

Third-Round Notes – Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Course Setup: The Abaco Club on Winding Bay – Par 72 / 7,141 yards

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Zecheng Dou	69-66-66—201 (-15)
2	Brandon Harkins	69-65-68—202 (-14)
T3	Erik Barnes	72-67-64—203 (-13)
	Alvaro Ortiz	65-67-71—203 (-13)
T5	John VanDerLaan	70-67-67—204 (-12)
	Eric Cole	67-70-67—204 (-12)
	Julián Etulain	66-70-68—204 (-12)

Quick Links

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

Zecheng Dou takes lead with another 66 at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club

GREAT ABACO, The Bahamas – Zecheng Dou, a 2017 Korn Ferry Tour graduate, posted a second consecutive 6-under 66, reaching 15-under par for the tournament and taking a one-stroke lead at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club. Dou sits ahead of Brandon Harkins, a fellow 2017 graduate, and two strokes ahead of 36-hole leader Alvaro Ortiz and Erik Barnes, who charged up the leaderboard Tuesday as he tied The Abaco Club on Winding Bay’s course record with an 8-under 64.

A glistening front nine for Dou featured birdies on four of the first five holes and a fifth birdie at the par-5 eighth. Things went a little haywire on the back nine, but Dou countered two bogeys with three birdies, including one via a lengthy putt at the par-5 18th.

“A really random back nine,” Dou said. “Made a couple long putts, had a three-putt, had a bad chip. The front nine, everything was 10 feet, making a putt, made a couple 20-footers. Nothing really came out bad on the front.”

This is the third outright 54-hole lead of Dou’s Korn Ferry Tour career, and he converted the previous two into victories at the 2017 Digital Ally Open and 2019 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay.

However, Dou is not focusing on winning. The Henan, China native who plays from Beijing knows all too well a victory this early in the year does not guarantee a PGA TOUR promotion at season’s end. While he and countryman Xinjun Zhang became the first mainland Chinese golfers to earn PGA TOUR membership

at the end of the 2017 regular season, Dou won the season-opening event in 2019 and finished No. 28 in the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, missing a TOUR card by less than 75 points.

"It's a really long season and this is only the second week," Dou said. "I just feel like it's a normal event. I don't (feel) anything like (I'm) looking for a really good start, or having something secured already. I just want to enjoy and play my own golf like I've been doing the last three days."

Last season, Dou once again made a run at a PGA TOUR card, ultimately coming up one stroke short. Dou and David Skinns entered the 2021 Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna within 15 points of each other, and only a victory in the regular season finale would yield enough points for a spot in The 25. Skinns saved par on the 72nd hole, won the tournament, and earned his first PGA TOUR card as Dou settled for a T2 and another year with fully exempt status on the Korn Ferry Tour.

Dou put the clubs away for more than two months following the 2020-21 season. Instead of grinding away all fall at PGA TOUR Monday qualifiers or working on his game, Dou vacationed all over the United States.

"That changed my whole mindset," Dou said. "I forgot about last year, how I finished... missing my TOUR card. Coming out here, it's a new year for me. Glad to have my girlfriend here for these two weeks. I've been coming here alone the past three years. It's been just really good for me these couple weeks."

Dou hardly looks back at the run he made in 2017, his rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour. But Dou, who celebrated his 25th birthday this past Saturday, remains motivated by what he accomplished five years ago.

"I won't look at any scores or any swings or shots (from) back then, but I do see that the time just goes so fast," Dou said. "It makes me motivated. I want to move up instead of sticking around. It feels good, actually. It feels good."

Final-round tee times will run in groups of three from 7 a.m. through 9:12 a.m. ET off the first and 10th tees.

Third-Round Notes

- The 36-hole cut was made at 1-under par following the conclusion of the second round Tuesday morning, with 76 professionals surviving the cut
- **Zecheng Dou** (1st / -15) finished solo third at the 2017 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club
- Dou sits inside the top five after the third round for the fourth time in his 90 Korn Ferry Tour starts, with the most recent occurrence being a T2 at the 2021 Club Car Championship at The Landings Club, where he finished T7
- Dou first earned Korn Ferry Tour membership in 2017 via PGA TOUR China, as he won its 2016 Order of Merit with four tournament victories and a T2 in 13 starts
- **Brandon Harkins** (2nd / -14) played his final five holes at 3-under par Tuesday; he placed solo second at the 2020 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar, finishing four strokes behind the champion, Jared Wolfe
 - Harkins graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour following the 2017 season, when he earned his PGA TOUR card via a No. 21 finish in the regular season; he qualified for the

FedExCup Playoffs in his debut TOUR season, but fell back to the Korn Ferry Tour after the 2019 season

- With an 8-under 64, **Erik Barnes** (T3 / -13) tied the course record previously established by Vince Covello in the second round of the 2017 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club
- Barnes is a three-time runner-up on the Korn Ferry Tour, with the most recent occurrence being a solo second at the 2021 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS
 - Barnes finished in the top 75 of the regular season standings four of the last five seasons, including a No. 31 finish in 2020-21
- **Alvaro Ortiz** (T3 / -13) is making his sixth career Korn Ferry Tour start; his previous career-high finish is T61 at the 2016 El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA
 - Ortiz is the younger brother of PGA TOUR winner Carlos Ortiz; he finished No. 4 on the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Order of Merit for conditional status on the Korn Ferry Tour, and is playing this week via Korn Ferry's sponsor exemption
 - Ortiz won the 2019 Latin America Amateur Championship, which earned him an exemption for the 2019 Masters Tournament, where he finished T36 overall and second among amateurs, only behind multi-time PGA TOUR winner Viktor Hovland
- **John VanDerLaan** (T5 / -12) sits inside the top 10 after three rounds for the fourth time in his 47 starts on the Korn Ferry Tour
 - 2020 Country Club de Bogota Championship – 54-hole leader (finished T6)
 - 2020 TPC San Antonio Championship at the Oaks – T8 (finished T15)
 - 2020 Club Car Championship at The Landings Club – T9 (finished T15)
- **Julián Etulain** (T5 / -12) sits T5 or higher after the third round for the 10th time since the start of 2015; he spent the 2017 and 2019 seasons on the PGA TOUR, and he previously won on the Korn Ferry Tour at the 2018 Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS
 - Etulain was last in the top five after three rounds at the 2020 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics (T4 after third round, finished T16)
- **Eric Cole** (T5 / -12) sits T5 or higher after the third round for the third time in his career, with the previous two occurrences coming last season; his only top-10 in 42 previous starts on the Korn Ferry Tour was a T3 at the 2020 Club Car Championship at The Landings Club
 - Cole's father, Bobby, won the 1977 Buick Open on the PGA TOUR, while his mother, Laura Baugh, was the 1973 LPGA Rookie of the Year and logged 70 top-25s across a 25-year career on the LPGA
- The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club is the second 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
- Weather: Partly cloudy, high of 74 degrees, wind E/NE at 3-8 mph