

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 22, 2020 CONTACT: Preston Smith, <u>prestonsmith@pgatourhq.com</u>, 706-844-2100

### Final Leaderboard

| Pos. | Name            | Scores                |  |
|------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1    | Jared Wolfe     | 67-69-65-69—270 (-18) |  |
| 2    | Brandon Harkins | 70-66-66-72—274 (-14) |  |
| Т3   | Billy Kennerly  | 70-66-72-67—275 (-13) |  |
| Т3   | Curtis Thompson | 70-65-69-71—275 (-13) |  |
| Т3   | Nick Hardy      | 72-65-67-71—275 (-13) |  |

# Full Leaderboard

# Jared Wolfe claims first Korn Ferry Tour Title at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar

**NASSAU, The Bahamas** — Jared Wolfe entered the final round of the Korn Ferry Tour's Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at Baha Mar with a one-shot lead at 15-under, looking to secure the first win of his Tour career. The Kentucky native, who had great success on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica the last three years, took advantage of his opportunity with a final-round 69, good for an 18-under 270 total and a four-shot victory over Brandon Harkins.

Wolfe took control of the tournament lead in the late afternoon during Tuesday's third round, with birdies on three of his final four holes securing a one-shot advantage over Harkins entering Wednesday's final round at Baha Mar's Royal Blue Golf Course.

With wind gusts over 30 mph on a day when only two players broke 70, Wolfe did his best to keep a steady ship as three days of red numbers turned into veritable survival on day four. The former Murray State golfer turned in 1-under 35 with a workman-like eight pars and one birdie on the par-4 fifth.

Cruising through his back nine with pars on Nos. 10 through 13, Wolfe stepped on the tee of the par-3 14<sup>th</sup> – the signature, borderline island green at Royal Blue – with a three-shot cushion, and promptly hit his tee shot in the water. To his credit, he took a drop in the drop zone and nearly holed his wedge shot, leaving a docile tap-in for bogey.

"My caddie and I were going back and forth on what to hit on that shot. Ultimately, he was right. I don't know if I caught a gust or if it was just a mis-club altogether," said Wolfe. "But then on the shot from the drop zone, it looked awfully good from where we were. I thought it was going in."



The clutch save, which kept him two shots clear of the field with four holes to play, set up a torrid finish for Wolfe, who birdied 15, 16 and 18 to cap off a dominant performance and a four-shot win over Harkins.

"No argument, it's definitely the biggest win of my career. It was so cool to finish the job, especially in style with a birdie at the last," he said. "I knew coming into today if I played as well as I know I can, someone would have to do something special to catch me. I turned out to be right on that. I'm just very blessed to be in this position."

Wolfe returned to the Korn Ferry Tour this year thanks to his play on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, as a win at the 2019 Buenaventura Classic and back-to-back top-3 finishes in his last two starts allowed him to finish third in "Los Cinco" to secure status for the 2020 season. The victory was the third of his career on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, where he learned how to compete and more importantly, how to win.

"PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, it's just amazing to even have that opportunity. When I was coming out of college, we didn't have that option," said Wolfe. "I feel like PGA TOUR Latinoamérica specifically prepares you for the travel. Five of the first six events on this Tour are out of the country, so it prepares you well for that. Obviously being in position to win down there set me up today to finish the job."

While Wolfe learned how to win while playing abroad, last fall, he learned perspective when his wife Kelsey gave birth to their first child, Khloe.

"I'm taking my wife and daughter on the road this year. We were trying to figure out finances, obviously she's not working right now. She's done such an amazing job while I have been on other Tours out of the country helping support and save money," said Wolfe. "I feel so much more secure now for the year and better as far as her and Khloe joining me on the road. As far as our family and going forward, we're all really excited and now we can try and go get that Top-25."

Harkins, who held the lead throughout much of Tuesday's third round, spent a portion of Wednesday within striking distance of Wolfe, but a double-bogey on the tough par-4 16<sup>th</sup> dashed his chances of catching him atop the leaderboard.

The 33-year-old rallied thereafter, birdieing 17 and hitting his approach on 18 to 10 feet and converting the putt for a closing eagle and a final-round 72. With the finish he moved to No. 3 on the Regular Season points list, trailing only Wolfe and last week's winner, Tommy Gainey.

The runner-up finish marked Harkins' best on Tour since a solo-second at the 2017 Ellie Mae Classic, which helped him lock up his first PGA TOUR card that year. He spent 2017 through



2019 on TOUR, recording four top-10 finishes before a 164<sup>th</sup>-place finish in last year's FedExCup standings put him back on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2020.

Billy Kennerly, Curtis Thompson and Nick Hardy finished T3 at 13-under 275, five shots back of Wolfe.

Kennerly posted the day's low round with a 5-under 67, thanks in part to a birdie on his 72<sup>nd</sup> hole. Kennerly and Wolfe were the only two players in the field to break 70 in the final round.

The T3 finish for Kennerly was his best on the Korn Ferry Tour since a T2 at the 2017 KC Golf Classic. The former Clemson University golfer, who has played on Tour since the middle of the 2017 season, now has eight career top-10 finishes.

# **FINAL NOTES:**

\* Wednesday's weather: Partly cloudy and windy, high of 70, winds NW 20-25 mph.

\* With his victory, Jared Wolfe received 500 Korn Ferry Tour points and moved to the top of the Tour's 2020 points list with 506.325. He also won \$108,000.

\* The T3 finish for Curtis Thompson was his best on the Korn Ferry Tour since a T3 at the season-opening Panama Championship in 2016. Thompson quit playing in 2019 to caddie for his sister (Lexi) and at a local club, but then returned at Q-School to earn co-medalist honors and secure full exempt status for the 2020 season.

\* Nick Hardy's T3 effort marked a career-best on the Korn Ferry Tour. The former University of Illinois golfer, who finished T5 at Q-School in December, entered the week with five made cuts on Tour in six career starts and coming off a missed cut last week in Exuma where he opened with a 12-over 84.

\* Hardy used one of Baha Mar's local caddies this week, Calvin Tynes. Tynes began caddying when the club opened in April of 2017 but didn't pick up the game until six months ago.

\* Greg Yates, who posted a course-record 9-under 63, on Tuesday, finished in solo-sixth place at 11-under 277 after an eagle on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole allowed him to overcome a rough start to his closing nine where he was 4-over in his first five holes.

\* Yates entered the 2019 WinCo Foods Portland Open at No. 74 on the Korn Ferry Tour points list and in need of a good week to retain his card for the 2020 season after missing four straight cuts. The former Texas A&M golfer opened in 64, finished T32 and wound up at No. 72 on the Regular Season points list. The top 75 on that list each year retain their full status for the following season.

\* The hardest holes this week were the par-4 fourth and the par-4 16<sup>th</sup>, which played to an average of 4.260 each.

\* On the flip side, the par-5 18<sup>th</sup> played as the easiest with a scoring average of 4.231, thanks in part to 41 eagles.

\* On Wednesday, the 353-yard par-4 sixth did not yield a single birdie to the field. The par-4 eighth and the par-3 14<sup>th</sup> gave up one birdie each.



\* Royal Blue's final-round scoring average of 74.722 (+2.722) is the highest final-round average on the Korn Ferry Tour since the closing round of the 2017 United Leasing & Finance Championship at Victoria National Golf Club (76.029 / +4.029). The Abaco Club on Winding Bay yielded the highest final-round average in 2019 with 74.646 (+2.646).

### **Royal Blue Golf Course Scoring Average:**

|    | Front  | Back   | Total  | Cumulative |
|----|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| R1 | 35.924 | 35.924 | 71.848 |            |
| R2 | 35.282 | 35.412 | 70.695 |            |
| R3 | 35.333 | 35.181 | 70.514 |            |
| R4 | 37.319 | 37.403 | 74.722 | 71.945     |

For highlights from today's round, or any 2020 event visit this link.

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