

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OCHSNER HEALTH LHSAA STATE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS – Division III Boys First-Day Story  
Monday, May 1, 2023, at Cane Row Golf & Turf Club (6,291 yards, par 72), New Iberia, La.**

**NEW IBERIA** – Four-time defending champion Ascension Episcopal had two standout scores from Kale Fontenot and Jay Mendell and grabbed a big lead in the team standings here Monday in the Boys Division II competition at the Ochsner Health LHSAA State Golf Championships.

Fontenot shot four-under on the back side of the 6,291-yard par-72 Cane Row Golf Club layout and grabbed the individual lead with a seven-under 65 – the lowest round of any of the six divisions of the tournament on Monday. Mendell, individual runner-up last year, was four-under on the front and finished one stroke back at six-under 66.

Those scores helped Ascension Episcopal post a three-under 285 team total in the first round, good enough for a 21-stroke lead over second-place Loyola Prep entering the final round. Loyola Prep posted a team 306 score, while Dunham is third at 318 and Isidore Newman is fourth at 332.

Brooks Thornton of Dunham and Jack Gilmer of Loyola Prep stand tied for third at three-over 75, while Ascension Episcopal's Ben Blanco is tied for fifth with Neil Phillips of Isidore Newman and Ross Alford of Loyola Prep.