



## First-Round Transcripts | VISIT KNOXVILLE OPEN | Thursday, May 12, 2022

### Anders Albertson (-8, first)

City Plays From: Atlanta, Georgia | Turned Pro: 2015 | College: Georgia Tech  
Exempt Status: 75 Points Leaders from the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season

#### *On his round...*

"I didn't make any bogeys, so that helps. I finally got into a rhythm again. I've been hurt the past couple of weeks but I feel better now. I got to practice and it's been a nice couple of days here in Knoxville." I'm staying with one of my best friends who is the assistant coach at the University of Tennessee, so thanks Bo and Shannon for the hospitality. It's been a nice start here and the body felt good. It was a good time out there. My usual caddie couldn't be here this week, unfortunately, but I have one of my other best friends on the bag so we had a good time during the first round. I just felt comfortable, so I think there's a lot of good going on for me this week. I'm getting to see some old teammates and old assistant coach is the head coach at University of Tennessee now, so they made it feel like somewhat of a home event. It was all good vibes."

#### *On how he's so well connected this week...*

"I played golf at Georgia Tech, Bo Andrews was my teammate who is now the assistant at UT and then Brennan Webb was the assistant coach at Georgia Tech who is now the head coach at UT, so just took them from over there and brought them here. It's good to be here with them. Bo caddied for me in pro-am so maybe he gave me some good lines and advice considering this is their home course, so I appreciate that."

#### *On posting 8-under, three strokes above the morning wave...*

"I've had a lot of help from people to feel comfortable with where I'm at mentally. I had a good day, but it's just one day, so I need to wake up and do the same thing tomorrow. It's most just a mental process and I feel healthy physically and very much at peace playing the course so it was a good day for that."

#### *On the perspective from earning his PGA TOUR card and now hoping to get it again...*

"I now know what not to do. I lost my card thinking about things that are not helpful and I think I'm playing a much different way now. If I get my card again or not, I'm very much at peace. I just play in my own bubble and if I get it, I get it. I'm more process-oriented now as opposed to thinking about what's on the line or where I stand."

#### *On his birdie on No. 4 after being in trouble...*

"It's always nice. I was chipping with the Tennessee players before they left for regionals, they left today, and I was getting my butt kicked, twice in two games. I think that might have paid off, getting beat for a few hours over there. My shot on No. 4 actually wasn't too bad. The wind on the back nine really picked up and it was hard to get close so it could have worked out I just skipped over it. I've been having a lot of reps this week."

#### *On starting his week off with a good round...*

"It does a lot for my confidence, it puts me in a good position so I'm just going to try and do the same thing tomorrow."



*On if '59 watch' ever entered his mind..*

"I don't even know what the par is. I don't care, I just try to play the shot in front of me."

*On being in contention...*

"I'm just playing the course how I decided I was going to play it on Monday. I'm not afraid of messing anything up or losing the lead, just need to keep playing the same way. I've done a good job of not looking at leaderboards all year. I know where I stand now, but everyone is going to make a lot of birdies around here so this is just one stop along the way. Three more days."

**Eric Cole (-5, T1)**

City Plays From: Tequesta, Florida | Turned Pro: 2009 | College: Nova Southeastern University  
Exempt Status: Top 25 Official Points List at the time of the Reorder

*On his round...*

"It was a good day. I got off to a fast start which was good. I've been getting off to slow starts the last few tournaments so it was good to come out and have a good start to a tournament where I really like the course. I'm excited for the next three days."

*On what he likes about the course...*

"I'm a big Donald Ross fan so it's nice to play a more old-school course where you have to hit the ball the right distance. The greens are in really good shape so that's a good combination for me."

*On his eagle on No. 5...*

"I hit my drive slightly in the right rough and then hit a really good 3 wood to about 30 feet on the back edge of the green. I read the putt right and it rolled in. That was definitely my high point of the day."

*On being in contention...*

"It's a great start. I'm going to go back and relax to try and take my mind off golf the next 24 hours until I play again. I'm going to take it easy and get ready to have another good round tomorrow."

*On if Greyson Siggs 20-under win from last year will be matched..*

"With weather like this it might be a little lower. The course is in great shape there's not a lot of wind so it could be lower, but you never know. If the greens get quick and firm it could be 15-under. I'm just going to focus on the process side of it and see what the score is when we're done."

*On what he does to take his mind off of golf..*

"Today it will probably be video games and maybe some time in the gym. I'll probably watch some hockey tonight."

*On who he is rooting for...*

"I'm a Panthers fan and they won last night, so a night off for me."



### **George Cunningham (-5, T1)**

City Plays From: Allen, Texas | Turned Pro: 2018 | College: University of Arizona  
Exempt Status: Top 75 Points Leaders from the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season

#### *On his round...*

"Everything was going really well today. I made a bogey on my second hole, I thought it was a good shot but it bounded over the green into a spot that I couldn't hit it to the pin. I knew this course, if you hit you're ball where you're looking and get your shots on the greens you're going to have a lot of opportunities. I was putting it well today, so overall everything felt really good."

#### *On the course set up...*

"As of lately I haven't been hitting my driver very well, so I figured out some things at the end of last week and didn't hit my driver very well today again, but it was nice knowing that there is less water and trouble to get into off of the tee so I'm able to focus on my second shot, which is what I've been doing well this week and this year."

#### *On what he corrected with his driver from last week...*

"For the last two years I've been on and off with my driver and I've been stuck with it. I'm turning out way too early then my arms get behind me. I've known about this issue but haven't figured out how to fix it but last week after the first round I looked at some videos and figured out my arms need to drop and I need to stop turning my shoulders so early at the top."

#### *On missing last few cuts but now being in contention*

"It means a lot to be playing well. I figured out my driver last week so I had more confidence coming in and it felt good. This is a course that sets up well for my eye and I love the older, traditional, Donald Ross courses, so to come out from the shake-y start and finish well was really important and a good way to start the week."

#### *On any shots that stood out to him today..*

"On No.14, the long par 3, there is a back-left pin, and generally you want to just get your ball into the middle of the green but I hit the ball to about two feet. It was right at it. While the ball was in the air I was thinking 'go in,' but that was a really nice shot. It helped me start getting into the round and feel good with my swing."

#### *On matching Greyson Siggs 20-under from last season..*

"They have the new tee box on No. 9 and No. 2 which could definitely add some strokes. On No. 9, I think it added about 60 yards which has made a big difference, so that hole went from hitting a wedge to hitting a 6 iron for me today, but I think right around 20-under will be the number."



**Will Gordon (-5, T1)**

City Plays From: Davidson, North Carolina | Turned Pro: 2019 | College: Vanderbilt University  
Exempt Status: Top 25 from Previous Event

*On his round...*

"I hit it well and drove it well. I honestly felt like I got off to a slow start but I hung in there and made some putts. I putted really nice today and have had some nice first rounds lately, so I feel pretty comfortable with this start. I felt sloppy with a couple parts of my round so there is definitely room for improvement and if my game stays like this then I'm going to have to play really well every day."

*On taking the first-round momentum into the next three rounds...*

"I'll just continue to play golf, as simple as it sounds, but just staying in the moment. Ball-striking wise I've been a little inconsistent but I hit well in the first round but I need to sustain that over the next three rounds."

*On how it feels to play in Tennessee as it relates to being a Vanderbilt alumni...*

"Not so much in Knoxville because I'm a Vanderbilt fan, but I love being here. The last two weeks have been the first couple of times that I've played out here since turning professional, so that's been awesome."

*On if anyone is out watching him...*

"Last week I did. It was great seeing familiar faces and being able to go out and get dinner and see those old familiar spots to hang out."

*On if there's anything about this course that stands out .*

"I can hit a lot of drivers which helps me, it's one of my advantages. This course also gives me a lot of wedge shots into the greens and I've been hitting those well. I've also been putting nicely so I'm please with that."

*On if being near University of Tennessee is rubbing off on him.*

"We'll try to keep it positive for the next four to five days."

**Caleb Proveaux (-5, T1)**

City Plays From: Columbia, South Carolina | Turned Pro: 2021 | College: University of South Carolina  
Exempt Status: Reorder with Points Finishers 11-40 & Ties Previous Year's Qualifying Tournament

*On his round...*

"I hit it really good today, I could have made a couple more putts but everything was right where I wanted it. It felt like an easy 65 and I had a good finish, that helped a lot."

*On the end of his round today...*

"I was only 2-under heading into No. 15, so I hadn't made many putts yet. I got a really good break, the first good break I had, on No. 15. I hit it over the green, short sided and somehow chipped it in. Then I just made good birdies on the last two. A good round."

*On if he knew where he stood heading onto No. 15...*

"I saw the leaderboard on No. 17 so I told myself, 'I probably need to make another birdie here or an eagle to try and get the outright lead.'"

*On the course set up this week...*

"I just like simple courses like this. It's straight in front of you. I'm usually a ball striker so it helps me out a lot."

*On getting in to the field on his number this week...*

"I just got in last minute. It's not the spot I want to be in. I would rather know I'm already in, but I am thankful to have gotten in."

*On starting his week off with a good round...*

"It does a lot for my confidence. It puts me in a good position so I'm just going to try and do the same thing tomorrow."

*On the Monday qualifier last week against his brother, Cody...*

"We were in a playoff and we were the first two to hit out of five people. We both striped it so we thought we had a good chance of both getting in. Cody hit it to about six inches and I hit it to like, twenty feet. I made a good putt but just missed, then another player made his 12 footer so I was out."