

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, May 14, 2022

Course Setup: Holston Hills Country Club (Par 70 / 7,163 yards)

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Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Anders Albertson	62-67-65—194 (-16)
2	Carl Yuan	68-65-62—195 (-15)
3	Taylor Montgomery	65-68-63—196 (-14)
T4	Sean O’Hair	65-67-65—197 (-13)
	MJ Daffue	64-65-68—197 (-13)

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Anders Albertson maintains lead through 54 holes of Visit Knoxville Open

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee – For the first time in his professional career, Anders Albertson holds a 54-hole lead. Albertson, vying for his second Korn Ferry Tour win, birdied four of his final six holes and carded a bogey-free 5-under 65 in Saturday’s third round of the Visit Knoxville Open, reaching 16-under par and taking the outright lead with a birdie at the par-5 18th.

Albertson will enter Sunday’s final round one stroke ahead of Carl Yuan, the current Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List leader, and two strokes ahead of Taylor Montgomery, who finished No. 26 on both the 2020-21 Regular Season Points List and 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals Points List last season.

“The course was very difficult today,” Albertson said. “The greens were really firm, so I think the whole group was struggling to get birdie looks early. We were trying to get a feel for it. For whatever reason, I got in a better groove on the back nine and I got a couple birdies in a row there which was nice.”

Albertson opened with a birdie at the par-4 first, a hole he birdied each of the first two rounds as well. The 28-year-old who plays from Atlanta, Georgia rattled off 11 consecutive pars until his late-round heater, when he birdied Nos. 13, 14, 15 (another hole he birdied for a third time this week), and 18. The highlight of Albertson’s round came at the 212-yard par-3 14th, where he hit the pin and nearly made a hole-in-one before he settled for a tap-in birdie.

“It was probably the most solid shot I hit all day,” Albertson said, “I just held up a 6-iron and that’s a really hard par 3. Honestly, you’re just trying to fly it in the middle and just hope it stays on. We couldn’t see, it was so far away, but it definitely hit the flag and we heard the noise of the people and I got up there and it was like an inch away.”

To close out his third round, Albertson made an up-and-down birdie from the right greenside bunker protecting the front the par-5 18th.

In 120 Korn Ferry Tour starts prior to this week, Albertson's only leads were an 18-hole outright lead and 36-hole co-lead at the 2021 Veritex Bank Championship. Albertson stood inside the top three after 54 holes of two events last season – solo second, his career-high 54-hole position, at the 2020 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS (finished T5) and 2020 WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz (finished T11). Prior to his win at the 2018 Memorial Health Championship presented by LRS, Albertson stood T3 through 54 holes.

"I'm not really thinking about winning," said Albertson, whose best finish this season is T4 at the Lake Charles Championship. "If it happens, it's great, but I know, for me, after making a bunch of mistakes in my career, it's about being as free as I can. I know that there's 18 very difficult holes left that I have to take care of before another win would become a reality, but it is comforting to think back that I've done it before. I've been in a big moment and can just be present and calm in my body when things are on the line. It's helpful."

[Albertson is back with the Korn Ferry Tour](#) for the second consecutive season after he played the 2018-19 campaign on the PGA TOUR. The Georgia Tech alum ended the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour regular season ranked No. 8 and earned his first PGA TOUR card, but finished 172nd the 2018-19 FedExCup Standings and fell back to the Korn Ferry Tour. In the combined 2020-21 season, Albertson finished No. 64 on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points List, granting him fully exempt status for the 2022 season. In eight starts this year, Albertson has six made cuts and two top-25s.

Yuan shot the low round of the day, a career-low 8-under 62, and pulled within a stroke of Albertson. Yuan was the first player who crossed the 900-point mark the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as it's fail-safe threshold for players to finish among The 25 and earn a PGA TOUR card at regular season's end. The 25-year-old native of Dalian, China [won the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS](#) back in March and finished T2 at The Panama Championship and a T3 at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay this year.

Final-round tee times will run in groups of three from 8:50 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. local time off the first and 10th tee. The final group will consist of Albertson, Yuan, and Montgomery.

Third-Round Notes

- **Anders Albertson** (1st / -16) and **Sean O'Hair** (T4 / -13) are tied for the fewest over-par holes this week, as Albertson's only bogey of the week came at the par-3 11th in the second round, while O'Hair's only blemish thus far was a double bogey at the par-4 second in the third round
- **Carl Yuan** (2nd / -15) made a field-leading nine birdies en route to the low round of the day and a career-low 8-under 62; he also leads the field in birdies this week with 18
- Yuan's previous career-low round was a 7-under 63 at the 2019 Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae
- Yuan stands T3 or higher through 54 holes for the fifth time in his career and third time this season; he finished in the top 10 each of the previous four times
 - 2019 The Panama Championship – Solo 2nd through 54 holes (finished solo 3rd)
 - 2021 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation – T3 through 54 holes (finished T2)

- 2022 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay – T2 through 54 holes (finished T3)
- 2022 Club Car Championship at The Landings Club – T2 through 54 holes (finished T7)
- **Taylor Montgomery** (T3 / -9) stands T3 or better after 54 holes for the third time this season and fifth time in his career; he was previously solo second at the 2022 Veritex Bank Championship (finished T4) and T3 at the 2022 Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard (finished T13)
- **MJ Daffue** (T4 / -13), **Justin Suh** (T7 / -10), and **Eric Cole** (T7 / -10) need a win to cross the 900-point threshold the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe threshold for players to finish among The 25 and earn a PGA TOUR card at regular season's end
 - **Erik Barnes** (T15 / -8) must finish solo 3rd, a four-way T2, or higher
- Four-time PGA TOUR champion **Sean O'Hair** (T4 / -13) sits inside the top five through 54 holes of a Korn Ferry Tour event for the first time in his career
- In all four of O'Hair's wins on the PGA TOUR, he stood T5 or lower through 54 holes
 - T5 at 2008 Valspar Championship, 2009 Wells Fargo Championship, and 2011 RBC Canadian Open
 - T7 at 2005 John Deere Classic
- **Christopher Petefish** (T23 / -7), the only Monday qualifier who survived the 36-hole cut, has conditional status from a T91 finish at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament and can secure another start next week with a top-25
- The 36-hole cut was made at 2-under par Saturday morning, with 83 players advancing
- The Visit Knoxville Open is the 12th 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 70): 68.675 [-1.325]
- Scoring Average (Front Nine): 34.446 [-0.554]
- Scoring Average (Back Nine): 34.229 [-0.771]
- Toughest Hole: No. 17, Par 4, 520 yards – 4.265 [+0.265]
- Easiest Hole: No. 5, Par 5, 541 yards – 4.410 [-0.590]