

# Circling Raven Championship

Circling Raven Golf Club | Worley, Idaho | August 27-29

## First Round Notes

August 27, 2021

Course Setup: 36-36—72; 6,588 yards (R1 scoring average: 71.419)

Quick Links:

- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Online Media Center](#) (groupings, statistics, hole locations, photos, etc.)

LEADERBOARD			
	Player	To Par	Score
T1	Min-G Kim	-8	64
T1	Pannarat Thanapolboonyaras	-8	64
T1	Fatima Fernandez Cano	-8	64
4	Katharine Patrick	-7	65
T5	Kim Kaufman	-6	66
T5	Peiyun Chien	-6	66

### THREE PLAYERS TIED AT -8 ON FRIDAY

After day one of the inaugural Circling Raven Championship in Worley, Idaho, three players are tied for the lead after opening rounds of -8. **Min-G Kim** (Cheongju, People's Republic of Korea) finds herself in the group atop the leaderboard after carding two eagles, five birdies and one bogey at Circling Raven Golf Club.

"I hit a decent drive on both, followed by a decent 3-wood on both real close to the green and just chipped them both in," said Kim. "Honestly, I was just enjoyed the round and trying not to think about it and going to continue to try and not think about it after this, it's only day one, you never know. (To get my mind off of golf) I just do my usual workout stuff, lay in bed watching some Netflix and chill or listen to some music. It also helped this course really reminds me of home from the weather to the three lined fairways, I really like it."

The 2020 IOA Championship presented by Morongo Casino Resort and Spa champion **Fatima Fernandez Cano** (Santiago, Spain) also joined the group at tied for first. She started this season with five top-10s in six starts and is currently No. 5 in the Race for the Card.

“I do I feel like in the middle of the season I kind of fell asleep on it a little bit it's not that I was not motivated but I was going with the flow a little bit too much,” said Fernandez Cano. “Now we have five (tournaments) left to go and nothing is set in stone yet and that kind of makes me a little mad because I started season so well that I feel like I should be a little bit higher in the rankings. It just gave me a little more motivation to come out here and do my best and hopefully play well.”

While Fernandez Cano and Kim have been competing on the Symetra Tour all season long, **Pannarat Thanapolboonyaras** (Roi-Eet, Thailand) has been back and forth between the LPGA and Symetra Tours. This is only her fourth start this season on the Road to the LPGA; in fact, she only arrived in Idaho yesterday after traveling from the AIG Women's Open. Despite missing the cut in Scotland and not having a practice round in Idaho, she found momentum on day one to card a first-round -8.

“Without a practice round, I just looked at the yardage book and played today shot by shot. With a week off from the LPGA I wanted to take this time to work on my game and fine tune a few things,” said Thanapolboonyaras. “I didn't expect to share the lead or shoot the low scores today, but seeing how I played well, I want to stick to that game plan moving forward into the weekend.”

#### **PATRICK TAKES SOLO FOURTH AFTER 18 HOLES**

After 18 holes, Symetra Tour rookie **Katharine Patrick** (West University Place, Texas) finds herself in solo fourth. Patrick is only one stroke off the lead with the help of holing out an eagle from 111 yards on No. 17. After missing the cut in her first six starts this season, she has made three of the last four and is looking to continue to build on the growth of her game this weekend in Worley, Idaho.

“I have a volunteer caddy this week (Jacob Eckstein) and he is familiar with the course. I used that to my advantage, I had good lines picked in my practice rounds so I just confirmed with him where the wind was going to change the line in accordance with it. Also, knowing where to miss gave me more confidence with each shot,” said Patrick.

“About a month ago my goal was to get up the money list so I didn't have to go to Stage 1, now I have reset my goal, and anything can happen. So, my new goal is to just work my way up as best I can the rest of the season.”

Two players, both previous Symetra Tour champions, are right behind Patrick at -6 heading into Saturday. **Kim Kaufman** (Clark, South Dakota) went bogey-free to start the week in the Gem State, and is joined by 2020 Symetra Classic winner **Peiyun Chien** (Pingtung, Chinese Taipei) in a tie for fifth.

“I mean, a bogey-free round is always great. (The course) is very scorable, but the wind is being tough so when you keep going the right way it always feels good,” said Kaufman. “(Today I) finally struck the ball better and hit my irons really well. My short game has been sharper and has been for a while but this week I am just focusing finding the fairways and then I feel like I can attack any hole. I guess it’s really a confidence I haven’t had in a while.”

### **NOTABLE QUOTES**

*Demi Runas (-5, T7) on her strength today at Circling Raven Golf Club:*

“The course is set up really well. You know if you're having a good ball striking day, you're going to give yourself a lot of opportunities and I was fortunate enough to do that for myself today. My iron play was super solid too, which just gave myself a lot of really good opportunities and left some out there but then also you know capitalize on a few and was lucky enough to hold one out from the fairway towards the end of my round which is always really fun.”

*Sophia Schubert (-5, T7) on her momentum out on the course today:*

“You know so I started on the back today and I just I don't know I just wasn't really feeling it. My putts weren't dropping, I was hitting the ball good but couldn't make anything, then teeing off on one on my back nine, something kind of clicked and I was rolling in putts. I was hitting the ball little closer but once they started dropping, I feel like that gave me a little bit of confidence back that I had last on my previous time.”

*Julie Aime (-4, T10) on what she feels gave her a good start:*

“It was one of those days (where it just feels good), it didn't happen on 18 holes, but I could tell the momentum was coming, so I'm looking forward to tomorrow and Sunday getting some good feels. I got a new putter in the bag, so it feels good. It's a Callaway Odyssey, it's called a broomstick actually. I'm happy I have it in the bag.”

### **PLAYER NOTES**

*Min-G Kim*

- Kim is a native of Cheongju, Republic of Korea
- 2016 two top 10 finishes including T5 at Symetra Classic

- Competed in eight LPGA events in 2017, with best finish of T60 at the Canadian Pacific Women's Open
- Recorded two top 10 finishes including a season best T2 at the Valley Forge Invitational in 2018
- In 2020, she made eight cuts in 10 starts including a season-best finish of eighth at the IOA Championship presented by Morongo Casino Resort and Spa

*Pannarat Thanapolboonyaras*

- Thanapolboonyaras is a native of Roi-Et, Thailand
- Played on the China LPGA and the Thai LPGA in 2015
- Played in five Thai LPGA events in 2015 and ranked 13th on the Order of Merit
- Finished T15 in the Final State of the Qualifying Tournament to earn Membership for the 2016 season
- Was the youngest player on the LPGA Tour in 2016 where she made seven cuts in 18 starts
- Finished T32 at the LPGA Qualifying Tournament to earn Priority List Category 17 for the 2018 season
- Produced first top-10 of her LPGA Tour career at the Blue Bay LPGA where she tied for 10th
- In 2019, she made 13 cuts in 19 starts on the LPGA Tour including season best of T12 at the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational team event

*Fatima Fernandez Cano*

- Fernandez Cano is a native of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- Four-time All-Sun Belt First Team selection for Troy University
- Eight-time medalist including 2014 Sun Belt Conference Championship
- Named the 2014 Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year for the Trojans
- Sun Belt Conference Women's Golfer of the Year and set Troy single-season scoring average record (72.79) in 2016
- Finished T101 at Stage II of the 2017 LPGA Qualifying Tournament to first earn Symetra Tour membership as a 2018 rookie
- Secured a Symetra Tour career-best result of 3rd at the 2018 Prasco Charity Championship
- Qualified for the 2019 U.S. Women's Open Championship at the Country Club of Charleston
- Made 15 cuts across 21 starts on the Symetra Tour in 2019 with a season-best finish of fifth at the Garden City Charity Classic
- Made all eight cuts in 2020 including her first career win at the IOA Championship presented by Morongo Casino Resort and Spa to finish No. 2 on the money list

**ABOUT THE SYMETRA TOUR**

The Symetra Tour is the official qualifying tour of the LPGA Tour and enters its 41st competitive season in 2021. With the support of entitlement partner Symetra, the Tour's mission is to prepare the world's best young women professional golfers for a successful career on the LPGA Tour. Since

Symetra's inaugural sponsorship year in 2012, the Symetra Tour has grown from 16 tournaments and \$1.7 million in prize money to \$4.0 million in prize money awarded in 2019 and 2021. With more than 600 alumnae moving on to the LPGA, former Symetra Tour players have won a total of 445 LPGA titles. Follow the Symetra Tour on the web at [www.SymetraTour.com](http://www.SymetraTour.com), as well as [Facebook.com/Road2LPGA](https://www.facebook.com/Road2LPGA), [Twitter.com/Road2LPGA](https://twitter.com/Road2LPGA) and Instagram [@road2lpga](https://www.instagram.com/road2lpga).

#### **ABOUT SYMETRA**

Symetra Life Insurance Company is a subsidiary of Symetra Financial Corporation, a diversified financial services company based in Bellevue, Washington. In business since 1957, Symetra provides employee benefits, annuities and life insurance through a national network of benefit consultants, financial institutions and independent agents and advisors. Symetra began its partnership with the Road to the LPGA in 2010 as the title sponsor of the Symetra Classic. It secured naming rights for the Symetra Tour in November 2011. In addition to its title sponsorship of the Tour, which runs through 2021, Symetra sponsors two events on the tournament schedule—the Symetra Classic and the season-ending Symetra Tour Championship. For more information about Symetra, visit [www.symetra.om](http://www.symetra.om)

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