



## Pre-Tournament Notes – Huntsville Championship

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**Dates:** April 29-May 2, 2021

**Where:** Huntsville, Alabama

**Course:** The Ledges (70 / 7,118)

**Course Designer:** Dr. Michael Hurdzan & Dana Fray (2000)

**Field:** 156 players

**Defending Champion:** n/a (new event)

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

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

### Quick Links

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### Things to Know

- With a T37 finish at last week's Veritex Bank Championship, **Stephan Jaeger** overtook **Will Zalatoris** for the No. 1 spot in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour points standings
  - Zalatoris, who is currently playing on the PGA TOUR via a special temporary membership, held the No. 1 spot for 14 consecutive events, even though his last Korn Ferry Tour start was last September at the Evans Scholars Invitational in Glenview, Illinois
- No. 3 **Taylor Pendrith** secured his PGA TOUR card with a T15 finish last week, which pushed him over the 1,700-point mark currently used to declare players #TOURBound
  - Pendrith earned his Korn Ferry Tour card for the 2020-21 season after finishing second in the 2019 Mackenzie Tour Order of Merit; he has five top-3s and 14 top-25s in 26 Korn Ferry Tour starts this season
- The inaugural Huntsville Championship was scheduled for April 23-26, 2020, but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic hiatus
- Designer Mike Hurdzan was named 2003 Designer of the Year by *Golf Magazine* for his work at The Ledges
- The Ledges has an elevation of 1,582 feet, putting it at the highest point in Huntsville and offering views of the valley, downtown Huntsville, and the Space and Rocket Center
- While this will be the inaugural Huntsville Championship, the Korn Ferry Tour previously came to the area for the Huntsville Open from 1994-98, with the first four tournaments being played at Cherokee Ridge Country Club (Union Grove, Alabama), and Hampton Cove Golf Course (Owens Cross Roads, Alabama) hosting the fifth installment
  - The most notable champion of those events was Jerry Kelly, a three-time PGA TOUR winner

### Field Notes (as of 4/26/21)

- Field headlined by eight of the top-10, and 20 of the top-25 in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings, led by No. 1 **Stephan Jaeger**
- After a week off, No. 4 **David Lipsky** returns to action boasting runner-up finishes in his last two starts
- No. 17 **Andrew Novak** has top-10s in each of the last three events, including a solo-third finish at the Emerald Coast Classic at Sandestin and a T5 last week at the Veritex Bank Championship
- No. 30 **Taylor Moore** has finishes of 6th, T22, 4th, and T3 in his last four starts and is coming off his best finish since a solo second at the 2018 Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS

- Field includes 58 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 88 total wins, led by **Stephan Jaeger** and **Martin Piller** (six apiece)
- Field includes seven PGA TOUR winners with nine total victories, led by **Sangmoon Bae** and **Fabián Gómez** (two apiece)
- 19 winners in the field from the current season: **Hayden Buckley, Brett Drewitt, Tommy Gainey, Evan Harmeling, Lee Hodges, Stephan Jaeger (x2), Kyle Jones, David Kocher, David Lipsky, Curtis Luck, Max McGreevy, Trey Mullinax, Andrew Novak, Mito Pereira, Seth Reeves, Davis Riley (x2), Adam Svensson, Curtis Thompson, Brandon Wu**

#### Miscellaneous Notes

- Eight players in the field competed collegiately in the state of Alabama: one at Auburn University (**Blayne Barber**), one at Huntingdon College (**Kris Blanks**), three at the University of Alabama (**Lee Hodges, Trey Mullinax, Davis Riley**), two at the University of Alabama-Birmingham (**Will Cannon, Zack Sucher**), and one at University of Montevallo and Wallace State Community College (**Conner Godsey**)
  - Hodges played the first two seasons of his collegiate career at UAB, earning a 2015-16 All-Conference USA First Team nod before transferring to Alabama for his final two seasons
- **Willy Wilcox** was born in Birmingham and continues to reside in the city, and seven of the eight players mentioned above with college ties were either born in or reside in Alabama, with Blanks being the exception
- No. 1 **Stephan Jaeger** and No. 5 **Davis Riley** are both seeking a third win for immediate promotion to the PGA TOUR, while this season's other two-time winner, No. 10 **Jared Wolfe**, is not in the field
- Eight qualifiers gained entry into the field at two sites Monday, led medalists **Sahith Theegala** (61/Huntsville CC) and **Cyril Bouniol** (63/Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Hampton Cove – Highlands)
- The Huntsville Championship is the seventh Korn Ferry Tour tournament of 2021 and 30th of the season

#### Last week on Tour – Veritex Bank Championship (April 22-25)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Tyson Alexander	67	65	65	64	261 (-23)
2	Theo Humphrey	64	63	65	70	262 (-22)
T3	Taylor Moore	67	69	63	65	264 (-20)
	Brett Drewitt	65	67	64	68	264 (-20)
T5	Six Tied					265 (-19)

- Texas Rangers Golf Club hosted the Korn Ferry Tour last week for the inaugural Veritex Bank Championship in Arlington, Texas
- **Tyson Alexander** began the final round five strokes off the lead, carded a 7-under 64, and finished one stroke ahead of **Theo Humphrey** for his first career Korn Ferry Tour title
  - Alexander's only other win in his 85 previous PGA TOUR-sanctioned starts came at the 2018 Costa Rica Classic on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica
  - Alexander turned professional in 2010 following a collegiate career at the University of Florida, where his father and 1986 U.S. Amateur Championship winner, Buddy Alexander, was the men's head coach from 1988-2014
  - Alexander's grandfather, Skip Alexander, played on the 1949 and 1951 Ryder Cup teams and won three times on the PGA TOUR
- Alexander made 11 birdies and just one bogey in his final 22 holes
- With the win, Alexander moved from 88th to 31st in the Korn Ferry Tour points standings
- Humphrey entered the final round with a three-stroke lead, but he made five birdies and four bogeys his first 12 holes, missed birdie putts each of the final six holes, and posted a 1-under 70
- Humphrey's solo second matched the best finish of his career, a T2 at Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship last August
- Humphrey and **Taylor Moore** both moved to the edge of The 25, with Humphrey climbing from 57th to 29th, and Moore rising from 44th to 30th via a T3 finish

- **Brett Drewitt's** T3 finish marked his first top-15 since a victory at the Lincoln Land Championship presented by LRS last September
- **Chandler Phillips** finished T5 in his fourth career Korn Ferry Tour start, all of which have come during the 2020-21 season
- **Nicolas Echavarria** shot a pair of 5-under 66s and a 7-under 64 in his final three rounds for a T5 finish, marking his first top-20 since a solo third at the 2019 Evans Scholars Invitational
- **Dan McCarthy** opened with a 7-under 64, followed it up with an 8-under 63, and did not make a bogey in his first 53 holes en route to a T5 finish

### 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 Huntsville Championship will be the 30th 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	Stephan Jaeger	1,889	2	7	--	24
2	Will Zalatoris	1,876	1	10	13	16
3	Taylor Pendrith	1,748	--	6	141	26
4	David Lipsky	1,675	1	6	214	23
5	Davis Riley	1,671	2	5	218	25
6	Lee Hodges	1,631	1	7	258	25
7	Brandon Wu	1,488	1	5	401	13
8	Chad Ramey	1,482	--	8	407	28
9	Greyson Sigg	1,423	--	7	466	23
10	Jared Wolfe	1,420	2	5	469	26