *On his mindset entering the week...*

"Fortunately I think I'm safe. I think I'm No. 63 on the [Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points] list, so I don't have as much pressure. I think I have to win in order to secure a PGA TOUR card which is great, but at the same time I was just thinking I just want to try to trend towards the right direction, get ready, and have my game ready. It would be nice to have my peak at Korn Ferry Tour Finals, so I could get my PGA TOUR card that way. Hopefully I have a good week this week."

### *On his three birdies in a row on the back nine...*

"I hit a good drive on No. 10 but I went through the fairway so I had 100 yards in from the rough and hit a great sand wedge to about four feet and made the putt. On No. 11, it was playing straight downwind at 530 yards and I thought I didn't hit it great but it ended up way down there and had a pitching wedge from about 157 [yards] to about 15 feet and made that putt. I hit a good tee shot on No. 12, hit a 9-iron to about four feet again. I had a lot of good wedge shots in there."