



**First-Round Transcripts | Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by LRS
Thursday, July 21, 2022**

DAVID KOCHER (-9, Co-leader)

City Plays From: Charlotte, North Carolina | Turned Pro: 2018 | College: University of Maryland
Exempt Status: Tournament Winner (thru 2022)

On his 9-under 63 opening round

I feel really good. My game's been really good the past couple weeks, I just haven't really played well on the weekends. I'm excited to have another really good first round but I have to build on it the next few rounds.

On setting a new career-low round

I made seven birdies in a row during the round, so I was kind of worried about getting the eighth birdie, the ninth birdie. When I started getting past five birdies, I was kind of like, 'okay, this is pretty cool'. I don't know if I've made six birdies in a row before, so then made the sixth and then I made the seventh, and I was like, 'woah'. I had like a 12-footer for birdie on the sixth hole and ended up missing that putt. When I got up to nine green, I had like a four or five footer for birdie. I kind of thought about it for a second, but I just wanted to make it and get the round over with.

On his seven-hole birdie stretch

I made a lot of putts but also hit the ball really well. I actually hit the ball really well off the tee all day and if you're in the fairway out here, it helps out a lot, especially with these tight fairways. I rolled it really well. Made a few really good putts but on the par-5s, I had a few tap-ins as well.

On the heat affecting him and the course

The greens have to be soft out because it's so hot, but I kind of walked a little slower all day. Me and my caddie had a water bottle contest out there to see who could drink the most water. We were just drinking all day and trying to stay in the shade. Just try to hydrate after this and get a good night's sleep.

On his goal over the final three regular season events

I just want to play my best golf. I feel like I've been trending the last few weeks and I just haven't been getting a lot out of my game on the weekends. Obviously this was a good first round, but I just want to play good the next few days and build on this.

On if he was surprised by the seven consecutive birdies

I made, I think, my fifth one in a row and it was like a 15-footer, but then I had a 35-footer on [No.] four I think. That one went in and I was like, 'woah.' I did not expect that one to go in at all. So then I made a 12-, 15-footer on the next. You don't expect those 35-footers to but you're trying to make the 15-footer sure.

On if this course fits his playing style

No, I like to cut it. I just hit a lot of 3-woods and 5-woods out there today. I still hit a lot of drivers and I don't hit it the farthest, so I still have to hit drivers out here a lot.

TAYLOR MONTGOMERY (-9, Co-leader)

City Plays From: Las Vegas, Nevada | Turned Pro: 2017 | College: University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Exempt Status: Top 75 in 2020-21 Regular Season Standings (thru 2022)

On his opening round 9-under 63

I got off to a good start. I hit a 4-iron to about three, three-and-a-half feet. I made eagle on the first after not playing competitive golf for a while it feels like. It kind of was just a blur from there. I hit a lot of fairways, a lot of greens and my speed was really good today. I had a lot of par putts from a foot. It was a fun day of golf and just excited to be back.

On feeling refreshed after taking some time off

Yeah, I felt like I was really focused this whole week. I didn't know what to expect. I've been fishing and shooting guns the whole week, so the golf club at the start of the week felt very bad. But today, and towards the end of yesterday, it started to feel more natural.

On the importance of taking time off

Family is a big part of my life. We took the razors up to the mountains and kind of enjoyed that family time. That's what we like to do during the month of July because my dad also gets that time off because they shut down the course. It was really nice to be out there and enjoy the 70 degree weather.

On what made him play this week

I wasn't planning on playing because I can't play Utah either because my sister's getting married. My dad was very paranoid about the points and was like, 'you better get your ass out there'. And I was like, 'all right, I probably should'.

On feeling safe being so close to the #TOURBound point threshold with three events left

Yeah, it's definitely a lot different. Last year, I wasn't hitting my irons very good so that's what made it so frustrating. I don't care what tour you're on, if you're not a good iron player, you're going to get lapped. This year's been a lot different. I've hit a lot of good iron shots when I needed to and that's been the big difference between last year and this year.

PETER KUEST (-9, Co-leader)

City Plays From: Fresno, California | Turned Pro: 2020 | College: Brigham Young University
Exempt Status: Finishers 4-5 on 2021 Forme Tour Order of Merit or 2020-21 PGA TOUR Latinoamerica
Order of Merit / Finishers 76-100 in 2020-21 Regular Season Standings / Additional Qualifying
Tournament Finishers (thru 2022)

On his opening round 9-under 63

Feeling good. The game plan was to hit fairways and greens, see how many putts we can make. We went out and did that pretty good so we'll try and do it again tomorrow.

On what was working for him most today

It was all working pretty good. I hit a lot of really good shots and gave myself a lot of good looks. Just managed expectations and kept firing away.

On the grind of having to Monday qualify into tournaments like this week

I've kind of been in that same boat for the whole year pretty much. I've been lucky enough to get in on my number in a good amount of them. But yeah, Mondays are tough and play better.

On momentum carrying over from last week's Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS

Yeah, definitely. I hit a lot of good shots, didn't make enough putts. When you're shooting 11-under in a tournament, you'd think it'd be better than 63rd, but we'll take it. The guys are really good out here. You've got to shoot really low numbers though. It's a lot of fun.

On having a share of the 18-hole lead

It's good, I mean, it's Thursday. We've got three more rounds to go so I'll manage expectations a little bit and go from there. You just have to keep hitting good shots and making putts. You know the guys are going to go low so you just try to match it.