

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, June 4, 2022

Course Setup: The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation (Par 71 / 7,269 yards)

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Davis Thompson	64-66-68—198 (-15)
T2	Vincent Norrman	66-69-65—200 (-13)
	Paul Haley II	68-65-67—200 (-13)
	Andrew Yun	68-64-68—200 (-13)
5	Spencer Ralston	66-68-67—201 (-12)

Quick Links

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

Davis Thompson maintains lead after third round of REX Hospital Open

RALEIGH, North Carolina – For the second consecutive week, 22-year-old Davis Thompson enters the final round atop the leaderboard. Following a 3-under 68 in the third round, Thompson reached 15-under par for the week and [maintained his two-stroke lead](#) over the field at the REX Hospital Open.

Thompson held a share of the 54-hole-lead at last week’s NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank, eventually finishing T5 for his second top-10 of the season.

“Tomorrow I will try to still have an aggressive mindset and try to shoot as low as I can,” Thompson said. “I don’t want to be nervous. It’s my job, so I’m excited about the challenge.”

The St. Simons Island, Georgia resident carded an even-par front nine, offsetting two bogeys (Nos. 2 and 8) with two birdies (Nos. 4 and 9). On the back nine, Thompson recorded back-to-back birdies at the par-3 12th and par-4 13th, and nearly holed out for eagle at the par-5 15th as he settled with for a tap-in birdie.

“Went after two flags that I shouldn’t have and ended up making bogeys on both of those holes,” Thompson said of Nos. 2 and 8. “I just tried to play steady golf and give myself as many looks coming in after No. 8. I think I only missed one green after that hole.”

Saturday marks Thompson’s fifth consecutive round inside the top five, along with his fourth time atop the leaderboard for his rookie year. The University of Georgia alum previously shared the 18-hole lead at this year’s The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, held the outright 36-hole lead Friday, and shared the 54-hole lead at last week’s NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank.

“I don't know how comfortable you can be, because you know the reality of the situation,” Thompson said. “If you can just try to put one foot in front of the other and try to stay as present as you can and trick yourself into focusing on each shot... it usually leads to good things.”

A former No. 1-ranked player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, Thompson played collegiately for four seasons at Georgia, where he earned All-America First Team honors his final two seasons and was named the 2020-21 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year. Those accolades propelled Thompson to a No. 2 finish in the inaugural [PGA TOUR University presented by Velocity Global Class of 2021](#).

By virtue of his PGA TOUR University finish, Thompson was exempt for Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament last November. The top-40 and ties at Final Stage earned guaranteed starts for the first eight events of the 2022 season, and Thompson finished on the number (T39) for those starts.

“I remind myself a lot,” Thompson said of the putt at Final Stage which secured guaranteed starts. “I'm just grateful I'm out here. I needed to make like a 7-foot par putt on No. 18 to get in on the number. I don't know where I [would be] if that putt didn't go in, but I'm sure glad that it did.”

Final-round tee times will run from 6:40 a.m. through 12:40 p.m. local time off the first tee.

Third-Round Notes

- With a solo-25th, 3-way T24 or higher Sunday, **Erik Barnes** (T18 / -9) would become #TOURBound and cross the 875-point mark the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe threshold for players to finish inside The 25 at regular season's end and earn a PGA TOUR card for the 2022-23 season
- **Davis Thompson** (1st / -15) and **Harry Hall** (T8 / -10), last week's NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank champion, lead the field in birdies with 19 apiece
- **Paul Haley II** (T2 / -13) reached his highest 54-hole position this season (previous was solo-fourth at the season-opening The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay) and the highest 54-hole position of his career since he co-led at the 2020 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank; he finished runner-up in both those starts
- With a win, Haley would eclipse the 875-point mark the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using to declare a member #TOURBound for the 2022-23 PGA TOUR season; his only Korn Ferry Tour win came at the 2012 Chile Classic
- **Vincent Norrman** (T2 / -13) established a career-high 54-hole position in his 14th Korn Ferry Tour start; his previous high 54-hole position was T11 at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club back in January
- **Andrew Yun** (T2 / -13), who entered the week with four made cuts in 14 starts this season, stands T2 or higher through 54 holes for the third time in his career
 - 2017 Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae – 1st through 54 holes (finished T3)
 - 2017 BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by TD SYNEX – T2 through 54 holes (finished T2)
- Norrman and Yun have just two bogeys apiece, tied for the fewest scores of bogey or worse in the field this week
- Current No. 1 in the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, **Carl Yuan** (T8 / -10) moved up 55 spots on Saturday, carding the low round of the day at 7-under 64

- **Jacob Bridgeman** (T18 / -9), who concluded a four-season collegiate career at Clemson University two weeks ago, leads the two Monday qualifiers who made the cut; he won six times individually at Clemson, including the 2022 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship, was named 2022 ACC Player of the Year and finished No. 2 in the [PGA TOUR University Class of 2022](#)
- **Austin Eckroat** (T32 / -7) is seeking a third consecutive top-25 to earn a spot in next week's field, the final event ahead of the priority ranking reshuffle
- The REX Hospital Open is the 15th 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

Third-Round Course Statistics

- Scoring Average (Total - Par 71): 70.425 [-0.575]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine - Par 36): 35.644 [-0.356]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine - Par 35): 34.781 [-0.219]
- Toughest Hole: No. 14, Par 4, 454 yards – 4.260 [+0.260]
- Easiest Hole: No. 15, Par 5, 573 yards – 4.685 [-0.315]