

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL LHSAA STATE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS -- Division III Boys First-Day Story
Monday, May 3, 2021, at The Farm d'Allie (6,516 yards, par 72), Carencro, La.**

CARENCRO – Ascension Episcopal made a step toward winning a third straight state title here Monday, carding an eight-under-par 280 to grab the first-day lead in the Division III boys' competition in the Allstate Sugar Bowl LHSAA State Golf Championships.

Led by two-time defending individual champion Eli Ortego's six-under-par 66, the Blue Gators hold a nine-shot lead over Loyola Prep going into Tuesday's final round. Ortego had an eagle on the par-four eighth hole and added five more birdies in a 32-34 round that was good for a two-stroke advantage in the individual chase.

Ascension Episcopal had four players finish in the top eight individually, with Kale Fontenot posting a two-under 70 to stand in fifth place and Canon Clark and Zach Belle tied for sixth at even-par 72.

Loyola Prep, which also finished second to Ascension Episcopal in the 2019 tournament, stands at 289 and holds a 17-shot bulge over third-place Notre Dame. Dunham stands in fourth place at 308.

Four players broke 70 in Monday's opening round, with Ryan Dupuy two strokes behind Ortego at four-under 68. Conor Cassano of Loyola and Luke Haskew of University are tied for third at three-under 69.

Holden Webb of Loyola is tied with Clark and Belle at even-par 72, while August Drummond of Loyola and Brooks Thornton of Dunham are tied for ninth at one-over 73.