



**2022 Sanderson Farms Championship**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

Jackson, Mississippi  
Country Club of Jackson

September 29-October 2, 2022

Purse: \$7,900,000  
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,461

**First-Round Notes – Thursday, September 29, 2022**

*Weather: Sunny, with a high of 76. Wind NNE 10-15, gusting to 20 mph.*

**First-Round Leaderboard**

Davis Riley	66 (-6)
Will Gordon	66 (-6)
Seven players	67 (-5)

**Things to Know**

- In his sophomore season on the PGA TOUR, Hattiesburg, MS native **Davis Riley** opens his fourth consecutive Sanderson Farms Championship with a bogey-free 6-under 66
- Making his third Sanderson Farms Championship start, North Carolina native **Will Gordon** offsets one bogey with seven birdies to open in 6-under 66
- In search of his second career PGA TOUR title and first in individual stroke-play competition, **Andrew Putnam's** 5-under 67 marks his low score in 15 rounds in the event
- In just his second career start on the PGA TOUR, Charlotte, N.C. native **Trevor Cone** records four straight birdies on Nos. 13-16 on his way to a 5-under 67
- In just his eighth professional start on the PGA TOUR, and 12<sup>th</sup> overall, TOUR rookie and Chinese Taipei native **Kevin Yu** sinks 107' 1" of total putts en route to a 5-under 67
- This season's first two aces both came courtesy of **Brandon Wu** (8-iron) and **MJ Daffue** (9-iron) on the par-3 fourth hole from 182 yards

**First-Round Lead Notes**

- 6 First-round leaders/co-leaders to convert for the win at the Sanderson Farms Championship since 2000; Most recent: Cameron Champ/2018
- 0 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2022-23

**Leaders – Entering the Week**

Category	Davis Riley	Will Gordon
Age	25 (12/17/1996)	26 (7/28/1996)
OWGR	69	219
Starts – wins – top-10s in PGA TOUR career	41-0-6	44-0-2
Starts – wins – top-10s on TOUR in 2022-23	1-0-0	1-0-0
Starts – wins – top-10s at Sanderson Farms Champ.	3-0-0	2-0-0

**Davis Riley (T1/-6)**

- After birdies on four of his first seven holes, Hattiesburg, Mississippi native added two more at Nos. 15 and 16 before posting a bogey-free 6-under 66
- His only other occasion to hold at least a share of the 18-hole lead resulted in a T13 at the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday
- In his rookie season on TOUR in 2021-22, highlight of six top-10 finishes was a playoff loss to Sanderson Farms Championship defending champion, Sam Burns, at the Valspar Championship
- Advanced through the first two of three FedExCup Playoffs events before ending his season No. 36 in the FedExCup

### **Will Gordon (T1/-6)**

- Making his third Sanderson Farms Championship start, North Carolina native offset one bogey with seven birdies to open in 6-under 66
- In two previous Sanderson Farms Championship starts, finished T53 in 2020 and missed the cut in 2019
- Makes a return to the PGA TOUR for the 2022-23 season by virtue of the Top 50 from the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour; biggest season highlight from that Tour was winning the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron
- In addition to his win in Idaho, ended the Korn Ferry Tour season with back-to-back top-5 finishes
- Two top-10 finishes in 44 TOUR starts before this week: T3/2020 Travelers Championship, T10/2019 RSM Classic
- Did not make a start on TOUR in the 2021-22 season

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

- Making his fifth Sanderson Farms Championship start, **Andrew Putnam** rebounded from back-to-back bogeys on Nos. 9 and 10 with four birdies on his last eight holes; included early birdies at Nos. 3, 7 and 8 to reach 5-under 67 (T3); the 67 marks his low score in the event (15 rounds)
- PGA TOUR rookie **Brandon Matthews** used five birdies, an eagle at the par 5-14<sup>th</sup> and 124' 0" of made putts to open with a 5-under 67 (T3); earned his way to the PGA TOUR by virtue of the Top 50 from the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour category; won the Astara Golf Championship presented by Mastercard on the Korn Ferry Tour last season; making his seventh career start on the PGA TOUR, with a 60<sup>th</sup>-place finish at the 2022 U.S. Open his only made cut
- In just his eighth professional start on the PGA TOUR, and 12<sup>th</sup> overall, TOUR rookie and Chinese Taipei native **Kevin Yu** sank 107' 1" of total putts en route to a 5-under 67 (T3); having earned three top-5 finishes – two of which were runner ups – finished No. 23 on the season-long Korn Ferry Tour Eligibility Points List; joins C.T. Pan as the only other Chinese Taipei representative to earn a PGA TOUR card
- Following birdies on four of his first six holes, South Africa's **Christiaan Bezuidenhout** signed for a 5-under 67 (T3) in his first Sanderson Farms Championship start; career-best finish in 47 TOUR starts before this week was T2/2022 John Deere Classic
- **Brandon Wu** (T14/-3) aced the fourth hole using an 8-iron from 182 yards; a few hours later, **MJ Daffue** (T25/-2) followed Wu's feat using a 9-iron
- Defending champion **Sam Burns** sits T25 after a 2-under 70 in his sixth Sanderson Farms Championship start