



TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes

TPC Colorado | Berthoud, Colorado | July 1-4, 2020

Korn Ferry Tour Media Contact

Sean Wildhack – SeanWildhack@pgatourhq.com, (315-243-2751)

Quick Facts

Golf Course: TPC Colorado (Par 72, 7,991 yards)

Course Designer: Arthur Schaupeter Golf Course Architects (2019)

Purse: \$600,000 (Winner: \$108,000 / 500 points)

Field Overview (as of June 29)

- 39 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 59 victories
- 11 PGA TOUR winners with 22 victories
- [Power Rankings](#)
- [Inside the Field](#)

Tournament History

Last season, Nelson Ledesma won the inaugural TPC Colorado Championship in dramatic fashion, sinking a 20-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole to edge playing partner Brett Coletta by one stroke. The Argentinian held the lead for most of the day, but Coletta birdied the par-4 17th to draw even at 14-under before Ledesma's closing birdie. The 18th hole played as the toughest hole on the course last year and ranked as the fifth-hardest on Tour in 2019. Ledesma's birdie was only the 19th birdie of the week on the par-4, 531-yard hole. After his win, Ledesma went on to secure his first PGA TOUR card.

The 2019 tournament marked the first PGA TOUR-sanctioned event in the state of Colorado since the 2014 BMW Championship at Cherry Hills Country Club. The Korn Ferry Tour previously hosted the Colorado Classic in Brighton, Colorado, in 1996 and 1997.

Past Champions

Year	Champion	Scores	To Par	Margin
2019	Nelson Ledesma	65-69-69-70 – 273	-15	1

Local Players in the Field

Several players with Colorado ties will compete in this week's tournament. Colorado natives George Cunningham, Jonathan Kaye, Jim Knous, Zahkai Brown and Ryan Schmitz will lead the local contingent of players in the field this week. Kaye and Schmitz will be making their Korn Ferry Tour debuts this season.

Knous, who was born in Basalt, Colorado, will be making his tournament debut at TPC Colorado. Knous last played on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2018. That season, he recorded eight top-25s and three top-10s and earned his PGA TOUR card through the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. Prior to turning professional, Knous attended the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado.

Cunningham, a native of Louisville, Colorado, will be making his 10th start of the season this week. Earlier this year, he finished T4 at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay.

Zahkai Brown and Ryan Schmitz have both been awarded sponsor exemptions this week. Brown, a former Colorado State University standout, earned a spot in last week's Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank after Monday qualifying. Schmitz, a native of Greenwood Village, Colorado, will be making the second start of his Korn Ferry Tour career. Last season, he missed the cut in the Utah Championship in his first career start.

Tom Whitney, who has made five cuts in six starts this season, is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. Whitney fulfilled a four-year term on active duty before leaving the Air Force in May 2014 to pursue a career in professional golf. Last December, he earned Korn Ferry Tour status after finishing T3 at the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament's Final Stage. Last season, he finished T55 at the TPC Colorado Championship.

Course Background

TPC Colorado, a links-style course nestled between several reservoirs and Rocky Mountain views, will play at 7,991 yards for the 156-player field. The course is the first Tournament Players Club (TPC) course in the state. Dozens of side-wall pot bunkers dot the course that has several distinguishing holes. The par-3 second hole has an island-like green on a peninsula next to the McNeil Reservoir. The par-5 13th will play at 773 yards for the week – one of the longest holes in the country. At 7,991 yards, the course is the longest course the Korn Ferry Tour has ever played (previous long was El Bosque GC at 7,808 yards in 2009).

Last season, TPC Colorado had three holes that ranked in the top-25 hardest on Tour. The 531-yard 18th ranked as fifth-hardest hole on Tour in 2019. The par-3 second and the par-4 fourth ranked as the 19th and 20th most difficult holes in 2019, respectively.

By the Numbers: TPC Colorado (2019)

Hardest hole: No. 18* (par 4, 531 yards) – 4.377 average, 153 bogeys, 19 double bogeys

Easiest hole: No. 5 (par 5, 624 yards) – 4.531 average, 12 eagles, 212 birdies

Tournament Record (18 holes): 64 (-8), Michael Gellerman (Rd. 3)

Tournament Record (72 holes): 273 (-15), Nelson Ledesma

**Indicates the hole is in the top 50 toughest on Tour*

Top Five to Watch

- **Braden Thornberry** – Thornberry earned his third top-25 of the season last week after finishing T18 in Utah. Last year, the former University of Mississippi product finished T7 at TPC Colorado.
- **Kyle Jones** – Jones enters the week fresh off his first Korn Ferry Tour victory. The Baylor University product outlasted Daniel Summerhays and Paul Haley II in a playoff to win the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank.
- **Dylan Wu** – The 23-year-old earned his fourth top-10 of the season after finishing T5 in Utah. Wu enters the week ranked third in The 25.
- **Joshua Creel** – Creel grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming, about an hour north of TPC Colorado. The 30-year-old has made six cuts in seven starts in 2020.
- **Will Zalatoris** – The former Wake Forest University star continued his strong play in Utah finishing solo-fourth. The 23-year-old enters the week ranked fourth in The 25.

Korn Ferry Tour Returns to Competition

After a hiatus of more than three months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Korn Ferry Tour returned to competition three weeks ago with the Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. The Tour continues this week with the 10th event of the season, the TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes. 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.

This year, the TPC Colorado Championship will begin on Wednesday, July 1st and the final round will be contested on Saturday, July 4th.

Next week, the Tour will head to San Antonio for the TPC San Antonio Challenge at the Canyons. The Tour will stay in San Antonio for a second consecutive week for the TPC San Antonio Championship at the Oaks. The events will be contested at TPC San Antonio's Canyons and Oaks Courses.

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 21st 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 72nd 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.
7. *Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass* – Three months after beginning competition at THE PLAYERS Championship before the cancellation, Luke List returned to TPC Sawgrass and eventually edged a tight leaderboard at 12-under to win the Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass.
8. *The King & Bear Classic at World Golf Village* – Chris Kirk erased a final-round four-stroke deficit to win The King & Bear Classic at World Golf Village. After taking six months off from golf as he worked through alcohol abuse and depression, Kirk returned to the winner's circle for the first time since 2015.
9. *Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank* – Kyle Jones held off local favorite Daniel Summerhays and Paul Haley II to win the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank. Jones clinched the win with a birdie on the second playoff hole at Oakridge 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).