



Southern Miss's Moffitt shoots 66 for first-round lead in 20th St. Augustine Amateur

ELKTON, Florida, USA (December 5, 2025) – Two players with an interest in warmer weather golf topped the leaderboard Friday in the first round of the 20th Augustine Amateur at the St. Johns Golf Club. Southern Miss freshman Jake Moffitt stands in first place with a 5-under-par 66, followed by Englishman turned Arkansas-Little Rock sophomore Alexander Rowland at 4-under 67.

On a day where the temperature was 60 at sunup and reached 79 degrees, the St. Johns Golf Club played fast and was tricky with winds reaching steadily to 20 mph during midday. As a result, only 12 players broke par 71 and the field stroke average was 74.74 on the first day of the 54-hole event.

There are three players at 3-under 68 – New Jersey high school player of the year Rory Asselta, North Florida's Adam Vermut, a 6-foot-6 senior for the Ospreys, and University of Florida student Ian Lentz.

The four players at 2-under 69 are led by Mick Herron, a Rollins College sophomore whose twin brother PJ, a Flagler College sophomore, was forced to withdraw Friday morning because of a fever. They are the sons of four-time PGA Tour winner Tim Herron. Mississippi State commit Finn Burkholder from The Woodlands, Texas; Huntingdon College All-American senior Jack Burr from Milton, Ga., and former College of Charleston golfer Michael Sass, a Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., resident, join Mick Herron at 2-under.

Play continues Saturday and Sunday with rain in the forecast for late Saturday and all day Sunday. Tee times Saturday are from 8:30-10:30 a.m. off both the first and 10th tees, with the leaders teeing off last off No. 1. Go to www.staugustineamateur.com for live scoring and other tournament details and visit BabyGrande Golf on Instagram, TikTok and youtube for social media updates.

"It hasn't gotten quite cold yet in south Mississippi where I go to school (Hattiesburg, Miss.), so I'm used to this," said Moffitt, who wore shorts and a short-sleeve golf shirt. "Ball striking is my strong suit, so this golf course makes you strike the ball solid all around. So, I really like the look and feel of this course."

Moffitt made six birdies – three on each nine – and one bogey (par-4 ninth hole, the day's hardest hole) during his round. The round continued a stellar season for the Ripley, Miss., 19-year-old. He won the Mississippi Amateur this summer by a record 10 strokes, establishing a new tournament mark of 21-under par. He also played in the 2025 U.S. Amateur at Olympic Club in San Francisco.

Rowland, also age 19, is from London but attended high school in The Bahamas and felt a similar type weather to his college in Little Rock. Rowland made seven birdies, including consecutive birdies at 17 and 18 to finish, and a double bogey at the difficult par-4 ninth on Friday.

“Even though I am from England, I would rather play in warm weather,” Rowland said. “Even though it might be rainy the next couple days, I have managed myself well playing in that weather while in England. So, all is good.”

Notes:

Low rounds:

2025: Round 1, Jake Moffitt (66)

2024: Round 1, Carson Johnson (66); Round 2, Justin Sui (67); Round 3, Ryan Nicholson (62)

Birdies, Field:

2025: Round 1, 267

2024: Round 1, 175; Round 2, 183; Round 3, 201

2023: Round 1, 268; Round 2, 263; Round 3, 229.

Eagles, Field:

2025: Round 1, 14

2024: Round 1, 3; Round 2, 11; Round 3, 10

2023: Round 1, 8; Round 2, 9; Round 3, 8

Field's average score:

2025: Round 1, 74.74

2024: Round 1, 77.12; Round 2, 76.36; Round 3, 74.48. Cumulative: 76.1

2023: Round 1, 73.65; Round 2, 73.75; Round 3, 73.33. Total: 73.61

Hardest Hole:

2025 (Round 1): No. 9, par 4, 4.73 stroke average

2024 (cumulative): No. 7, par 5, 5.62 stroke average

2023 (cumulative): No. 9, par 4, 4.44 stroke average

Easiest Hole:

2025 (Round 1): No. 11, par 5, 4.37 stroke average

2024 (cumulative): No. 11, par 5, 4.79 stroke average

2023 (cumulative): No. 11, par 5, 4.54 stroke average

Results: www.staugustineamateur.com

Second-round pairings: <https://2025staugustineamateur.golfgenius.com/pages/11935599742148430923>

Player bios: <https://staugustineamateur.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2025-St.-Aug-Am-field-bios-FINAL-thru-Dec.-3.pdf>

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