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CONTACT: Preston Smith, prestonsmith@pgatourhq.com, 706-844-2100

Final-Round Leaderboard

| Pos. | Name | Scores |
|------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Andrew Novak | 69-64-66-66—265 (-23) |
| 2 | John Chin | 68-66-68-64—266 (-22) |
| 3 | Taylor Montgomery | 65-69-69-64—267 (-21) |
| T4 | Three tied at | 268 (-20) |

[Full Leaderboard](#)

Andrew Novak birdies final hole to win LECOM Suncoast Classic

LAKEWOOD RANCH, Fla. — Andrew Novak birdied each of his last two holes, including a 10-foot putt at the last, to win the LECOM Suncoast Classic on Sunday 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.

“This has been what I’ve been working three years for since I turned pro, and even before then in college and all those hours,” the Wofford College product said. “It’s awesome to have an opportunity. I’ve still got more work to do—one win doesn’t lock it up (PGA TOUR card)—but this is obviously a great start.”

Novak, who closed with a final-round 66, emerged from a crowded field that saw six players on top of the leaderboard at some point throughout the day. The final drama came down to Novak and Chin, the latter of which briefly carried the solo advantage at 22-under after a birdie on the 16th hole.

But Novak tied things up after making a 50-foot putt from the fringe at the par-3 17th, then stuck his approach shot from 204 yards to 10 feet on the 72nd hole. He sunk the putt in front of a packed gallery to secure the win.

“I like playing in front of people. I like crowds, so this was perfect,” he said. “It had a stadium feel to it. I grew up playing other sports, and you see in all those sports where everyone is playing in front of crowds. I like making people cheer, so it was perfect for me. They all gave me a big ovation when I walked up to the green, and I was just tied, I hadn’t made the putt yet or anything. I definitely felt the love there.”

Chin finished solo-second after shooting a closing 64. He was one of two players to shoot 8-under Sunday, including Taylor Montgomery, who carded a third-place finish. Montgomery



drained a 30-foot putt at the 17th to move into first at 22-under but bogeyed the final hole after hitting his second shot out of bounds. He eventually got up-and-down to save bogey.

Greyson Sigg also reached 22-under before bogeys on each of his final two holes dropped him into a tie for fourth alongside David Kocher and Monday qualifier Chandler Blanchet.

“That’s the thing, there are a lot of birdies out there,” Novak said. “If you made a bogey or a double you were falling fast. You had to be on every shot. Everybody was playing well. It was really bunched up.”

Chin parred each of his last two holes, which opened the door for Novak’s comeback, beginning with the long putt on No. 17.

“At that point my whole mindset was just trying to get in a playoff,” he said. “Eighteen isn’t an easy hole. I wasn’t really expecting birdie there, either. I was just trying to make a birdie somewhere. I knew with two holes left, it wasn’t really one you’re expecting to make, but I wanted to at least give it a run. It just lined up and went in.”

One more birdie on the 72nd hole erased any need for a playoff. Novak’s approach shot and subsequent putt sealed a victory, his first in 45 career Korn Ferry Tour starts.

“(I was) so locked in for the last 20 minutes,” he said. “I actually made it a bit of a point not to take too long (on the last putt) and not try to overlook it.”

Novak rose to No. 3 in The 25, trailing Davis Riley and Mito Pereira. Jared Wolfe (T56) and Chin round out the top five.

Novak’s victory continues a strong recent stretch for the 24-year-old, who finished tied for ninth last week at the Country Club de Bogotá Championship.

“I played here last year and played terrible, but I like the course,” said Novak, who finished 8-over at this tournament a year ago. “I felt good here, I just don’t think I managed my game well last year and I don’t think I was patient. I just felt better (this time). I had a great finish last week and just carried that momentum over. I knew everything was pretty close and wanted to put it all together.”

FINAL-ROUND NOTES:

* Sunday’s weather: Partly cloudy, high of 83, wind S/SW at 6-12 mph.

* Entering last week, Andrew Novak had two career top-10s on the Korn Ferry Tour in 43 starts. He finished T9 at the Country Club de Bogotá Championship last week and earned his fourth career top-10 this week.



- * Andrew Novak birdied his final hole to reach 23-under and win by one stroke. Playing straight into the wind, the 18th hole (par-4, 471 yards) played as the fourth-toughest hole on Sunday and only relinquished six birdies to the field.
- * Mike Weir (-17, T17) carded an albatross at the par-5 sixth hole on Sunday, the first albatross of his career during competition. He previously had one while in college at BYU while practicing. The albatross was the first of the year on the Korn Ferry Tour and the 72nd overall in the Tour's 31-year history.
- * Six different players held at least a share of the lead during the round on Sunday. Those players were Peter Uihlein, Andrew Novak, John Chin, Greyson Sigg, Jack Maguire and Taylor Montgomery.
- * John Chin (-22, second) carded a bogey-free 8-under 64 on Sunday to rise from T8 entering the final round to a runner-up finish. His 64 equaled the low round of the day, matching Taylor Montgomery (-21, third).
- * Taylor Montgomery carded a back-nine 31 on Sunday to take the lead down the stretch but bogeyed the par-4 18th hole to fall two strokes shy of Novak.
- * Making his Korn Ferry Tour debut, Chandler Blanchet (-20, T4) finished top-10 after earning a spot through the Monday Qualifier. The top-10 earns him a spot in the next tournament, the El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA.
- * Rookie Greyson Sigg and David Kocher each finished T4 at 20-under to tally their best career finishes. Sigg has now finished top-25 in all five Korn Ferry Tour events this season, the only player on Tour to accomplish the feat.
- * After setting the course record last season (63) en route to a solo-fifth finish, J.T. Griffin (-19, T7) was again in contention before finishing top-10. Robert Garrigus (-18, T11) set the new course record at Lakewood National Golf Club with a 10-under 62 on Friday.
- * The most difficult hole by scoring average on Sunday was the 253-yard, par-3 third hole (3.314). The hole ranked as the third-most difficult hole on the Korn Ferry Tour's schedule in 2019 with a scoring average of 3.435.

Lakewood National Golf Club Scoring Average:

| | Front | Back | Total | Cumulative |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| R1 | 35.458 | 35.243 | 70.701 | |
| R2 | 34.917 | 34.507 | 69.424 | 70.062 |
| R3 | 34.595 | 34.486 | 69.081 | 69.735 |
| R4 | 34.629 | 34.343 | 68.971 | 69.546 |

For highlights from today's round, or any 2020 event visit [this link](#).

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