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Final-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Matthew NeSmith	70-64-67-64—265 (-19)
2	Brandon Hagy	70-67-65-64—266 (-18)
	Viktor Hovland	67-67-64-68—266 (-18)
4	Mark Hubbard	67-69-65-66—267 (-17)

[Full Leaderboard](#)

Matthew NeSmith wins first title, earns PGA TOUR card at Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco

BOISE, Idaho — Matthew NeSmith made a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to post a 19-under total and a one-stroke victory over Viktor Hovland and Brandon Hagy at the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco. With the win, NeSmith moved to the top spot in The Finals 25 and secured his PGA TOUR card for the first time.

“It’s a huge dream,” said NeSmith, who closed with a 7-under 64. “I’ve been hanging around on mini-tours for a couple of years and I played in Canada until finally getting out here to the Korn Ferry Tour. I played solid all year long, but I started playing really well towards the end of the year, got into the Finals and then anything can happen.”

There was constant change atop Sunday’s leaderboard, as four different players held solo leads. Playing in the fifth-to-last group, Hagy took his turn as the leader when he birdied the last two holes to post a final-round 64 and take the clubhouse lead at 18-under.

Two groups later, NeSmith made two key up-and-downs – for birdie on the par-5 16th and for par on the par-3 17th – and approached the 18th tee tied with Hagy at 18-under. After pulling his drive into the left rough, NeSmith attacked the back-left hole location and hit a wedge to 15 feet, setting up his winning putt.

“I was just happy to have a look in all honesty. I didn’t really know what I was going to have from down there,” said NeSmith. “I ended up having a great shot, hit it perfectly. I had an uphill look moving a bit right to left, and I just wanted to give it a chance. Luckily it went in the middle.”

Twelve months ago, NeSmith was finishing his second season on Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada having missed the cut in seven out of 10 starts. He earned status on the Korn Ferry Tour by finishing T22 at Q-School, and he improved his status through the reshuffle by finishing T9 in the season-opening Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay.

In his rookie year on the Korn Ferry Tour, NeSmith went on to tally three top-10s in the regular season and finish No. 46 on the points list. After his most recent top-10, a T8 at the Ellie Mae Classic, PGA TOUR player Kyle Thompson called NeSmith and offered some advice that helped him complete his journey to the TOUR.

“He told me to try and do everything slow. I tried to walk as slow as I possibly could,” NeSmith said about the advice from one of his mentors. “Once you start going fast and something goes wrong then you can get in your own way just by not being able to calm down. I needed some time to walk a bit slower and hit some good shots.”

With NeSmith in the clubhouse at 19-under, Hovland still had a chance to force a playoff, as he birdied No. 16 to cut his deficit to two. After a par on No. 17, the Norwegian nearly forced extra holes with a heroic eagle on No. 18, but his approach settled three feet from the hole and he had to settle for a birdie and a T2 finish.

Hovland led by one through 54 holes, the second time he’s led/co-lead in The Finals (first round, Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship). Though he didn’t break through for his first professional victory, Hovland backed up his T11 finish from last week and earned his promotion to the PGA TOUR next season.

“I was trying to win the golf tournament. I’m a little disappointed that I didn’t perform better today,” said Hovland. “There were some guys that went low today and played well, but I felt like I left some shots out there. That’s always a little disappointing but I think in a couple of days I will refresh and be happy about going to the TOUR.”

SUNDAY NOTES:

- * Sunday’s weather: Sunny with a high of 85. Winds W/NW at 10-15 miles per hour.
- * In addition to Matthew NeSmith earning his first PGA TOUR card, several other players locked up their 2019-20 membership as well. Standout 21-year-old Viktor Hovland earned his first PGA TOUR card through a T2 finish. Anirban Lahiri (T5), Tom Hoge (T20), Cameron Percy (T11), Bronson Burgoon (T5) and Kramer Hickok (T5) each secured their return to the PGA TOUR by passing the projected threshold of 200 points in The Finals 25.
- * NeSmith, who began the round three strokes back and T7 on the leaderboard, became the fifth tournament champion in a row to come from behind during the final round. The position of T7 entering the final round tied as the third-lowest position by an eventual champion this season.
- * NeSmith is known as one of the top iron players on Tour. The 25-year-old leads the Tour in greens in regulation this year (76.2%). NeSmith finished T11 this week in greens in regulation after hitting 54 of 72 greens (75%). He also finished T4 in fairways hit (66%) and T10 in putts per round (27.8).
- * Brandon Hagy (T2) tied NeSmith for the round of the day with a final-round 64. He birdied his final two holes to give himself a chance before NeSmith’s closing birdie.
- * The closing birdie marked the second straight year that the champion of the Albertsons Boise Open needed a birdie on the 72nd hole to win by one stroke. In 2018, Sangmoon Bae birdied the hole to avoid a three-way playoff. Each champion reached 19-under to avoid a playoff.
- * Five players who earned their PGA TOUR cards through The 25 during the Regular Season finished inside the top-11 this week. Mark Hubbard led the pack with a solo-fourth finish, followed by Ryan Brehm (T5), Zac Blair (T9), Harry Higgs (T11) and Scottie Scheffler (T11).
- * The 535-yard par-5 16th (4.325) ranked as the easiest hole through the week and yielded 30 eagles and 224 birdies. The 216-yard par-3 13th was the hardest hole (3.217) and yielded 30 birdies, 102 bogeys and seven double bogeys.

* This week marked the penultimate event of the Korn Ferry Tour Finals, a three-event series that concludes at the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance next week in Evansville, Indiana. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards were awarded following the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz. An additional 25 cards are up for grabs during the three Finals events, as well as positioning for all 50 cards.

* As this week counting as the 30th year, the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco is one of four original tournaments from 1990 that are still on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule. The Knoxville Open, the Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth and the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper round out the original tournaments from 1990.

* This week's purse was \$1,000,000, with \$180,000 going to the champion, Matthew NeSmith. NeSmith also receives 1000 Korn Ferry Tour points.

* Sixty-seven former Korn Ferry Tour champions competed in the field, amounting to 97 victories, as well as 19 PGA TOUR champions (equaling 44 victories).

*** Hillcrest Country Club Scoring Average:**

	Front (36)	Back (35)	Total (71)	Cumulative
R1	35.837	34.209	70.047	
R2	35.344	33.703	69.047	69.547
R3	34.357	34.329	68.686	69.260
R4	35.100	34.157	69.257	69.259

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