

Davidson Leads At SoCon Championships

Written by Phil Perry
Sunday, 21 April 2013 17:23

Davidson sophomore Todd Eckstein had the only sub-par round of the day and the Wildcats shot 9-over as a team to hold the lead after Sunday's blustery first day of the Southern Conference Men's Golf Championship at the Daniel Island Club's Ralston Creek Course. Eckstein shot a 1-under 71 to pace the field, shooting 3-under on the back nine after making the turn at 2-over. The Durham, N.C., native leads UNCG freshman Taylor Coalson and Chattanooga senior Steven Fox, who are even at 72 to share second place after the first day of competition. The rest of the 55-player field finished over par as persistent wind gusts were around 25 mph for much of the day.

As a team, Davidson put three players in the top 10, with Sam Echikson shooting a 2-over 74 to sit in a tie for fifth and Richard Fountain posting a 3-over 75 to tie for seventh. John Skeadas is tied for 13th at 5-over 77 as the Wildcats turned in a team score of 297 on day one.

Chattanooga is in second place, just one stroke back of the Wildcats after an opening-round 298. The Mocs also have three players in the top 10, with Chris Robb (74, tied for fifth) and Benni Weilguni (75, tied for seventh) joining Fox, the reigning U.S. Amateur champion who competed in the Masters last week.

Appalachian State will join Davidson and Chattanooga in the Monday's pairings, as the Mountaineers shot a 17-over 305 Sunday to finish the day in the third position. Appalachian State's Casey Komline shot a 1-over 73 to sit alone in fourth place.

College of Charleston sophomore Zach Munroe and Samford sophomore Zach Hughes are also in the top 10 amidst a four-way tie forseventh after opening-round 75s.

The Cougars are in fourth at 309, while Elon is fifth place, three stroke back. Samford is in sixth at 314, followed closely by Georgia Southern and UNCG, who are tied for seventh at 315.

Furman stands ninth at 320, while Western Carolina (324) and Wofford (332) round out the team scoring.

Monday's second round tees off at 8 a.m., with Western Carolina and Wofford going off first.

Leaders Davidson, Chattanooga and Appalachian State begin teeing off at 10:30 a.m. Live stats can be found at www.golfstatresults.com and will be updated every three holes.

2013 Southern Conference Men's Golf Championship Daniel Island Club, Ralston Creek Course Daniel Island, S.C.

Top 10 individuals Rd 1

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|-----|---------------------------------|----|
| 1. | Todd Eckstein, Davidson College | 71 |
| T2. | Taylor Coalson, UNCG | 72 |
| T2. | Steven Fox, Chattanooga | 72 |

4. **Casey Komline, Appalachian State** 73

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|----|
| T5. | Sam Echikson, Davidson College | 74 |
| T5. | Chris Robb, Chattanooga | 74 |
| T7. | Richard Fountain, Davidson College | 75 |
| T7. | Zach Hughes, Samford | 75 |
| T7. | Benni Weilguni, Chattanooga | 75 |

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T7. Zach Munroe, College of Charleston 75

Team standings Rd 1

1. Davidson College 297
2. Chattanooga 298
- 3. Appalachian State 305**
4. College of Charleston 309
5. Elon 312
6. Samford 314
- T7. Georgia Southern 315
- T7. UNCG 315
9. Furman 320
10. Western Carolina 324
11. Wofford College 332

Photo Courtesy: Casey Komline, ASU Athletics