



## Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance

Victoria National Golf Club | Newburgh, Indiana | August 30 – September 2, 2019

### Korn Ferry Tour Media Contact

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### Quick Facts

**Golf Course:** Victoria National Golf Club (Par 72, 7,242 yards)

**Course Designer:** Tom Fazio (1998)

**Purse:** \$1,000,000 (Winner: \$180,000 / 1,000 points)

### Field Overview (as of August 28)

- 64 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 99 victories
- 18 PGA TOUR winners with 42 victories
- [Power Rankings](#)
- [Rds. 1 & 2 Tee Times](#)

### Korn Ferry Tour Finals 101

The Korn Ferry Tour heads to Victoria National Golf Club for the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance. The tournament will mark the last event of the Korn Ferry Tour Finals with players competing for 25 PGA TOUR cards and PGA TOUR status for the 2019-20 season. This week's field will include the following players:

- The top-75 point leaders on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List.
- Players who finished 126-200 on the PGA TOUR's FedExCup standings.
- Non-members who have earned enough FedExCup points based on their performance on the PGA TOUR to place them 126-200 on that points list.
- Players competing on PGA TOUR medical extensions.

A separate points list for the Korn Ferry Tour Finals will determine the final 25 PGA TOUR cards (The Finals 25). The player who earns the most points during the three Finals events (excluding the first 25 from the Regular Season) will earn fully exempt status on the PGA TOUR for the 2019-20 season, as well as an invitation to THE PLAYERS Championship. At the conclusion of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship, the top-25 point earners will earn their PGA TOUR cards.

The ordering of all 50 players after the Korn Ferry Tour Finals will be done on an alternating basis, with the top position going to the leading points winner from The 25, and the second position going to the leading points winner from The Finals 25. The sequence then alternates between The 25 (Nos. 3, 5, 7, 9, etc.) and The Finals 25 (Nos. 4, 6, 8, 10, etc.) through the 25th player on both lists.

### **Tournament History**

This week will mark the 26<sup>th</sup> playing of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship (event was cancelled in 2016 due to Hurricane Matthew). In 1993, David Duval took home the inaugural title. To this day, Duval remains the youngest player to win the Korn Ferry Tour Championship at 21-years-old. Duval went on to win 13 tournaments on the PGA TOUR, including the 1999 PLAYERS Championship and The Open Championship at Royal Lytham & St. Annes in 2001. Other notable past champions include Stewart Cink, Steve Flesch, Nick Watney, Matt Every and Chesson Hadley. Like Duval, Cink went on to win The Open Championship in 2009.

Many PGA TOUR stars played in the Korn Ferry Tour Championship prior to achieving success on the PGA TOUR. Players such as Jim Furyk, Bubba Watson, Jimmy Walker, Jason Dufner, Webb Simpson, Tony Finau and Justin Thomas all competed in the Korn Ferry Tour Championship throughout the tournament's history.

In 2018, Denny McCarthy erased a one-stroke deficit on Sunday to earn his first Korn Ferry Tour title and the top spot in The Finals 25. During the 2018-2019 PGA TOUR season, McCarthy earned two top-10s in 28 starts and finished 111<sup>th</sup> in the FedExCup standings.

This week, players will be competing for a spot in The Finals 25. At the conclusion of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship, the top-25 point earners will earn their PGA TOUR cards. The players from The 25 during the Regular Season will be competing for priority ranking for the 2019-20 PGA TOUR season. Throughout the tournament's history, the event has gone to a playoff three times with the most recent playoff coming in 2010.

### **Past Champions**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Scores</b>	<b>To Par</b>	<b>Margin</b>
2018	Denny McCarthy	64-65-67-65 – 261	-23	4
2017	Jonathan Byrd	64-65-64-67 – 260	-24	4
2015	Emiliano Grillo	66-64-67-69 – 266	-14	1
2014	Derek Fathauer	65-66-67-68 – 266	-14	1
2013	Chesson Hadley	65-66-70-69 – 270	-10	2
2012	Justin Bolli	65-71-67-65 – 268	-16	2
2011	Ken Duke	72-68-70-68 – 278	-10	2
2010	Brendan Steele*	66-71-65-73 – 275	-13	Playoff
2009	Matt Every	70-63-67-67 – 267	-21	3
2008	Matt Bettencourt	68-67-63-69 – 267	-17	1
2007	Richard Johnson	66-64-67-67 – 264	-20	1
2006	Craig Kanada	73-64-72-66 – 275	-13	1
2005	David Branshaw	71-65-69-71 – 276	-12	2
2004	Nick Watney	69-64-71-69 – 273	-15	3
2003	Chris Couch	66-67-65-72 – 270	-18	3
2002	Patrick Moore	71-69-66 – 206	-10	2
2001	Pat Bates	71-72-72-69 – 284	-4	3
2000	Spike McRoy	74-64-65-69 – 272	-16	5
1999	Bob Heintz*	68-68-75-72 – 283	-5	Playoff
1998	Bob Burns	73-69-67-74 – 283	-5	3
1997	Steve Flesch	69-68-68-73 – 278	-10	4
1996	Stewart Cink	66-71-71-73 – 281	-7	4
1995	Allen Doyle*	72-68-72-71 – 283	-5	Playoff
1994	Mike Schuchart	69-67-68-73 – 277	-7	1
1993	David Duval	69-68-72-68 – 277	-7	1

\*Playoff Victory

**Local Players in the Field**

Chris Baker leads the local contingent of players in the field this week. Baker grew up a few hours away from Evansville in Brownstown, Indiana. Prior to turning professional, he attended Iowa State University where he was a standout on the men's golf team. At the conclusion of this year's Regular Season, Baker entered the week in Portland at No. 24 on the points list and left at No. 26, just 43 points shy of the final card. He looks to redeem himself this week and secure his first PGA TOUR card in his home state.

Joining Baker in the field this week are Steve Wheatcroft and Chase Wright, who played their college golf at Indiana University. Wheatcroft enters the week ranked T80 in The Finals 25 and needs a solid showing to earn his 2019-20 PGA TOUR card. The 41-year-old has made nine cuts in 22 Korn Ferry Tour starts this season and earned a T2 finish at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper.

Wright, who spent last season on the PGA TOUR, needs a strong finish to have a chance at regaining PGA TOUR status for the 2019-20 season. The 30-year-old finished the 2018-19 PGA TOUR season ranked 156<sup>th</sup> in the FedExCup standings. During the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour season, Wright had five top-10s and a victory en route to earning his PGA TOUR card.

**Course History**

For the first time in tournament history, the Korn Ferry Tour Championship will be played at Victoria National Golf Club. The course previously hosted the Korn Ferry Tour's United Leasing and Finance Championship from 2012-2018. The 7,242-yard layout has proven to be one of the most difficult courses on the Korn Ferry Tour each of the past seven seasons.

In 2015, 2016 and 2018, Victoria National Golf Club ranked as the most difficult course on Tour. Last season, the course played to a scoring average of 74.490 and featured the three hardest holes on the Korn Ferry Tour. The par-4 14<sup>th</sup> ranked as the most difficult hole on Tour, while the par-4 18<sup>th</sup> and par-4 sixth ranked as the second- and third-hardest, respectively. Starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> hole, players will face a daunting finishing stretch at Victoria National with 25 PGA TOUR cards on the line.

In 1999, the course was named the 'Best New Private Course' and has been ranked in Golf Digest's 'Top 100 United States Golf Courses' every year since 2001. In 2019, Golf Digest ranked Victoria National as the 43<sup>rd</sup> best course in the country.

**By the Numbers: Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance**

**Tournament Record (18 holes):** 59 (-12), 2017 – Sam Saunders – First Round

**Tournament Record (72 holes):** 260 (-24), 2018 – Jonathan Byrd

**By the Numbers: Victoria National Golf Club**

**Hardest hole (2018):** No. 14 (par 4, 471 yards) – 4.583 average, 172 bogeys, 47 double bogeys or worse

**Easiest hole (2018):** No. 9 (par 5, 558 yards) – 4.692 average, eight eagles, 167 birdies

**Tournament Record (18 holes):** 63 (-9), 2016 – Sebastián Vázquez – Second Round

**Tournament Record (72 holes):** 276 (-12), 2016 – Seamus Power

**Top Five to Watch**

- **Matthew NeSmith** – The 25-year-old converted a 15-foot birdie putt on his final hole at last week's Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco to earn his first Korn Ferry Tour title and PGA TOUR card. NeSmith now leads The Finals 25 heading into this week's Korn Ferry Tour Championship.
- **Scottie Scheffler** – The University of Texas product heads to Victoria National holding the top spot in The 25. Scheffler is coming off a T11 finish in Boise and a win two weeks ago at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship in Columbus.

- **Kevin Dougherty** – Last season, Dougherty came within inches of earning his PGA TOUR card. Entering this week, the 28-year-old is ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the Finals 25 and can secure his 2019-20 TOUR card with a strong finish in Evansville.
- **Doug Ghim** – Ghim enters the week ranked 29<sup>th</sup> in The Finals 25. The 23-year-old looks to lock up his spot on TOUR with a good showing this week.
- **Charlie Saxon** – The Oklahoma University alum contended into the weekend at the Albertsons Boise Open, finishing T11, and stands T23 on The Finals 25 as he looks to earn his first TOUR card with a good performance in Indiana.

### **Chase for The Finals 25**

A new points system has been put in place to replace the Korn Ferry Tour Finals money list as the way to earn one of the 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded at the end of the Finals. At the conclusion of this week's Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing, the top-25 point earners will earn their PGA TOUR cards. The top player in The Finals 25 will earn fully exempt status on the PGA TOUR in 2019-20 and an exemption into THE PLAYERS Championship.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Points</b>
1.	Matthew NeSmith	1,019
2.	Brandon Hagy	700
3.	Viktor Hovland	620
4.	Brendon Todd	499
5.	Beau Hossler	482

### **The 25: Combined Regular Season and Finals Race**

While the top-25 players during the Regular Season have already earned their PGA TOUR cards at the conclusion of the WinCo Foods Portland Open, those players still have plenty to compete for during the Finals. The players will compete for priority within The 25 entering the 2019-20 PGA TOUR season, while the top players are competing to secure the top spot and fully exempt status on TOUR next year. The No. 1 player in The 25 following the conclusion of the Finals will also earn an exemption into the 2020 PLAYERS Championship.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Points</b>
1.	Scottie Scheffler	2,780
2.	Xinjun Zhang	2,028
3.	Robby Shelton	1,788
4.	Harry Higgs	1,491
5.	Mark Hubbard	1,410

### **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.
23. *Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae* – Zac Blair earned his first win on Tour at 17-under at the Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae, topping Brandon Crick by one stroke. The win locked up Blair's return to the PGA TOUR for the 2019-20 season.
24. *WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz* – Bo Hoag secured his first Korn Ferry Tour title and PGA TOUR card with a win at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz. Hoag held off Portland native Scott Harrington and Kristoffer Ventura down the stretch to win by two strokes.
25. *Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship* – Rookie Scottie Scheffler claimed his second Korn Ferry Tour title at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, outlasting Beau Hossler, Brendon Todd and Ben Taylor by two strokes. With the win, Scheffler ascended to the top spot in the points standings for the first time in his career.
26. *Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco* – 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.

### **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://www.facebook.com/KornFerryTour)).