



LECOM Suncoast Classic Pre-Tournament Notes

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Dates: February 18-21, 2021

Where: Lakewood Ranch, Florida

Courses: Lakewood National Golf Club (Commander Course): 71/7,113

Course Designer: Arnold Palmer (2017)

Field: 144 players

Defending champion: Andrew Novak

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

Format: 72-hole stroke play

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Things to Know

- Field headlined by nine of the top-10 in Korn Ferry Tour standings, as well as defending champion **Andrew Novak**
- Novak attempting to become the first player in the Tour's 32-year history to successfully defend his title
- **Davis Riley** and **Jared Wolfe** seeking third win for immediate promotion to PGA TOUR
- The LECOM Suncoast Classic is the first Korn Ferry Tour tournament of 2021 and first event since the Orange County National Championship presented by Knight 39 (Oct. 8-11, 2020)
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no PGA TOUR cards were awarded in 2020 and the 2020 season has been combined with the 2021 season to form an extended Korn Ferry Tour 2020-21 super-season
- The LECOM Suncoast Classic kicks off two consecutive weeks of professional golf in the area as the PGA TOUR's World Golf Championships-Workday Championship at The Concession will take place February 25-28 at The Concession Golf Club in Bradenton

Field Notes (as of 2/15/21)

- 24 of the top-25 in the Korn Ferry Tour standings, led by No. 2 **Taylor Pendrith** and No. 3 **Davis Riley**
 - Points list leader **Will Zalatoris** earned Special Temporary Membership on the PGA TOUR last fall
- 61 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 97 total victories, led by **Martin Piller's** six victories
- 13 PGA TOUR winners with 20 total victories, led by **Jonas Blixt** and **D.A. Points** with three victories apiece
- 18 winners in the field from the current season: **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, Brandon Wu**

2020 Recap

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Andrew Novak	69	64	66	66	265 (-23)
2	John Chin	68	66	68	64	266 (-22)
3	Taylor Montgomery	69	67	69	64	267 (-21)

- **Andrew Novak** began the final round one stroke off the lead and recorded a 6-under 66 to win by one stroke at 23-under 265
- Novak birdied his final two holes, including a 50-foot putt from the fringe at the 17th, to edge out **John Chin**
- First career Korn Ferry Tour win came in his 45th Korn Ferry Tour start at the age of 24 years, 10 months and 16 days
- **John Chin's** final-round 64 matched his low round of 2020 to rise to a runner-up finish

- Former Masters champion **Mike Weir** carded an albatross during the final round at the par-5 sixth hole, the first albatross in competition of his career

Miscellaneous Notes

- Entering the 2021 LECOM Suncoast Classic, defending champion **Andrew Novak** is ranked 27th in the Korn Ferry Tour standings while last year's runner-up John Chin is 20th
- Tampa native **Jimmy Stanger** has finished T3-T20 in two previous starts at the LECOM Suncoast Classic; the former University of Virginia All-American is 33rd in the Korn Ferry Tour standings
- Other local players in the field include Bradenton residents **Erik Barnes** and **Sean Kelly**, along with **Philip Knowles**, who grew up in Bradenton and starred at Bradenton Christian School
- Other competitors with local ties include **Stephen Stallings Jr.**, a resident in the Lakewood National community, and **David Perritt**, who won a qualifier among head golf professionals to earn an exemption into the tournament (Perritt is the Regional Director of Operations for Lakewood National Golf Club); **Michael Colgate**, who grew up in Sarasota and played golf at Sarasota High School, earned late entry to the field after Monday qualifying
- Each of the top-three finishers in last year's tournament will return to Lakewood National this week (**Andrew Novak**, **John Chin** and **Taylor Montgomery**)
- J.T. Griffin** returns as the only player to finish top-10 in each of the first two editions of the LECOM Suncoast Classic (5th, T7)
- Korn Ferry Tour points list leader **Will Zalatoris**, who finished T26 at last year's tournament, is now competing on the PGA TOUR after earning Special Temporary Membership last fall
- Past champion **Mark Hubbard** (2019) currently competes on the PGA TOUR and shared the lead after the first round two weeks ago at the Waste Management Phoenix Open
- Eight players Monday qualified into the event at two sites, the Player Course and Jones Course at Laurel Oak Country Club; the qualifiers were headlined by **Nicholas Thompson** (brother of Korn Ferry Tour player Curtis Thompson and LPGA Tour star Lexi Thompson) and **Albin Choi** (caddie for Sungjae Im at his maiden PGA TOUR victory)

Last time out...

Orange County National Championship presented by Knight 39

Pos.	Player	Total
1	Trey Mullinax	261 (-23)
T2	Stephan Jaeger	262 (-22)
T2	Brandon Wu	262 (-22)
T4	Chad Ramey	264 (-20)
T4	Greyson Sigg	264 (-20)

- The Korn Ferry Tour last competed back in October prior to a winter break at Orange County National outside of Orlando
- University of Alabama alum **Trey Mullinax** birdied his final hole to avoid a three-way playoff and earn his second career victory
- Stephan Jaeger**, **Brandon Wu**, **Chad Ramey** and **Greyson Sigg** each posted strong finishes to their 2020 campaigns; each of the four players ended the year inside the top 10 of the Korn Ferry Tour standings
- Brandon Wu** has skyrocketed since earning his first start of the season the last week of July; in just nine starts, the 23-year-old posted a win, two runner-up finishes and two additional top-10s to rise to fourth in the point standings

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2019	Mark Hubbard	65	66	64	67	262 (-26)	2
2020	Andrew Novak	69	64	66	66	265 (-23)	1

Course Information – Lakewood National Golf Club (Commander Course)

- Scoring average (2020): 69.724
- Toughest hole (2020): No. 2 (par-4/491 yards/4.341 average)
- Easiest hole (2020): *No. 16 (par-5/563 yards/4.488 average)
 - *No. 16 has been converted into a par-4 hole for the 2021 tournament

Tournament Records

- 18-hole score: 62 (**Robert Garrigus**/R2/2020)
- 36-hole score: 128 (**J.T. Griffin**/2019, **Maverick McNealy**/2019)
- 54-hole score: 195 (**Mark Hubbard**/2019)

- 72-hole score: 262 (**Mark Hubbard/2019**)
- Largest margin of victory: 2 (**Mark Hubbard/2019**)

Korn Ferry Tour 2020-21 Season

With the Korn Ferry Tour forming a combined 2020-21 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the LECOM Suncoast Classic is uniquely in the middle of the season, even though it's the first event of the 2021 calendar year. After 23 events in 2020, the 2021 LECOM Suncoast Classic is the 24th 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	1,595	--	6	281	21
3	Davis Riley	1,500	2	5	376	19
4	Brandon Wu	1,422	1	5	454	9
5	Jared Wolfe	1,406	2	5	470	20
6	Lee Hodges	1,356	1	5	520	20
7	Greyson Sigg	1,341	--	6	535	20
8	Stephan Jaeger	1,237	1	5	639	19
9	Chad Ramey	1,183	--	6	693	22
10	Paul Barjon	1,092	--	5	784	19