

Second-Round Notes – Thursday, April 14, 2022

Course Setup: Texas Rangers Golf Club (Par 71 / 7,010 yards)

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Shawn Stefani	65-63—128 (-14)
2	Chase Parker	67-62—129 (-13)
3	Byeong Hun An	68-62—130 (-12)
T4	Five Tied	131 (-11)

Quick Links

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

Native Texan Shawn Stefani takes outright 36-hole lead at Veritex Bank Championship

ARLINGTON, Texas – Two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner Shawn Stefani played his last four holes at 5-under par at Texas Rangers Golf Club Thursday afternoon, taking the outright 36-hole lead at the Veritex Bank Championship. Playing in his home state, Stefani's birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie finish on the back nine moved him to 14-under par for the tournament, one stroke ahead of Chase Parker.

Stefani's fantastic finish, highlighted by a chip-in eagle at the par-4 16th, solidified an 8-under 63, tying his second-lowest round in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play. In 770 previous rounds (587 and on the PGA TOUR, 183 on the Korn Ferry Tour), Stefani's career-low round was a 9-under 62 in the third round of the 2012 Miccosukee Championship, which propelled him to his second Korn Ferry Tour win. Thursday's round also marked his fourth round of 63 or better in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play, and his first since a 9-under 63 at the PGA TOUR's 2015 The American Express.

Although Stefani holds his first 36-hole lead in a Korn Ferry Tour event, the 40-year-old Texan previously held a 36-hole lead on the PGA TOUR at the 2013 Valspar Championship, where he eventually finished T7.

"I've been doing a lot of work on my golf swing this year and I've seen a lot of improvement and a lot of things that are starting to go my way," said Stefani, a Houston resident who began working with University of Houston Director of Golf Jonathan Dismuke this year. "I tried to change my mindset this week, to just try and be a little more patient, and I did and it's helped."

Stefani began the day three strokes behind outright leader MJ Daffue, a fellow Lamar University alum, and played his first eight holes at even par with two birdies (Nos. 4 and 7) and two bogeys (Nos. 3 and 8). The Baytown, Texas native reached the par-5 ninth in two and made his eagle putt to turn at 2-under par. Stefani added birdies at the par-5 10th and par-3 12th, but dropped a stroke at the par-4 14th.

"I was really struggling with my swing towards the middle of the round and I just kept fighting and staying patient," Stefani said. "I made one good swing on the par 3 (No. 15) and said 'Oh, okay, there it is,' then stuck with that swing thought, then just let it go after that. I chipped one in on No. 16 for eagle, hit two great shots on No. 17 and three great shots on No. 18, so it's nice when what you're trying to do happens."

Stefani turned professional out of Lamar University in 2005, playing mostly mini-tours until earning Korn Ferry Tour membership via PGA TOUR Q-School in December 2011. As a Korn Ferry Tour rookie in 2012, Stefani won the AdventHealth Championship and Miccosukee Championship as he finished sixth on the 2012 money list and earned a PGA TOUR card.

Playing the last nine seasons on the PGA TOUR, Stefani recorded 12 top-10s, including runner-up finishes at the 2014 Quicken Loans National and 2014 World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba. He also made three consecutive FedExCup Playoffs appearances from 2014 through 2016.

Stefani fell to the Korn Ferry Tour after a rocky 2020-21 PGA TOUR season ended with nine missed cuts in 11 starts, which left him 241st in the FedExCup Standings. Playing out of the "Former Fully Exempt PGA TOUR Member" category on the Korn Ferry Tour this season, Stefani has four missed cuts and finishes of T56 and T57 in six starts thus far.

"I can't say, mentally, that I've been my best, but the last couple of weeks I've really tried to focus more on the mental side of things," Stefani said. "I feel like I was doing some good stuff, but getting in my own way... playing well, then making some mistakes, mentally not being committed or trusting my golf swing. I've tried to change the mindset to just come out here and play golf, try not to be perfect. It's funny, but when you have that mindset of acceptance, great things usually happen, and great things have happened the last couple of days."

Third-round pairings will run from 7:20 a.m. through 1:12 p.m. local time off the first tee.

Second-Round Notes

- The 36-hole cut was made at 5-under par, with 70 professionals advancing to the weekend
- **Shawn Stefani** (1st / -14) was one of four players who made two eagles in the second round; the others were **Justin Suh** (T4 / -11), **Alex Weiss** (T9 / -10), and **Theo Humphrey** (T14 / -9)
- **Chase Parker** (2nd / -13) and **Byeong Hun An** (3rd / -12) both carded 9-under 62s and tied the 18-hole tournament scoring record shared by **MJ Daffue** (R1, 2022), **Anders Albertson** (R1, 2021), and Paul Barjon (R2, 2021)
- Parker's 62 featured a 7-under 28 on the front nine (his second nine), marking the fourth 7-under 28 recorded on the Korn Ferry Tour this season
- Parker's 62 also eclipsed his career-low round from his previous 108 PGA TOUR-sanctioned rounds, which was a 7-under 64 in the second round of the 2019 Windsor Championship on PGA TOUR Canada
- In his 505th career PGA TOUR-sanctioned round, An tied his career-low round and established a new career-low score relative to par; his previous career-low round was an 8-under 62 in the first round of the 2019 Wyndham Championship, which, along with his 8-under 64 from the 2019 CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, was his career-low score relative to par

- An stands T3 or higher through 36 holes for the 10th time in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play, with the most recent occurrence being T3 at the 2022 LECOM Suncoast Classic, which he won
- 13 players carded bogey-free rounds in round two
- **Will Bateman** (T24 / -8), **Grayson Murray** (T24 / -8), and **Ben Silverman** (T35 / -7) were all open qualifiers and survived the 36-hole cut
- Playing via a sponsor exemption and in his first Korn Ferry Tour event, Dallas native **Blaine Hale Jr.** (T14 / -9) survived the 36-hole cut
- **Erik Barnes** (T14 / -9) is the only player with made cuts in all nine events this season
- The Veritex Bank Championship is the ninth 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

Second-Round Course Statistics

- Scoring Average (Total - Par 71): 67.955 [-3.045]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine – Par 35): 33.878 [-1.122]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine – Par 36): 34.007 [-1.923]
- Toughest Hole: No. 12, Par 3, 187 yards – 3.269 [+0.269]
- Easiest Hole: No. 9, Par 5, 532 yards – 4.096 [-0.904]