



## Pre-Tournament Notes – Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank

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**Dates:** May 27-30, 2021

**Where:** Glenview, Illinois

**Course:** The Glen Club (71 / 7,225)

**Course Designer:** Tom Fazio (2001)

**Field:** 156 players

**Defending Champion:** Curtis Thompson

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

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

### Quick Links

- [Tournament Media Site](#)
- [Power Rankings](#)
- [Tee Times](#)

### Things to Know

- This will be the third edition of the Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank
- The Glen Club is hosting the event for the second time, last doing so in 2019; the 2020 event was contested at Chicago Highlands Club
- The Glen Club also hosted six editions of the Bank of America Open from 2003-08, with the most notable winner being Jason Dufner (2006), who went on to win the 2013 PGA Championship
- Scottie Scheffler won the 2019 Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank at The Glen Club, firing a 9-under 63 in the final round to tie 54-hole leader Marcelo Rozo and force a sudden-death playoff, which he won with a birdie on the second playoff hole
  - Scheffler entered the final round in T9 position and six strokes behind Rozo
  - Scheffler went on to earn 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year and 2019-20 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year honors

### Field Notes (as of 5/25/21)

- Field headlined by seven of the top 10, and 16 of the top 25 in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings, led by No. 1 **Stephan Jaeger**
- **Stephan Jaeger** and No. 4 **Davis Riley** are seeking a third win for immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR
- No. 7 **Paul Barjon** is one point away from eclipsing the 1,700-point threshold the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using as its fail-safe number for players to finish inside of the top 25 of the 2020-21 points standings and secure PGA TOUR cards
  - Four of the six players who have already crossed the threshold are in this week's field – No. 1 **Stephan Jaeger**, No. 4 **Davis Riley**, No. 5 **Taylor Pendrith**, and No. 6 **David Lipsky**
  - Lipsky, Pendrith, Riley, and No. 2 Greyson Sigg will compete as rookies on TOUR beginning this fall, while Jaeger will begin his third TOUR season this fall, and No. 3 Will Zalatoris already has Special Temporary Membership status on the PGA TOUR
- Field includes 52 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 81 total wins, led by **Stephan Jaeger** and **Martin Piller** (six apiece)
- Field includes seven PGA TOUR winners with 11 total victories, led by **Aaron Baddeley** with four
- 20 winners in the field from the current season: **Tyson Alexander**, **Paul Barjon**, **Hayden Buckley**, **Brett Drewitt**, **Tommy Gainey**, **Lee Hodges**, **Stephan Jaeger** (x2), **Kyle Jones**, **David Kocher**, **David Lipsky**, **Curtis Luck**, **Max McGreevy**, **Trey Mullinax**, **Mito Pereira**, **Davis Riley** (x2), **Austin Smotherman**, **Adam Svensson**, **Curtis Thompson**, **Brandon Wu**, **Cameron Young**

## 2020 Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank Recap (Sept. 10-13 – Chicago Highlands Club)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Curtis Thompson	68	65	68	70	271 (-17)
T2	Jimmy Stanger	69	67	70	66	272 (-16)
	Will Zalatoris	69	68	71	64	272 (-16)
T4	Alex Chiarella	67	68	72	67	274 (-14)
	Brad Hopfinger	69	66	72	67	274 (-14)
	Max Rottluff	70	67	72	65	274 (-14)

- **Curtis Thompson** carried a three-stroke lead into the final round and held off late charges from **Will Zalatoris** and **Jimmy Stanger** to win by a single stroke
- Thompson birdied the par-5 18th to secure the win, hitting a 2-iron from 263 yards and knocking it to 40 feet for a two-putt birdie
- Thompson's win was the first of his Korn Ferry Tour career, and it came after he quit professional golf following a 2018 season which saw him make just four cuts in 13 starts and lose his card
  - During his time away, Thompson caddied for his sister, LPGA star Lexi Thompson, and back home at Pine Tree Golf Club in Boynton Beach, Florida
  - Thompson eventually regained status for the 2020 season with a T1 finish at the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
- Zalatoris tied Chicago Highlands Club's competitive course record with an 8-under 64 in the final round
  - **Brad Brunner** and **Mito Pereira** also carded 8-under 64s, with both doing so in the second round
- Zalatoris' T2 finish was his 10th top-10 of 2020, and marked his last start on the Korn Ferry Tour, as he finished T6 the following week at the U.S. Open and eventually earned Special Temporary Membership status on the PGA TOUR for 2021
- Stanger's T2 remains his highest finish in four years on the Korn Ferry Tour (71 starts)
- Chicago resident and Lake Forest (Ill.) High School alum **Brad Hopfinger's** T4 tied the highest finish of his Korn Ferry Tour career (in his 91st start), but he followed it up with a T3 in his next start at the Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics

### Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2020	Curtis Thompson	68	65	68	70	271 (-17)	1
2019	Scottie Scheffler	68	70	70	63	271 (-17)	Playoff

### Miscellaneous Notes

- Eight players in the field played collegiately in Illinois: four at University of Illinois (**Brian Campbell**, **Nick Hardy**, **Luke Guthrie**, **Scott Langley**), three at Northwestern University (**David Lipsky**, **Charles Wang**, **Dylan Wu**), and one at Illinois Wesleyan University (**Shane Smith**)
- 12 players in the field have additional ties to Illinois: **Patrick Flavin** (Chicago native, Highwood resident), **Luke Guthrie** (Quincy native), **Jordan Hahn** (hometown is Spring Grove), **Nick Hardy** (Northbrook native), **Brad Hopfinger** (Chicago resident, Lake Forest High School alum), **Theo Humphrey** (Chicago native), **Vince India** (Deerfield native, Chicago resident), **Scott Langley** (Barrington native), **Andy Pope** (Glen Ellyn native), **Shane Smith** (Alton native, Godfrey resident), **Dylan Wu** (Evanston resident), and **Joe Zawaski** (Glenview native, New Trier High School alum)
  - Zawaski previously caddied at The Glen Club (last in 2017), which he also listed as his home course
- Eight qualifiers gained entry into the field at two sites Monday, led by White Deer Run Golf Club medalist **Chris Naegel**, who shot a 9-under 63
  - There was a three-way tie for medalist honors at the Stonewall Orchard Golf Club site, and **Andrew McCain** survived a 5-for-1 playoff to secure the fourth and final spot
- The Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank is the 11th Korn Ferry Tour tournament of 2021 and 34th of the season

### Last week on Tour – AdventHealth Championship (May 20-23)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Cameron Young	64	69	68	68	269 (-19)
2	Dawie van der Walt	70	67	66	68	271 (-17)
3	Zach Wright	70	71	67	64	272 (-16)
4	Nick Hardy	68	72	65	68	273 (-15)
5	Greyson Sigg	67	75	65	67	274 (-14)

- Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Missouri hosted the AdventHealth Championship last week
- **Cameron Young** opened the week with an 8-under 64, held the solo lead for all four rounds and finished two strokes ahead of runner-up **Dawie van der Walt** for his first career Korn Ferry Tour victory
  - Young entered the 2020-21 season with zero status, but Monday qualified into the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna last July and posted four consecutive finishes of T11, T14, T6, T2 to earn Special Temporary Membership status
- Young also completed the first wire-to-wire victory since Kramer Hickok at the 2018 DAP Championship presented by NewBrick
- Young's win vaulted him from 70th to 26th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings
- **Dawie van der Walt**, a 38-year-old South African, took solo second for his highest finish since a victory at the 2015 Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper
- **Zach Wright** placed solo third for the highest finish of his Korn Ferry Tour career (57 starts), as well as his second consecutive (and career) top-10
- **Greyson Sigg** followed up his first career Korn Ferry Tour victory with a solo-fifth finish last week
- Monday qualifier **Jeremy Gandon** logged a T15 finish and earned a spot in this week's field

### Korn Ferry Tour 2020-21 Season

With the Korn Ferry Tour forming a combined 2020-21 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Evans Scholars Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank will be the 34th 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 at the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna (Aug. 12-15). Additionally, 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded through the three-event Korn Ferry Tour Finals at the conclusion of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance (Sept. 2-5).

With 10 events remaining in the regular season, the Korn Ferry Tour is currently using the 1,700-point threshold as its fail-safe number for players to finish inside the top 25.

### Current Korn Ferry Tour Standings

Position	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Points Behind	Starts
1	Stephan Jaeger	2,294	2	9	--	27
2	Greyson Sigg	2,044	1	9	250	27
3	Will Zalatoris	1,876	1	10	418	16
4	Davis Riley	1,867	2	7	427	28
5	Taylor Pendrith	1,798	--	6	496	29
6	David Lipsky	1,710	1	6	584	26
7	Paul Barjon	1,699	1	6	595	27
8	Lee Hodges	1,666	1	7	628	27
9	Brandon Wu	1,635	1	7	659	16
10	Chad Ramey	1,630	--	8	664	31