



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Utah atop stacked leaderboard after opening round of Burns

12 players within 3 shots of individual leaders, Illinois' Buchanan and Missouri's Snyder

KAUA'I, Hawai'i – The No. 16 Utah Utes, winners of two team titles during their fall campaign (Palouse Collegiate and Tindall Invitational), hold a seven-stroke lead at seven-under-par after the first round of the 48th John A. Burns Intercollegiate on Kaua'i. No. 10 Illinois and No. 41 UNLV are tied for second at even par. No. 21 BYU (+1) and New Mexico (+2) round out the top five.



Utah's Sergio Jimenez tees off on hole 17, a 173-yard par 3 at the Ocean Course at Hōkūala.

"As the Kona winds stirred up, the Ocean Course played different than the prevailing winds that we are used to," remarked Utah head golf coach, Garrett Clegg, who recently guided the Utes to

the 2022 and 2024 NCAA Championships. “Our boys hit high-quality shots, making pars on difficult holes and birdies when pin placements were more forgiving. Every player on our roster is hungry to compete at the highest level. They strive to prove themselves week in, week out.”



The Ocean Course at Hōkūala is part of Timbers Kaua'i – Ocean Club & Residences, a 450-acre resort surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, Kalapaki Bay and Hā'upu Mountain Range.

Utah finished their opening round with three players in the top seven, led by Sergio Jimenez and Davis Johnson (T3; -3).

Illinois won the Steelwood Collegiate Invitational to conclude their fall. Their momentum carried over to Kaua'i, led by 2024 Big Ten Golfer of the Year and co-individual leader, Jackson Buchanan, who finished at four-under-par. The Fighting Illini senior is ranked No. 14 in America.



Missouri's Brock Snyder reviews his tee shot on hole 17 at the Ocean Course at Hōkūala.

Tied with Buchanan is Missouri's Brock Snyder. The sophomore from Iowa and 2023-24 SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll member shared, “I was pleased with my four birdie, bogey-free 66. This par-70 provides a exciting challenge.”

Justin Hastings, the San Diego State senior who won the 2025 Latin American Amateur Championship to earn berths into this year's Masters Tournament, U.S. Open and British Open, finished at four-over-par (74).



San Diego State's Justin Hastings and head coach Ryan Donovan strategize during the first round of the 2025 John A. Burns Intercollegiate on Kaua'i.

"Unfortunately, I hit the ball better than I scored," said Hastings. "If I can clean up around the greens, I'll be better positioned for success."

Host Hawai'i was led by sophomore Anson Cabello (T24; +1). The Maui native is no stranger the Garden Isle, having won the 2024 Kaua'i Amateur.

Led by the Ocean Course at Hōkūala's Kellie Hines (PGA Director of Instruction), Hualani Duncan (marketing manager) and Elise Guirao (merchandise manager), all multi-generational natives of Kaua'i, they gracefully led the opening ceremony with a traditional Hawaiian blessing, "E Ala E" to commence the 48th edition of the Burns.



Kellie Hines (left), Hualani Duncan (second from left), Elise Guirao (second from right) and Scott Simpson (right) are all smiles after the 2025 opening ceremony.

The second round begins at 9:00 a.m. HST. Attendance is free for walking spectators.

Following Friday's round at 3:45 p.m. on the practice putting green, Kellie Hines, PGA Director of Instruction, Ocean Course at Hōkūala, Hawai'i men's golf coach Scott Simpson and his team will host a free clinic for keiki. They will offer swing lessons, tips on college recruiting and more.

All team and individual scores can be found here: [SCOREBOARD](#)

Team Leaderboard

Place	School	To Par	Rd. 1
1	Utah	-7	273
T2	UNLV	E	280
T2	Illinois	E	280
4	BYU	+1	281
5	New Mexico	+2	282
6	Santa Clara	+3	283
T7	Texas A&M	+6	286
T7	Long Beach State	+6	286
T7	Missouri	+6	286
10	St. Mary's (CA)	+9	289
11	Fresno State	+11	291
T12	Washington State	+14	294
T12	Grand Canyon	+14	294
T12	San Diego State	+14	294
15	California	+18	298
T16	UTEP	+19	299
T16	Hawai'i	+19	299

Top Individuals

Place	Player	School	To Par	Rd. 1
T1	Brock Snyder	Missouri	-4	66
T1	Jackson Buchanan	Illinois	-4	66
T3	Sergio Jimenez	Utah	-3	67
T3	Wheaton Ennis	Texas A&M	-3	67
T3	Davis Johnson	Utah	-3	67
T3	Emil Nielsen	Santa Clara	-3	67
T7	Jack Cantlay	Long Beach State	-2	68
T7	Mesa Falleur	New Mexico	-2	68
T7	Gabriel Palacios	Utah	-2	68
T7	Connor Reis	St. Mary's (CA)	-2	68
T11	Peter Kim	BYU	-1	69
T11	Zac Jones	BYU	-1	69
T11	Alvaro Portillo	New Mexico	-1	69
T11	Wyatt Plattner	UNLV	-1	69

*Competing as Individual

TOURNAMENT FACTS

Dates: Feb. 13–15, 2025

Venue: [Ocean Course at Hōkūala](#)

Location: Lihu'e, Kaua'i

Yardage (Par): 7,156 (70)

Format: 54 holes; 18 holes each day; 5-count-4

Tee Times: 9:00 a.m. HST shotgun each day

Host: Hawai'i

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About Ocean Course at Hōkūala

Home to the longest continuous stretch of oceanfront holes in the state of Hawai'i, the Ocean Course was named one of the "World's Most Beautiful Golf Courses" by MSN Travel. The 18-hole golf course is part of [Timbers Kaua'i Ocean Club & Residences](#), a private residential club which opened in 2018 on the island's southeast coast. Timbers Kaua'i sits on a 450-acre natural amphitheater and offers unobstructed views of the Pacific Ocean, Kalapaki Bay and Hā'upu Mountain Range. [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

About Troon

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