



# **Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass**

TPC Sawgrass – Dye's Valley Course | Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida | June 11 – 14, 2020

# **Korn Ferry Tour Media Contacts**

Stewart Moore — StewartMoore@pgatourhq.com, (904-540-2765) Preston Smith — PrestonSmith@pgatourhq.com, (706-844-2100) Sean Wildhack — SeanWildhack@pgatourhq.com, (315-243-2751)

# **Quick Facts**

Golf Courses: TPC Sawgrass – Dye's Valley Course (Par 70, 6,847 yards)

**Course Designer**: Pete Dye & Bobby Tweed (1987) **Purse:** \$600,000 (Winner: \$108,000 / 500 points)

# Field Overview (as of June 9)

- 53 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 80 victories
- 17 PGA TOUR winners with 37 victories
- Power Rankings
- Inside the Field
- Rds. 1 & 2 Tee Times

#### **Korn Ferry Tour Returns to Competition**

After a hiatus of more than three months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Korn Ferry Tour returns to competition this week with the Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. The tournament – contested without fans on the Dye's Valley Course – will mark the seventh event of the Regular Season. The tournament will mark the first of two straight weeks of Korn Ferry Tour competition in Northeast Florida, with The King & Bear Classic at World Golf Village in St. Augustine slated for June 17-20.

The Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass will restart the Tour's 2020 season, which will now combine with the 2021 season due to the number of tournament cancelations. The newly created 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour schedule will conclude with 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded at the 2021 WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz, with an additional 25 cards awarded at the conclusion of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

With six events completed through the El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA, the remaining 2020 schedule – subject to change – now consists of 23 events. Korn Ferry Tour events to be contested in 2021 as part of the combined 2020-21 schedule will be announced later this year.

After competing on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica in 2019, Chilean Mito Pereira leads the points list thus far behind the strength of a win at the Country Club de Bogotá Championship and two additional top-five finishes. Other 2020 winners in the top five include former University of Alabama standout Davis Riley, University of Maryland product David Kocher and Wofford College alum Andrew Novak. Dylan Wu rounds out the top five after finishing inside the top 30 in each of his six starts.

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

Local Korn Ferry Tour players in the field include Jared Wolfe, Ben Kohles, Tyson Alexander, Justin Hueber and Luke Guthrie. The event will feature several PGA TOUR members including locals David Lingmerth, Sam Saunders, Sebastian Cappelen and Chris Baker, as well as 2003 Masters champion Mike Weir and four-time TOUR winners Robert Allenby and Sean O'Hair. Overall, 17 former TOUR champions are in the field with 37 past victories among them.

#### **Course Information**

The Korn Ferry Tour returns to the Dye's Valley Course for the first time since the 2015 season. The Valley Course previously hosted the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance from 2013-2015 and the Winn-Dixie Jacksonville Open from 2010-2012. The Dye's Valley Course was ranked No. 21 in *Golfweek*'s 2017-18 rankings of "Best Courses You Can Play" in Florida.

During the 2015 season, the par-70 layout played as the seventh hardest course on Tour with a scoring average of 69.874. That season, the par-4 eighth hole ranked as the 18<sup>th</sup> toughest hole on Tour with a scoring average of 4.302. The par-3 11<sup>th</sup> and the par-4 sixth ranked as the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> hardest holes in 2015, respectively.

# By the Numbers: TPC Sawgrass – Dye's Valley Course (2015)

**Hardest hole (2015):** No. 8\* (par 4, 503 yards) – 4.302 average, 120 bogeys, 10 double bogeys or worse

**Easiest hole (2015):** No. 1 (par 5, 558 yards) – 4.626 average, two eagles, 175 birdies

Tournament Record (18 holes): 62 (-8), Tommy Gainey (Rd. 2, 2014), Roberto Castro (Rd. 4, 2015)

**Tournament Record (72 holes):** 266 (-14), Derek Fathauer (2013), Emiliano Grillo (2015)

\*Indicates the hole is in the top 50 toughest holes of 2015

#### **Top Five to Watch**

- **Mito Pereira** The Chilean enters the week ranked atop The 25 with 759 points. Earlier this season, Pereira earned his first Korn Ferry Tour title at the Country Club de Bogotá Championship.
- **Davis Riley** The 23-year-old enters the week ranked second in The 25 with 658 points. In six starts this season, Riley has recorded three top-25s and a win.
- **Dylan Wu** Wu has been one of the most consistent players this season having made the cut in all six starts. The Medford, Oregon, native has three top-10s this season highlighted by a T2 at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay.
- **David Kocher** Kocher enters the week ranked third in The 25 and has two top-10s in six starts. The University of Maryland product won the El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA before the season was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Jared Wolfe** The Ponte Vedra resident will be playing a familiar course this week at TPC Sawgrass and is currently ranked sixth in The 25. The Murray State University product earned his first Korn Ferry Tour title earlier this season at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar.

# **Season Recap**

- 1. The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay Tommy Gainey birdied his final three holes to pull away from the field and earn the first title of the 2019 season. It was the 44-year-old's first win since the 2012 RSM Classic on the PGA TOUR.
- 2. The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar Jared Wolfe ran away from the field with birdies on three of his final four holes at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar. Wolfe battled windy conditions in the final round to clinch the first Korn Ferry Tour title of his career.
- 3. *Panamá Championship* After an eagle on the back nine during his final round, Davis Riley held on to win the Panama Championship by one stroke over Roberto Díaz. The victory was Riley's first on the Korn Ferry Tour and came in just his 21<sup>st</sup> Tour start.
- 4. *Country Club de Bogota Championship* Mito Pereira carded a final-round 64 to claim his first Korn Ferry Tour victory at the Country Club de Bogota Championship. Entering the 72<sup>nd</sup> hole tied at the top, Pereira sunk a long eagle putt to clinch the two-stroke victory.

- 5. *LECOM Suncoast Classic* Andrew Novak birdied each of his last two holes, including a 10-foot putt at the last, to win the LECOM Suncoast Classic last week by one shot over John Chin. He finished at 23-under 265 at Lakewood National Golf Club in his first career Korn Ferry Tour victory.
- 6. *El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA* David Kocher survived a three-man playoff to claim his first Korn Ferry Tour victory. The 23-year-old defeated Paul Barjon and Chad Ramey on the first playoff hole to capture the title at El Bosque Country Club.

# Revised 2020 Korn Ferry Tour Season schedule:

- June 8-14: Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass, TPC Sawgrass (Dye's Valley), Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
- June 15-20: The King & Bear Classic at World Golf Village, The King & Bear GC at World Golf Village, St. Augustine, Florida (Saturday finish)
- June 22-28: Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank, Oakridge CC, Farmington, Utah
- June 29-July 5: TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes, TPC Colorado, Berthoud, Colorado
- July 6-12: TPC San Antonio Challenge at the Canyons, TPC San Antonio (Canyons Course), San Antonio, Texas
- July 13-18: TPC San Antonio Championship at the Oaks, TPC San Antonio (Oaks Course), San Antonio, Texas (Saturday finish)
- July 20-26: Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper, Highland Springs CC, Springfield, Missouri
- July 27-August 2: Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna, The Club at Indian Creek, Omaha, Nebraska
- August 3-9: WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz, Pumpkin Ridge GC (Witch Hollow), North Plains, Oregon
- August 10-16: Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco, Hillcrest CC, Boise, Idaho
- August 17-23: Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, Ohio State University GC (Scarlet Course), Columbus, Ohio
- August 24-30: Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance, Victoria National GC, Newburgh, Indiana
- August 31-September 6: Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS, Panther Creek CC, Springfield, Illinois
- September 7-13: Evans Scholars Invitational, Chicago Highlands Club, Westchester, Illinois
- September 21-27: Wichita Open Supporting Wichita's Youth, Crestview CC, Wichita, Kansas
- September 28-October 4: Savannah Golf Championship, The Landings Club (Deer Creek), Savannah, Georgia
- October 5-11: Orange County National Championship presented by Knight 39, Orange County Golf Center & Lodge (Panther Lake), Winter Garden, Florida

## **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, or follow the Tour on social media via Instagram (@KornFerryTour), Twitter (@KornFerryTour) and Facebook (facebook.com/KornFerryTour).