

Second-Round Notes – Monday, January 17, 2022

Course Setup: Sandals Emerald Bay Golf Course – Par 72 / 7,001 yards

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
T1	Harry Hall	68-69—137 (-7)
	Chris Baker	70-67—137 (-7)
3	Xinjun Zhang	68-70—138 (-6)
T4	Fabián Gómez	69-70—139 (-5)
	Clay Feagler	-5 (14)

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Chris Baker, Harry Hall share lead at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay

GREAT EXUMA, The Bahamas – Harry Hall remained tied atop the leaderboard Monday evening following the second round of The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay, but this time around it was Chris Baker, a 2019 Korn Ferry Tour graduate, who equaled his score. Baker and Hall both finished the second round at 7-under par, one stroke ahead of Xinjun Zhang in solo third.

Play was suspended due to darkness at 5:42 p.m. ET, as 16 players had holes remaining in their second round. The second round will resume at 7 a.m. ET, with the cut line and third-round tee times being determined upon its conclusion.

Baker matched the lowest round of the tournament with a 5-under 67 Monday. The Seymour, Indiana native who plays from Jacksonville Beach, Florida posted the only bogey-free scorecard of the second round. In fact, the only blemish on Baker's scorecards through 36 holes was a double bogey at the par-5 18th, his final hole Sunday.

"The weather was nice. Been here four years now and this is one of the few rounds the wind hasn't been blowing 20 miles per hour," said Baker, whose only made cut in three starts at this event came in 2017, the tournament's inaugural year. "Any lack of confidence on any tee shot out there, you can find yourself hitting another one, or dropping a ball in a hazard. It's one of those courses where you want to be sharp. It's a difficult golf course, and a good layout."

Baker is back with the Korn Ferry Tour after two seasons on the PGA TOUR. The Iowa State University alum finished No. 15 in the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Finals Points Standings and earned his first PGA TOUR card, but ranked 163rd and 200th in the FedExCup Standings in 2019-20 and 2020-21, respectively.

Three finishes outside the top 40 at the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals sent Baker back to the Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament. Baker earned eight guaranteed starts with a T14 finish there last November.

Prior to what became the 2020-21 season, Hall finished T114 at the Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, leaving him with conditional status. The Englishman earned his first Korn Ferry Tour start via a 4-for-3 playoff at a Monday qualifier for the 2020 Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass, the Tour's first event following the COVID-19 pandemic hiatus. A second successful Monday qualifier two weeks later at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank culminated in a T36, giving him enough points to earn starts with his priority number following a reshuffle.

Roughly a year later, Hall won the Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics to earn fully exempt status for the rest of the 2020-21 season and all of 2022.

Now Hall has 11 birdies through two rounds (tied for the most in the field), three of which came in his final six holes Monday, and is 36 holes away from an even bigger victory.

"I'm excited about this year because I'll have the same amount of starts as everybody else," said Hall, who played 30 of the Tour's 46 events last season. "Over the two-year season... I think I played 10 or 11 less than everybody else. I don't have to be behind this year, I can pick my schedule, and this is kind of my first season as a pro I can play in every event."

Hall grew up in Cornwall, England, frequently playing at West Cornwall Golf Club. The course's website proudly calls itself the home of "Long" Jim Barnes, a four-time major championship winner and World Golf Hall of Fame inductee, Philip Rowe, who famously played in the 1999 Walker Cup and enjoyed a successful collegiate career at Stanford University, and Harry Hall.

Rowe eventually became a coach and worked as an assistant at University of Nevada-Las Vegas. One of his top recruits? Harry Hall, of course. Hall went on to become the 2019 Mountain West Conference Player of the Year and, just like Rowe, a Walker Cup team member.

"When you walk in the West Cornwall Golf Club, you've got all the memorabilia on the wall," Hall said. "Jim Barnes is in there. Phil Rowe, when I was growing up, was the guy who was doing great things and did great things as an amateur. I grew up with his Walker Cup bag in the clubhouse. I tried to tick everything off his resume that he achieved. Jim Barnes, hopefully I can reach what he achieved, winning three majors.

"I'd love to get West Cornwall the green jacket and put a Ryder Cup bag in the clubhouse along with my Walker Cup one."

Second-Round Notes

- **Harry Hall** (T1 / -7) will sit T4 or better after two rounds for the fifth time in his 31 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour
 - 2020 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS – T4 through 36 holes (finished T2)
 - 2020 Orange County National Championship presented by Knight 39 – T3 through 36 holes (finished T6)
 - 2021 Huntsville Championship – T2 through 36 holes (finished T41)

- 2021 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics – 36-hole solo leader (won)
- Hall's 11 birdies are tied with **Grant Hirschman** (T6 / -4) for the most in the field
- **Chris Baker** (T1 / -7) matched the lowest round of the tournament with his 5-under 67 in the second round; he equaled Hirschman, **Marcelo Rozo** (T6 / -4), and **Paul Haley II** (T13 / -3), all of whom posted 67s in the second round
- Baker's bogey-free round Monday was one of only five recorded this week, with the other four coming in the opening round
- While Baker does not have a victory in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event, he won the 2010 Moroccan Golf Classic on the Challenge Tour
- Baker's highest finish in his 152 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour was a solo second at the 2017 Panama Championship, where he lost to Andrew Putnam in a playoff
- Should **Xinjun Zhang** (3rd / -6) remain in the top three at the end of the second round, it would mark the fifth time in his Korn Ferry Tour career and fourth time in his last 22 Korn Ferry Tour starts he sits in such a 36-hole position
 - 2017 LECOM Health Challenge – T1 after 36 holes (finished T16)
 - 2019 Panama Championship – T2 after 36 holes (finished solo second)
 - 2019 Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS – T1 after 36 holes (finished T3)
 - 2019 Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch – 36-hole solo leader (won)
- **Fabián Gómez** (T4 / -5) is a two-time PGA TOUR winner and won the 2010 Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS on the Korn Ferry Tour; he played primarily on the PGA TOUR since the start of the 2014-15 season
- **Clay Feagler** (T4 / -5), who won a team title with Pepperdine University at the 2021 NCAA Championships, is making his first Korn Ferry Tour start
 - Feagler earned Korn Ferry Tour membership (and guaranteed starts in the first eight events) after he finished ninth top-10 on the 2021 Forme Tour Order of Merit and was T39 at the Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
- Weather: Mostly cloudy, high of 75 degrees, wind NW at 8-18 mph (gusts up to 25 mph)
- The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay is the first 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 marks the Korn Ferry Tour's first international event since the 2020 El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA, which concluded with **David Kocher's** playoff win on March 1, 2020
- 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