

### Third-Round Notes – Friday, April 15, 2022

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

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#### Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Chase Parker	67-62-65—194 (-19)
2	Taylor Montgomery	65-66-64—195 (-18)
T3	Tyson Alexander	65-66-66—197 (-16)
	Shawn Stefani	65-63-69—197 (-16)
T5	Rob Oppenheim	69-63-66—198 (-15)
	Byeong Hun An	68-62-68—198 (-15)

#### Quick Links

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

### Chase Parker takes solo 54-hole lead at the Veritex Bank Championship

**ARLINGTON, Texas** – Six months ago Chase Parker considered giving up playing professional golf altogether. Following a 6-under 65 Friday at Texas Rangers Golf Club, Parker took the outright 54-hole lead at 19-under par at the Veritex Bank Championship.

Playing in the final pairing with 36-hole leader and native Texan Shawn Stefani, Parker carded seven birdies against one bogey and took a one-stroke lead over Taylor Montgomery. Parker also holds a three-stroke lead over Stefani, a two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner, and defending champion Tyson Alexander, who turned at even par but played his first five holes of the back nine at 6-under par and turned in a second consecutive 5-under 66.

Parker carded a 5-under 30 on the front nine, making birdies on the final three holes and extending his run with another birdie at the par-5 10th. Parker, who turned 31 earlier this month, made his only bogey of the day at the par-4 11th, but rebounded with a birdie at the par-3 12th. The Augusta, Georgia native closed his round with six consecutive pars and secured his second 54-hole lead on the Korn Ferry Tour, and his first since sharing the 54-hole lead at the 2017 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, where he posted his career-high finish of solo fourth.

“I would not say it’s a familiar feeling because I have not been in this position in quite a while,” Parker said. “A golf tournament is a golf tournament. I’ve been in contention plenty of times over the last couple years at golf tournaments. This one is just a little bigger.”

The University of Kentucky alum turned professional in 2014, playing mostly mini-tours until earning Korn Ferry Tour membership and guaranteed starts via a T14 finish at Final Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament in December of 2016. Parker found immediate success as a rookie, finishing T28, fourth, and T38 in his first three starts. His season spiraled downward thereafter, as Parker missed the cut in 15 of his final 18 starts of 2017.

Parker returned to Final Stage in winter 2017, but left without guaranteed starts for 2018 and fell back to the mini-tours. Medalist honors at one of the 2019 PGA TOUR Canada Q-School sites earned him fully exempt status for the season, but he only made four cuts in 11 starts and was once again relegated to the mini-tours for all of 2020 and 2021.

Prior to trek through the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament last year, Parker considered leaving the game behind but ultimately gave himself another chance. Parker qualified for Final Stage on the number at the Dothan, Alabama site of Second Stage, making a gritty par on his 72nd hole.

“I put basically my entire life into it,” Parker said. “I really felt like I was very close to quitting the game last year and doing something else, and some stuff happened and I was able to get through Q-School. I did not have a very good year last year and just started playing well at the end of the year, got through to Final (Stage) and got status, so I couldn't hang it up then.”

A T105 finish at Final Stage last November once again left Parker buried on the priority ranking and without guaranteed starts. A sponsor exemption for the second event of the season, The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at the Abaco Club, ended with a T47 finish and allowed Parker to climb the priority ranking via the reshuffle, which took effect two events later.

Parker played the last three Korn Ferry Tour events, making two cuts and posting a T17 at the Lake Charles Championship, his first top-25 since the solo fourth at the 2017 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club.

“That's just such a big deal getting one of the first eight,” Parker said of the sponsor exemption. “There are so many different kinds of pressures in golf. Q-School, you got to do it or you're going home; you're done for the year. There is pressure to make the cut every week, if you're on that border. Then there is pressure to win golf tournaments. There are so many different weird kinds of pressures.

“Leading a golf tournament, you're obviously playing well, so you have some confidence under that pressure as well.”

Final-round pairings will run from 7:05 a.m. through 12:45 p.m. local time off the first tee.

### Third-Round Notes

- Through the first eight events of the season, no player who has led or co-led after 18, 36, or 54 holes went on to win the tournament
- **Byeong Hun An** (T5 / -15) needs a solo second or win to cross the 900-point threshold the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its failsafe threshold for players to finish among The 25 and earn a PGA TOUR card at regular season's end
- **Chase Parker** (1st / -19) had 17 missed cuts in 26 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour prior to this week

- **Taylor Montgomery** (2nd / -18) and **Chris Baker** (T14 / -12) both shot the round of the day with matching 7-under 64s
- In his 162nd Korn Ferry Tour round, Montgomery tied the third-lowest round of his career with a 7-under 64; he was also one of two players to record a bogey-free round Friday, with the other being **Nicholas Lindheim** (T35 / -10)
- Montgomery stands second or higher after the third round for the third time in a Korn Ferry Tour event
  - T1 – 2021 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank (finished T2)
  - T2 – 2020 Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics (finished T16)
- Montgomery tied his career-low 54-hole score of 195, matching his performance from the 2021 Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, where he held a share of the 54-hole lead
- In seven career rounds at Texas Rangers Golf Club, defending champion **Tyson Alexander** (T3 / -16) is a combined 39-under par after a second consecutive 5-under 66
- Alexander is bidding to become the first player in Korn Ferry Tour history (established 1990) to successfully defend his title
- **Scott Harington** (T8 / -13) recorded the most birdies in the third round with nine (Nos. 1, 2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18)
- 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

### Third-Round Course Statistics

- Scoring Average (Total - Par 71): 68.857 [-2.143]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine – Par 35): 34.571 [-0.429]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine – Par 36): 34.286 [-1.714]
- Toughest Hole: No. 17, Par 4, 461 yards – 4.214 [+0.214]
- Easiest Hole: No. 10, Par 5, 589 yards – 4.329 [-0.671]