

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2019

CONTACT: Sean Wildhack, seanwildhack@pgatourhq.com, 315-243-2751

Final-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Kristoffer Ventura*	69-70-66-65—270 (-14)
2	Joshua Creel	68-66-69-67—270 (-14)
T3	Ryan Brehm	69-69-67-66—271 (-13)
T3	Charlie Saxon	66-73-64-68—271 (-13)
T3	Kevin Dougherty	69-68-66-68—271 (-13)

*Won on third playoff hole

Kristoffer Ventura wins Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank

Farmington, Utah— Kristoffer Ventura defeated Joshua Creel on the third playoff hole to win the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. Ventura carded a final-round bogey-free 65 before eventually winning with a par on the third extra hole at Oakridge Country Club.

“This is unreal and I’m really happy to be in this position,” Ventura said. “I did everything I could before [the playoff] and I just figured if someone is going to win, I’ll try my best. As long as I do that, I’ll be happy afterwards. Obviously, it turned out to be pretty good.”

Ventura began the final round three shots off the lead. The 24-year-old carded birdies on Nos. 1 and 5 to get to 10-under for the week. Despite windy conditions in the afternoon, Ventura kept his momentum going on the back nine. He rallied with birdies on Nos. 12, 13, 15 and 17 to get to 14-under for the championship, earning him a spot in the playoff with Creel.

Both Ventura and Creel parred the first two playoff holes. On the third extra hole, Creel’s par attempt lipped out, leaving Ventura a tap-in par to secure his first Korn Ferry Tour title. With the victory, Ventura earned 500 Korn Ferry Tour points and moved to No. 17 in The 25.

“Being on the PGA TOUR has always been a dream of mine,” Ventura said after his victory. “I’ve gotten a taste of it. It’s been my goal this whole time. Now I’m a little closer. But next week is a new week and I’m going to keep doing what I’m doing and trust the process.”

Earlier this season, Ventura made the most of a sponsor exemption at the BMW Charity Pro-Am presented by SYNEX Corporation, where he finished T3 in just his third start on the Korn Ferry Tour. Prior to his top-5 at the BMW Charity Pro-Am, Ventura was struggling to earn starts through Monday qualifying.

“A few weeks ago, I got in an invite to the BMW Charity Pro-Am and finished in a tie-for-third there and after that I was able to plan my schedule and that was the biggest thing for me,” he

said. “Before that, I was playing Monday qualifiers and that was pretty tough mentally. To be in this position now, it’s incredible”

Ventura was a standout at Oklahoma State University before turning professional in 2018. He played alongside teammates Viktor Hovland and Matthew Wolff, who both have experienced early success on the PGA TOUR. Hovland fired a final-round 8-under 64 at the Rocket Mortgage Classic to finish T13 on Sunday. Ventura noted that he and his teammates have always been competitive, and that he even received some inspiration from his former college coach Alan Bratton.

“Viktor played really well today, that was exciting to see,” he said. “Coach Bratton told me to get inspired by what Viktor did today and just go out there and have fun. That’s what I did, so I’m happy.”

Joshua Creel earned his best finish on the Korn Ferry Tour and second top-10 of the 2019 season. With the solo-second finish, he jumped to No. 27 in The 25 and has secured his place in the Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

“I’m a little disappointed, but I’ll take the positives from this week,” Creel said. “I think I locked up at least getting into the Finals, so that’s good. I’ve got a job for next year. I’m just going to keep doing what I’m doing, and hopefully my time comes.”

Ryan Brehm, Charlie Saxon and Kevin Dougherty finished T3 at 13-under 271.

SUNDAY NOTES:

*Sunday’s weather: Mostly cloudy with a high of 82. Wind S 12-18 mph, with gusts up to 25 mph.

* Kristoffer Ventura earned \$130,500 and 500 Korn Ferry Tour points with the victory. He improved to No. 17 in the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season points list with the win.

*Ventura became the fifth consecutive player to earn his maiden Korn Ferry Tour victory at the Utah Championship (Cameron Champ/2018, Brice Garnett/2017, Nicholas Lindheim/2016, Patton Kizzire/2015)

*The Utah Championship marked the third consecutive playoff finish on the Korn Ferry Tour (Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS/Xinjun Zhang, Wichita Open Supporting Wichita’s Youth/Henrik Norlander).

*Each of the previous two winners of the Utah Championship have gone on to win a PGA TOUR event the following season. Last year’s winner Cameron Champ earned his maiden TOUR victory at the 2018 Sanderson Farms Championship, while 2017 champion Brice Garnett won the 2018 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship.

*With the runner-up finish, Joshua Creel earned his best finish in 22 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour. He moved up 51 spots to No. 27 in Regular Season points list with the performance.

* Kevin Dougherty recorded his second consecutive top-five finish with a T3 finish at the Utah Championship. He lost in a five-man playoff to Henrik Norlander at the Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth last week.

*54-hole co-leader Daniel Summerhays carded a final-round 1-under 70 to finish solo-sixth. He was seeking to become the first player to win a Korn Ferry Tour event in his hometown since Sebastian Munoz achieved the feat at the 2016 Country Club de Bogota Championship.

* The par-4 10th hole (517 yards) ranked as the toughest hole on the course on Sunday with a scoring average of 4.247

* The par-5 15th hole (547 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Sunday. The hole played to an average of 4.411 and yielded seven eagles and 33 birdies.

***Oakridge Country Club Country Club Scoring Average:**

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	36.442	35.221	71.662	
R2	35.987	35.257	71.243	71.453
R3	34.890	34.767	69.658	70.854
R4	35.082	34.986	70.068	70.658

For highlights from today's round, or any 2019 event visit <http://bit.ly/kornferry2019video>

For the latest information and updates on the Korn Ferry Tour visit www.pgatourmedia.com

Scores available at www.pgatour.com or on the Associated Press wire

Follow the Korn Ferry Tour on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/kornferrytour> on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kornferrytour/ and on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/kornferrytour/?hl=en>