

Second-Round Notes – Friday, August 5, 2022

Course Setup: Oakridge Country Club (Par 71 / 7,045 yards)

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Pontus Nyholm	65-64—129 (-13)
T2	Michael Kim	67-64—131 (-11)
	Kevin Velo	68-63—131 (-11)
	Jeremy Paul	63-68—131 (-11)
T5	Four Tied	132 (-10)

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Pontus Nyholm weathers delays for 36-hole lead at Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank

FARMINGTON, Utah – Michael Kim and Kevin Velo were clubhouse co-leaders at 11-under par for much of Friday, but Pontus Nyholm finished off a 7-under 64 just after sunset and took a two-stroke lead at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. Friday's second round was suspended twice due to inclement weather (first at 3:13 p.m., and again at 4:55 p.m. local time). Play resumed at 6:27 p.m. but was suspended due to darkness at 8:42 p.m., as 12 players had holes remaining.

The rest of Friday's late-afternoon groups will complete their second rounds Saturday morning prior to the third round. With the potential of more inclement weather Saturday, third round tee times will run from 8:30 a.m. through 10:30 a.m. local time off the first and 10th tees.

Nyholm, a rookie from Sweden, holds his first lead of any sort on the Korn Ferry Tour.

The Campbell University alum entered the week at No. 47 on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, meaning a victory could secure his first PGA TOUR card. Nyholm has four top-25s in 19 starts this season, including a T2 at the Veritex Bank Championship, where he carded a final-round 62 and watched much of the afternoon rounds hoping to get into a playoff. However, Tyson Alexander held on for a two-stroke victory and repeated at champion.

Michael Kim closed his front nine with three birdies in a row and carded four more on the back nine (Nos. 12, 14, 15, and 18) to card a 7-under 64 Friday morning. The 29

"I feel really comfortable with how I've been playing for the last three or fourth months now," said Kim, who has nine made cuts in his last 10 Korn Ferry Tour starts. "I was able to roll a couple in today. I'm feeling really good about my round."

Following two seasons at University of California-Berkeley, the second of which saw him win both the Fred Haskins and Jack Nicklaus Awards, Kim played the 2013 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament as an amateur and earned conditional status; he turned professional days after. Kim graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour following the 2015 regular season and spent the next six seasons on the PGA TOUR.

Kim eventually broke through on TOUR with a record-setting victory at the 2018 John Deere Classic. Kim won by a tournament-record eight strokes and finished at 27-under 257, one stroke lower than the tournament record established by Steve Stricker in 2010.

Kim made the FedExCup Playoffs each of his first three seasons on TOUR, but has finished outside the top 200 each of the last three seasons and fell back to the Korn Ferry Tour.

This week marks Kim's 21st start of the season and 62nd of his Korn Ferry Tour career. Kim, a 29-year-old who was born in Seoul, South Korea and grew up in Del Mar, California, entered the week at No. 31 on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, placing him firmly on the bubble for a PGA TOUR card ahead of next week's regular season finale.

Kim also finished solo-seventh last month at the Barbasol Championship, his first top-10 in a PGA TOUR event since his win at the John Deere Classic.

"I've had the mentality of just needing a top finish in these next five tournaments, not just counting these next two because I have the [Korn Ferry Tour Finals] to get my [PGA TOUR] card there too," Kim said. "I'm trying to not put too much pressure on myself and just go out there and have fun."

After carding 9-under 63 for medalist honors at this week's Monday qualifier, 24-year-old Kevin Velo enters the weekend with a chance to play his way into next week's regular season finale.

Making his Korn Ferry Tour debut, Velo played in the final group of the morning wave on Friday, entering the day T38 before a bogey-free 8-under 63 moved him into contention.

"I have nothing to lose this week," Velo said. "That was my mentality coming in. Even in the Monday [qualifier], I was like 'I have nothing to lose. It was the last Monday [qualifier] possible, so I just fired at everything to give it a go."

Velo, a Danville, California resident, came out swinging Friday with three birdies in a row on Nos. 2, 3 and 4. The San Jose State University alum posted three more birdies at the par-5 seventh, par-4 12th and par-4 16th, but the highlight of the round came at the par-5 15th, where Velo reached the green in two and carded his first eagle.

"I hit a drive down there and had a gap wedge into the par-5, hit to about 8 feet and rolled it in, so that was a good one," Velo said. "Besides that I've just been hitting the center of greens and beating up the par-5s."

Velo turned professional in 2020 while still in his fifth year of college at San Jose State. Velo earned conditional status for PGA TOUR Canada at both the 2020 and 2021 Q-Schools, but only made one start on the circuit. After a miss at Second Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, Velo hit the road on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica.

Following missed cuts in his first three PGA TOUR Latinoamérica starts, Velo secured his [first professional win](#) at the Termas de Rio Hondo Invitational. Along with his win, Velo closed the season with top-four finishes in four of his last five starts and finished No. 4 in the Order of Merit, granting him conditional membership for the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season along with an exemption for Final Stage of this fall's Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament.

With the PGA TOUR Latinoamérica season completed, Velo has turned to Monday qualifiers and mini-tours to prepare for his next step.

"I just needed the fill my schedule," Velo said. "It's been three weeks since [PGA TOUR Latinoamérica] finished up and I was just looking for something to play in, and one of my buddies told me to go play in Utah, so I signed up. I have a couple mini-tour events at the end of the month but this was just a schedule fill. I played awesome [on Monday]."

Jeremy Paul also joined Kim and Velo at 11-under par late in the evening, throwing an approach inside of a foot at the par-4 ninth for a tap-in birdie and 3-under 68.

Paul entered the week at No. 38 on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, needing a high finish this week to play his way onto the PGA TOUR card bubble ahead of next week's regular season finale. A native of Heidelberg, Germany, Paul could solidify his first TOUR card this week with either a solo-second or a win.

"I feel pretty good," Paul said. "My game was pretty good today. I hit a lot of good iron shots, put myself in good spots. I was happy with the way I putted. I hit a lot of good putts, the speed was really good, they just went over the edges."

Meanwhile, at the PGA TOUR's Wyndham Championship, Paul's twin brother, Yannik, is attempting to earn enough non-member FedExCup points to qualify for the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. Yannik plays primarily on the DP World Tour but has a pair of top-20s in opposite-field events on the PGA TOUR and moved up to T39 with a 4-under 66 Friday, giving him a puncher's chance at a spot in the Finals.

Second-Round Notes

- Salt Lake City native and Brigham Young University alum **Zac Blair** (T4 / -10) is playing this week via the Tournament Winners category from his win at the 2019 Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae; this week is his second time inside the top-15 after 36-holes in his last three starts
- Ogden native and Brigham Young University alum **Patrick Fishburn** (T8 / -9) remains in the top 10 following a 3-under 68 in the second round; he entered the week at No. 71 on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List (top 75 following next week's regular season finale earn fully exempt status for next season and a berth in this year's Korn Ferry Tour Finals)
- **John Chin** (T8 / -9) had the low round of the day with 9-under 62 and most birdies made in the second round with 10
- **Evan Harmeling** (T8 / -9) stood outside the cut line when he made the turn at 1-over par, then birdied seven of the final eight holes on the back nine for a 6-under 65
- The Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank is the 22nd 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