



## Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae

TPC Stonebrae | Hayward, California | August 1-4, 2019

### Korn Ferry Tour Media Contact

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### Quick Facts

**Golf Course:** TPC Stonebrae (Par 70, 7,024 yards)

**Course Designer:** David McLay Kidd (2007)

**Purse:** \$600,000 (Winner: \$108,000 / 500 points)

**2018 Champion:** Trevor Cone

### Field Overview (as of July 30)

- 39 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 57 victories
- Ten PGA TOUR winners with 19 victories
- [Power Rankings](#)
- [Inside the Field](#)

### Tournament History

Entering the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae, the tournament has already enjoyed a variety of champions. Australian Michael Sim won the inaugural tournament by six strokes in 2009 at 18-under. Future PGA TOUR champion Kevin Chappell claimed the title in 2010, earning his first TOUR card. He went on to breakthrough with a win at the 2017 Valero Texas Open. Four years later, Tony Finau outlasted a stacked field to win at TPC Stonebrae, setting a then-tournament record of 22-under 258 in the process. Finau topped a host of future PGA TOUR players, including runner-up Daniel Berger (now a two-time TOUR champion). Finau went on to win on TOUR at the 2016 Puerto Rico Open and is currently 13<sup>th</sup> in the Official World Golf Ranking.

A year later (2015), 20-year-old Si Woo Kim won in the tournament's first playoff at 12-under. Kim has since gone on to become the youngest winner in the history of THE PLAYERS Championship and compete for the International Team in the 2017 Presidents Cup. In 2016, Stephan Jaeger had arguably the most impressive tournament in the Tour's history. He carded a first-round 58, the first 58 in any PGA TOUR-sanctioned event and went on to set the 72-hole scoring record by five shots at 250. His 30-under total for the week tied Daniel Chopra (2004) as the lowest in the Tour's history.

After Martin Piller earned his sixth Korn Ferry Tour title in 2017 (tied for second most in the Tour's history), Trevor Cone broke through with his first career win last year with four rounds of 66 or better.

### Past Champions

Year	Champion	Scores	To Par	Margin
2018	Trevor Cone	64-63-66-64 — 257	-23	4
2017	Martin Piller	68-62-68-64 — 262	-18	1
2016	Stephan Jaeger	58-65-64-63 — 250	-30	7
2015	Si Woo Kim*	66-65-69-68 — 268	-12	Playoff

2014	Tony Finau	67-62-63-66 — 258	-22	3
2012	Alex Aragon	67-70-67-66 — 270	-10	1
2011	Daniel Chopra	68-69-61 — 198	-12	1
2010	Kevin Chappell	66-67-66-65 — 264	-20	1
2009	Michael Sim	71-64-67-64 — 266	-18	6

*\*Playoff Victory*

### **Course History**

Designed by David McLay Kidd, TPC Stonebrae opened in October of 2007 and hosted the first Ellie Mae Classic in 2009. Sitting atop the Hayward Hills, the course has had its share of renowned past champions (including future PGA TOUR champions Kevin Chappell, Tony Finau and Si Woo Kim) as well as celebrity competitors (including Jerry Rice and Steph Curry).

In 2018, the par-70 course rated as the 20<sup>th</sup>-toughest course on the Korn Ferry Tour (of 29) with a scoring average of 68.761. The par-4 13<sup>th</sup> (479 yards) ranked as the 33<sup>rd</sup>-toughest hole on Tour last season with a scoring average of 4.250.

### **By the Numbers: TPC Stonebrae**

**Hardest hole (2018):** No. 13 (par 4, 479 yards) – 4.250 average, 103 bogeys, 18 double bogeys or worse

**Easiest hole (2018):** No. 3 (par 5, 625 yards) – 4.505 average, 19 eagles, 219 birdies

**Tournament Record (18 holes):** 58 (-12), 2016 – Stephan Jaeger – First Round

**Tournament Record (72 holes):** 250 (-30), 2016 – Stephan Jaeger

### **Local Players in the Field**

Several players in the field hail from the Bay Area, including a trio of Stanford University alums. Maverick McNealy (Stanford) and Joseph Bramlett (Saratoga) could each lock up their PGA TOUR card with a good week, while Brandon Wu will compete in his second career event on the Korn Ferry Tour. Four of the 12 Monday qualifiers also reside around the Bay Area: Spencer Fletcher (Los Altos), John Greco (Sunnyvale), Patrick Grimes (Menlo Park) and Dala Refioglu (Foster City). Additionally, 16-year-old Ian Gilligan (originally from San Francisco) will compete this week on a sponsor's exemption after winning a junior event to qualify. Gilligan was recently declared cancer-free after undergoing rounds of chemo throughout 2018.

### **Top Five to Watch**

- **Joseph Bramlett** – The Stanford alum will be competing in a “home game” this week and is coming off a T4 finish in his last start. Bramlett sits 29<sup>th</sup> in The 25 and is looking for a big week to secure his PGA TOUR card.
- **MJ Daffue** – After Monday qualifying into the Pinnacle Bank Championship two weeks ago, Daffue is still earning starts after back-to-back top-20 finishes.
- **Tyson Alexander** – The University of Florida product has reeled off five top-25s in his past six starts, after not tallying a single top-25 in his career prior to June.
- **Maverick McNealy** – After taking a week off to come home a week early, McNealy, a Stanford alum, should be geared up for the Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae. McNealy sits 28<sup>th</sup> in The 25 with two Regular Season events remaining.
- **Brett Coletta** – Coletta heads to TPC Stonebrae with back-to-back top-5s on his resume in Colorado and Omaha.

### **Chase for The 25**

A new points system has been put in place to replace the Regular Season money list as the way to earn one of the 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded at the end of the Regular Season in Portland. At the conclusion of the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz, the top-25 point earners will earn their PGA TOUR cards. Additionally, the top-75 players in Korn Ferry Tour points (plus ties) will be eligible to play in the Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

Rank	Name	Points
1.	Xinjun Zhang	1,950
2.	Robby Shelton	1,718
3.	Scottie Scheffler	1,667
4.	Harry Higgs	1,314
5.	Lanto Griffin	1,228

### Season Recap

1. *The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay* – Zecheng “Marty” Dou hit a 50-foot birdie putt on the final hole to slam the door on a potential playoff and earn the first title of the 2019 season. It was the 21-year-old’s first win in nearly a year and a half, and second overall, by two strokes over Steve LeBrun and Ben Kohles. Dou was using a caddie he had met six days prior and a different driver after cracking his early in the week.
2. *The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club* – Rafael Campos earned his first career Korn Ferry Tour victory battling windy conditions all week. Campos used a final-round 70 to hold off rookies Vincent Whaley and Paul Imondi who finished in second and third. Players battled the weather all week as gusts of winds hit 38 miles per hour during the final round.
3. *Country Club de Bogotá Championship* – Mark Anderson captured the Country Club de Bogotá Championship for his second career Korn Ferry Tour victory and first title in nearly six years. Anderson held a two-stroke lead entering the final round and ran away from the field with a Sunday 67 to finish at 17-under. This year marked the first time that both the Fundadores and Pacos y Fabios courses were played in the event.
4. *Panamá Championship* – Canadian Michael Gligic carded a final-round 5-under 65 to come from behind for his first Korn Ferry Tour victory. Gligic began the final round T7 and three strokes off the lead, but three straight birdies on Nos. 9-11 vaulted him up the leaderboard before adding birdies at the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> to clinch the one-stroke win at 8-under for the week in windy conditions.
5. *LECOM Suncoast Classic* – Mark Hubbard converted a 54-hole lead to win the LECOM Suncoast Classic by two strokes at 26-under 262. Hubbard carded four rounds in the 60s – including a final-round 67 – to outlast Maverick McNealy. The 29-year-old made five birdies on the front nine to make the turn at 5-under 31 during the final round and opened an insurmountable lead.
6. *Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS* – Vince Covello birdied the final hole in regulation and the third playoff hole to earn his first Korn Ferry Tour title at the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS. Covello topped 54-hole leader Justin Lower in the playoff with a birdie after both players made pars on the first two holes.
7. *Savannah Golf Championship* – Dan McCarthy, a 33-year-old Le Moyne College graduate, held off a late charge from Scottie Scheffler to win the second-annual Savannah Golf Championship. McCarthy built a three-stroke lead at one point on the back nine but needed to sink a short par putt at the 18<sup>th</sup> to win by one.
8. *Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship* – Trailing by a stroke on the 72nd hole of the tournament, Lanto Griffin stuck his approach to five feet before converting a tying birdie and reach a playoff with Robby Shelton at 15-under 273. After both players made pars on the first three holes of the playoff (18-18-9), Griffin stuck it to two feet for a tap-in birdie and his second career Korn Ferry Tour title.
9. *Dormie Network Classic at Briggs Ranch* – Xinjun Zhang dominated the field to earn his first Korn Ferry Tour title at Briggs Ranch Golf by five strokes. The former PGA TOUR member used rounds of 63-64-65-70 to finish 26-under 262 for the week. Zhang led or co-led after every round of the tournament and became the first player of the year to mathematically guarantee a PGA TOUR card next season.
10. *Nashville Golf Open Benefitting the Snedeker Foundation* – Two weeks after falling in a playoff at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship, Robby Shelton won with a birdie in a one-hole playoff over Scottie Scheffler to win his first Korn Ferry Tour title. With the win, Shelton jumped to second in the Korn Ferry Tour points list and earned his first PGA TOUR card for next season.
11. *KC Golf Classic* – Michael Gellerman outlasted three final-round weather delays to earn his first Korn Ferry Tour title with an 11-under total at Blue Hills Country Club. Gellerman posted a bogey-free 69 during the final round to top Nelson Ledesma and Harry Higgs by one stroke.

12. *Knoxville Open* – For the second time in three weeks, Robby Shelton came out on top in the state of Tennessee, as the 23-year-old posted a final-round 71 to claim the Knoxville Open title with a 15-under total. Shelton edged out Mark Anderson who finished in solo-second at 14-under.
13. *Evans Scholars Invitational* – Scottie Scheffler rallied from a six-shot deficit to claim his first Korn Ferry Tour title at the Evans Scholars Invitational. Scheffler posted a final-round 9-under 63 to force a playoff and drained a 15-foot birdie putt on the second extra hole to capture his first professional win.
14. *REX Hospital Open* – Sebastian Cappelen entered the final round four strokes off the lead but posted a 7-under 64 on Sunday for his second career victory at the REX Hospital Open. Cappelen bogeyed his first two holes on Sunday, but the Dane tallied seven birdies and an eagle over his next 16 holes to earn the win.
15. *BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation* – Rhein Gibson carded a final-round 8-under 63 for a come-from-behind win at 21-under 193. He posted a bogey-free final round and only collected one bogey (against 20 birdies and an eagle) on the tournament. The tournament was shortened to 54 holes due to inclement weather.
16. *Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS* – Xinjun Zhang birdied the third hole of a sudden-death playoff to top Dylan Wu for his second victory of the season at the Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS. Zhang carded a final-round 6-under 65 on Sunday to reach 15-under for the tournament before eventually closing out the win.
17. *Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth* – Henrik Norlander defeated Bryan Bigley on the third playoff hole to take home the Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth. Norlander carded a final-round 4-under 66 before eventually closing out the win by surviving a five-man playoff.
18. *Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank* – In just his fifth career Korn Ferry Tour start, rookie Kristoffer Ventura topped Joshua Creel with a par on the third hole of a playoff to win the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. The Oklahoma State University alum posted a final-round 65 to finish at 14-under.
19. *LECOM Health Challenge* – Ryan Brehm topped Tim Wilkinson in a one-hole playoff (after double-bogeying the final hole in regulation) to earn his second career Korn Ferry Tour title. The win earned him his PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season, which will mark Brehm's second full season on TOUR.
20. *TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes* – Nelson Ledesma won the inaugural TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes in dramatic fashion, sinking a 20-foot birdie putt at the 72nd hole to edge playing partner Brett Coletta by one stroke. With the win, Ledesma earned his first PGA TOUR card and will be a rookie on TOUR during the 2019-20 season.
21. *Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Chevrolet* – Kristoffer Ventura outlasted Chad Ramey and Andres Gonzales to win the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Chevrolet by two strokes. The win, Ventura's second in four weeks, secured the 24-year-old his PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season.
22. *Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper* – Rookie Harry Higgs captured his first Korn Ferry Tour title at 22-under to win the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper. The two-stroke win secured his ascension to the PGA TOUR for the 2019-20 season.

### **About Korn Ferry Tour**

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour identifies and develops those players who are ready to compete and win on golf's biggest stage. In 2013, the Korn Ferry Tour became The Path to the PGA TOUR with all 50 available PGA TOUR cards coming through the Tour and the season culminating at the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. This season marks the 30th year of competition on the Korn Ferry Tour. Three out of four PGA TOUR members are Korn Ferry Tour alumni. Tour alumni have won more than 500 PGA TOUR titles, including 24 major championships and eight PLAYERS Championships. To learn more about the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit [PGATOUR.COM](http://PGATOUR.COM), or follow the Tour on social media via Instagram (@KornFerryTour), Twitter (@KornFerryTour) and Facebook ([facebook.com/KornFerryTour](https://facebook.com/KornFerryTour)).