



## Pre-Tournament Notes – Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS

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**Dates:** March 18-21, 2021

**Where:** Broussard, Louisiana

**Course:** Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club: 71 / 7,067

**Course Designer:** Robert Trent Jones, Jr. (1985)

**Field:** 144 players

**Defending champion:** Vince Covello (2019)

**Purse:** \$600,000 (\$108,000/winner)

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

### Quick Links

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### Things to Know

- Field headlined by eight of the top-10 in Korn Ferry Tour standings
- After falling in a playoff two years ago, **Justin Lower** returns to the site of his career-best finish (2nd)
  - Lower matched that feat with a runner-up finish at The King & Bear Classic at World Golf Village last June
- Past champions in the field are **Julian Etulain** (2018), **Kris Blanks** (2014), **Fabian Gomez** (2010) and **Steven Alker** (2002)
- The Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS is the second Korn Ferry Tour tournament of 2021 and 25th of the season

### Field Notes (as of 3/15/21)

- 23 of the top-25 in the Korn Ferry Tour standings, led by No. 2 **Taylor Pendrith** and No. 3 **Davis Riley**
  - Riley and No. 7 **Jared Wolfe** are each seeking a third Korn Ferry Tour win for immediate promotion to PGA TOUR
- 60 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 92 total victories, led by **Martin Piller** with six
- 12 PGA TOUR winners with 23 total victories, led by **Robert Allenby** and **Aaron Baddeley** with four each
- 18 winners in the field from the current season: **Hayden Buckley**, **Brett Drewitt**, **Tommy Gainey**, **Evan Harmeling**, **Lee Hodges**, **Stephan Jaeger**, **Kyle Jones**, **David Kocher**, **David Lipsky**, **Curtis Luck**, **Max McGreevy**, **Trey Mullinax**, **Andrew Novak**, **Mito Pereira**, **Seth Reeves**, **Davis Riley**, **Curtis Thompson**, **Jared Wolfe**

### 2019 Recap (2020 tournament was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Vince Covello*	63	67	67	68	265 (-19)
2	Justin Lower	68	63	64	70	265 (-19)
T3	Fabian Gomez	68	65	71	62	266 (-18)
T3	Steve Marino	68	67	66	65	266 (-18)
T3	Xinjun Zhang	66	64	68	68	266 (-18)

\*won via a sudden-death playoff

- **Vince Covello** began the final round two strokes off the lead and recorded a 3-under 68, including a birdie on his 72nd hole after hitting his approach shot to one foot, to reach a playoff with **Justin Lower**
- Covello would go on to birdie the third playoff hole to clinch his first Korn Ferry Tour victory
- Lower had a two-shot lead (18-under) after 54 holes and was in position to win before Covello birdied two of his last three holes to force a playoff
- Covello's first career Korn Ferry Tour win came in his 80th Tour start at the age of 36 years, 3 months and 28 days
- **Fabian Gomez** carded a final-round 62 – the low round of the week – to rise to a T3 finish

#### Miscellaneous Notes

- **Justin Lower** is the top-returning finisher from the 2019 tournament and enters the week 29th in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings; Lower has finished runner-up, T3 (2018) and T20 (2016) in three previous starts at the event
- Louisiana State University alumni **Andrew Loupe**, **Brandon Pierce** and **Curtis Thompson** will each return to the state they competed in collegiately; Loupe is a Baton Rouge resident, while Pierce is from Covington
- Five of the top-10 finishers from the 2019 tournament will return to Le Triomphe this week (**Justin Lower** [2nd], **Fabian Gomez** [T3], **Erik Barnes** [T6], **Greg Yates** [9th] and **Joshua Creel** [T10])
- Eight qualifiers gained entry into the field at two sites on Monday, led by the medalists at each course, **Hayden Wood** (63/Links on the Bayou) and **Joseph Winslow** (63/OakWing Golf Club)
- Six-time PGA TOUR champion **Jimmy Walker** is the most accomplished former champion of the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS (2004); Walker became a major champion with a victory at the 2016 PGA Championship

#### Last time out...

##### LECOM Suncoast Classic (Feb. 18-21)

Pos.	Player	Total
1	Hayden Buckley*	271 (-13)
T2	Dawson Armstrong	271 (-13)
T2	Taylor Montgomery	271 (-13)
4	Billy Kennerly	272 (-12)

\*won via a sudden-death playoff

- The Korn Ferry Tour last competed three weeks ago at Lakewood National Golf Club in Lakewood Ranch, Florida
- University of Missouri alum **Hayden Buckley** edged **Dawson Armstrong** and **Taylor Montgomery** with a birdie on the first playoff hole; Buckley was the last player in the field after getting in as an alternate 15 minutes before his tee time on Thursday morning
- Buckley's win came in his 17th start on the Korn Ferry Tour and led to his ascension from 85th to 27th in the Korn Ferry Tour standings
- **Billy Kennerly** held a three-stroke lead with four holes to go during the final round but went bogey-par-double bogey-bogey over his final four holes to miss the playoff

#### Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2019	Vince Covello	63	67	67	68	265 (-19)	Playoff
2018	Julián Etulain	62	70	66	67	265 (-19)	2
2017	Casey Wittenberg	65	64	65	69	263 (-21)	3
2016	Wesley Bryan	66	65	71	68	270 (-14)	1
2015	Kelly Kraft	67	70	68	65	270 (-14)	1
2014	Kris Blanks	71	66	71	62	270 (-14)	Playoff
2013	Edward Loar	68	66	64	69	267 (-17)	2

2012	Casey Wittenberg	66	66	63	65	260 (-24)	8
2011	Brett Wetterich	67	65	70	69	271 (-13)	1
2010	Fabian Gomez	70	68	67	64	269 (-15)	6
2009	Bubba Dickerson	71	64	69	70	274 (-10)	Playoff
2008	Gavin Coles	70	66	66	70	272 (-12)	1
2007	Skip Kendall	66	66	66	70	268 (-16)	Playoff
2006	Johnson Wagner	67	69	69	67	272 (-12)	1
2005	Ryan Hietala	66	71	65	68	270 (-18)	1
2004	Jimmy Walker	69	64	74	65	272 (-16)	1
2003	Brett Wetterich	62	68	64	70	264 (-24)	3
2002	Steven Alker	65	66	69	64	264 (-24)	Playoff
2001	Paul Claxton	68	66	70	67	271 (-17)	1
2000	Rob McKelvey	66	68	72	68	274 (-14)	1
1999	Matt Gogel	69	71	68	69	277 (-11)	1
1998	Josh Wilson	73	65	67	69	274 (-14)	5
1997	Joe Daley	62	67	69		198 (-18)	3
1996	Paul Stankowski	69	66	64	67	266 (-22)	4
1995	Stan Utley	70	70	66	62	268 (-20)	2
1994	Bill Porter	68	67	71	70	276 (-12)	2
1993	R.W. Eaks	67	63	72	71	273 (-15)	2
1992	Sean Murphy	64	69	67		200 (-16)	1

#### Course Information – Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club

- Scoring average (2019): 69.680
- Toughest hole (2019): No. 13 (par-4/446 yards/4.299 average)
  - Nos. 13 & 14 were two of the 25 toughest holes on Tour in 2019, ranked 17th and 24th most difficult, respectively
- Easiest hole (2019): No. 5 (par-5/560 yards/4.490 average)

#### Tournament Records

- 18-hole score: 60 (**Brenden Pappas**/R1/2007)
- 36-hole score: 127 (**Wes Short, Jr.**/2003)
- 54-hole score: 194 (**Brett Wetterich**/2003, **Casey Wittenberg**/2017)
- 72-hole score: 260 (**Casey Wittenberg**/2012)
- Largest margin of victory: 8 (**Casey Wittenberg**/2012)

#### Korn Ferry Tour 2020-21 Season

With the Korn Ferry Tour forming a combined 2020-21 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS is uniquely in the middle of the season, even though it's the second event of the 2021 calendar year. After 23 events in 2020, the 2021 Chitimacha Louisiana Open is the 25th tournament (of 43) of the 2020-21 regular season. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards will be awarded to the top-25 players in the Korn Ferry Tour standings following the conclusion of the regular season in August (following the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna). Additionally, 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded at the conclusion of the three-event Korn Ferry Tour Finals in August/September.

#### Current Korn Ferry Tour Standings

Position	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Points Behind	Starts
1	Will Zalatoris	1,876	1	10	--	16
2	Taylor Pendrith	1,630	--	6	246	22
3	Davis Riley	1,535	2	5	341	20
4	Brandon Wu	1,471	1	5	405	10

5	Lee Hodges	1,439	1	6	437	21
6	Greyson Sigg	1,423	--	7	453	21
7	Jared Wolfe	1,406	2	5	470	21
8	Chad Ramey	1,248	--	6	628	23
9	Stephan Jaeger	1,237	1	5	639	20
10	David Lipsky	1,116	1	4	760	19